

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 11-00

Proclaiming September 2000 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

WHEREAS, in the past 20 years, medical science has made great strides in learning about substance abuse and the nature of addiction; and

WHEREAS, addiction is a chronic, relapsing illness that involves a number of brain chemistry disorders. Treatment for addiction is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, adolescents who undergo substance abuse treatment report less use of marijuana and hard drugs, less heavy drinking and less criminal involvement. Other benefits include better psychological adjustment and improved school and work performance after treatment. In Palau, we are working hard to establish adolescent specific treatment programs and have several programs in place to assist at risk youth or youth who are currently using or abusing alcohol or other drugs; and

WHEREAS, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month) celebrates the tremendous strides taken by individuals who have undergone successful treatment and recognizes those in the treatment field who have dedicated their lives to helping people recover from addiction. This year, the campaign focuses on supporting adolescents in addiction treatment and recovery and embraces the theme *Recovering Our Future; One Youth at a Time*; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Palau Ministry of Health's Behavioral Health Division invite all residents of Palau to participate in the *Recovery Month*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2000 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in Palau and encourage all residents to promote the benefits of alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery and to support adolescents involved in these programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my seal this 29th day of August 2000 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau