

Presidential Proclamation No. 14-115

Declaring April 21-25, 2014 as Disability Awareness Week

“Break Barriers, Open Doors: Together for an inclusive society and development for all Persons with Disabilities”

WHEREAS, over 1,900 people in Palau are Persons with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many Persons with Disabilities have struggled to achieve their full potential as self-sufficient and contributing members of their communities for the well-being of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, the various Ministries and agencies of the government and non-government organizations provide programs to support and assist Persons with Disabilities while national laws by the Republic of Palau have been created to protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities and further strengthen and improve their inclusions in all aspects of our society; and

WHEREAS, many commitments have been made by the international development community including the Republic of Palau to include Persons with disabilities in all aspects of development; and

WHEREAS, evidence and experience shows that when Persons with Disabilities are empowered to participate and lead the process of development, the entire community benefits, as their involvement creates opportunities for everyone, with or without disability; and

WHEREAS, barriers are faced by Persons with Disabilities are, therefore, a detriment to society as a whole, and accessibility is necessary to achieve progress and development for all; and

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognizes that the existence of barriers constitutes a central component of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the CRPD describes disabilities as an evolving concept that “results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”; and

