

**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 11-51**  
**Recognizing October 10, 2011**  
**as**  
**WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**  
***“The Great Push: Investing in Mental Health”***

**Whereas**, the Palau Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, in collaboration with the World Federation for Mental Health, share a common vision in which mental health is a priority for all people; and

**Whereas**, mental health disorders and the toll they take upon the affected families, friends, and on society as a whole merit greater attention and concern by all our people, particularly our public and private sector leaders, so additional priority will be afforded to mental health; and

**Whereas**, public policies and programs should reflect the crucial importance of mental health in the lives of individuals and their families; and

**Whereas**, the goals of the Palau Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council is to heighten public awareness about the importance of mental health and to gain understanding and improve attitudes about mental disorders; and

**Whereas**, the mission of both the Palau Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council and the World Federation for Mental Health is to promote the advancement of mental health awareness, prevent mental disorders, advocacy, and best practice recovery focused interventions worldwide; and

**Whereas**, the World Federation for Mental Health together with Palau Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council has designated the theme for World Mental Health Day 2011 as *“The Great Push: Investing in Mental Health”*, and urges increased availability of appropriate and equitable mental health services through primary healthcare services;

**THEREFORE**, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2011 as World Mental Health Day in Palau and urge all governmental and non-governmental mental health organizations and agencies to work in concert with elected and appointed public officials to increase public awareness about and acceptance of mental illness and of the people living with these disorders; promote improved public policies and improve services for the diagnosis, treatment, and support for those in need through the primary healthcare system; and to reduce the persistent stigma and discrimination that too often serve as barriers for people seeking services and supports available for them.

**I FURTHER URGE ALL CITIZENS TO** join and support the local, state, and national nongovernmental organizations that are working to make mental health a priority in our communities across Palau. Together, we will make a difference and promote mentally healthy communities and citizens.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day October 2011.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau