

Presidential Proclamation No. 12-61

Declaring March 14th as National Head Start Day

WHEREAS, the Belau Head Start Program is now in its 44th Year of successfully addressing and meeting the needs of low-income children ages 3-5 and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program has established itself as the foremost early childhood development program in Palau; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program is not only responsible for providing a rich preschool learning environment, but is also responsible for providing school readiness; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program recognizes the value of reading to children and encourages reading activities, and provides literacy training for parents; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program provides services to assist children with special needs and supports related services to assist children and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, has declared a State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Disease in the Republic of Palau through Executive Order No. 295; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program is committed to working with families and the Ministry of Health in promoting a healthy environment and healthy lifestyles through nutrition programs, health screening, dental care, required immunization and follow-up treatments in Public Maternal Child Care Services, and outreach activities; and

WHEREAS, with the complex shifts in family structures, rapid cultural changes, social challenges such as increased family violence, substance abuse and mental illness, Belau Head Start strives to strengthen the families of children enrolled in the program, and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program realizes that there is no role more challenging or more rewarding than our role as parents and communities in bringing up our children; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program recognizes all stakeholders for their continuous efforts in delivering high quality services to all children and promoting full and effective partnership, not only with families but also with community services providers, programs, states and national government agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start acknowledges all active partner agencies including the Office of the President, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Palau Community College, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries & Commerce, Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs, Olbiil Era Kelulau, All States of the Republic of Palau, Non-Profit Organizations, Private Sector, Governor's Association, NGO's and all Belau Head Start families for raising our children; and

WHEREAS, every effort and support is needed to focus on this year's theme, "Two hands are better than one" or "Chimad a Omsengeled", so that our children have every chance to be healthy, caring and productive citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim March 14th, 2012 to be **NATIONAL HEAD START DAY** in the Republic of Palau.

SO PROCLAIMED this 8th day of March 2012, at Koror State, Republic of Palau

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau