

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 06-96

October 6-12 Mental Illness Awareness Week and October 10 World Mental Health Day

WHEREAS, persons defined, treated or hospitalized as mentally ill or suffering from emotional distress share the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family and the common humanity of persons everywhere; and

WHEREAS, all member states of the United Nations are committed to the goal of Health for All by the year 2000, as set forth-by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, health includes health of the mind and emotions as well as the body; and

WHEREAS, Community Mental Health Associations and other human service agencies and community support organizations across the globe have devoted the week of October 6-12, 1996 to increase public awareness and understanding of mental health and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the World Federation for Mental Health has devoted October 10, 1996 as World Mental Health Day in order to achieve respect for the rights of those diagnosed as having mental and emotional disorders, to expand prevention programs designed to reduce the threat of emotional disorders among vulnerable populations, to encourage the provision of necessary and appropriate treatment services for those in need, to increase the public's understanding of mental and emotional disorders and to promote optimal mental and emotional health;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim the week of October 6-12 as Mental Illness Awareness Week and October 10 as World Mental Health Day in the Republic of Palau and urge all of our citizens to take part in activities designed for the observance of that week.

SO PROCLAIMED this 30th day of September 1996 at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau