

PALAU NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY



PALAU NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY



Palau National Youth Policy Committee

Created by: Executive Order No. 223



Division of National Youth Affairs

Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

Funding Agencies:



Secretariat of the Pacific
Community (SPC)



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Statement of the Minister Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

The Republic of Palau is a small island country that has joined the international community as a member of the United Nations. It is developing and growing at a very rapid pace with the influence of modern day technological advancement. This change has provided many positive results in nation building, but on the contrary, it presents new challenges that could be detrimental to the fragile natural environment and our small population, in particular the youth.



Alexander Merep
Minister, MCCA

As we prepare to meet those challenges associated with the “wind of change” the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs, the Committee of the National Youth Policy with the support of the community, have developed the Policy to establish the guidelines to safeguard and to ensure a healthy environment for the youth of Palau.

As a Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, it has been a privilege for me to be part of this historical process to create the first gender inclusive National Youth Policy for the Republic of Palau. This policy provides guiding principles for the development of our young Palauans. I strongly believe that given the opportunities and support they need to reach their full potentials, the young people can become our greatest national assets. It is the responsibility of each community and every family to instill sound moral and cultural values to build character and strengthen nationalism in the young people. We must also provide opportunities to improve their skills and incentives for them to employ the skills they have as they contribute to national development.

There are two main goals of this policy. First, it seeks to empower the youth to become productive and contributing members in their homes as well as their respective communities. Secondly, it also ensures the youth’s fundamental right to access quality public services and sharing of national resources.

It is my hope that all of us will work together to promote and support the healthy development of our young people and, through it the development of this island nation. On behalf of the Committee on National Youth Policy, I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the leaders and the people of Palau for endorsing this policy.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance of working together as a nation to create the enabling environment to foster healthy and productive youth of today and in the future.

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**Part I: Creation of National Youth Policy:
Executive Order No. 223**





Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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Executive Order No. 223

Establishing a Palau National Youth Policy Committee

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau, as a member of the Pacific Community, is committed to both a national and regional strategy outlining future directions and initiatives for youth toward 2005 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the youth of Palau can play a strategic role as positive contributors to the overall development of the Republic of Palau and the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Pacific Youth Strategy 2005, adopted by the Ministers of Youth at the First Pacific Youth Ministers' Meeting held in Papeete, French Polynesia from 30 June to 1 July 1998, aims at creating and maintaining genuine opportunities for young people to play an active role in the economic, social, cultural and spiritual development of their societies; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau wishes to see its young men and women reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of these aims can best be facilitated through the creation of a broad based committee with representation throughout the community, both public and private.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the Constitution and applicable laws of the Republic, it is hereby ordered that a Palau National Youth Policy Committee be created to recommend the actions best suited to assist the youth of Palau.

1. Membership of the Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs or Director of the Bureau of Community Service, who shall act as Chairperson for the Committee;
- Chief of the Division of National Youth Affairs;
- Office of the President, Assistant to the President on Youth Matters;
- Director of Public Health or designee;



Executive Order No. 223

Establishing the Palau National Youth Policy Committee in Palau

- Director of Education or designee;
- Director of the Bureau of Public Safety or designee;
- Director of Human Resources or designee; and
- Director of International Trade or designee.

2. Duties and Functions. The Palau National Youth Policy Committee shall have the following duties and functions:

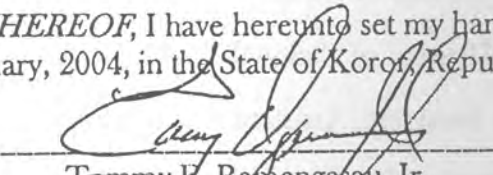
- 1) To develop a Palau National Youth Policy;
- 2) To create subcommittees to assist in the collection and dissemination of relevant information to necessary and interested parties;
- 3) To make assessments of the current youth programs available;
- 4) To analyze and make an initial assessment of the needs of the youth;
- 5) To recommend appropriate programs and policies; and
- 6) To draft enabling legislation for the Palau National Youth Policy(cies).

3. Administrative Support. Administrative Support to the Palau National Youth Policy Committee shall be provided by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and other government agencies as deemed necessary.

4. Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least three times each month. The initial meeting of the Palau National Youth Policy Committee shall be called by the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs or Director of the Bureau of Community Services and shall be held within thirty days of the signing of this Order.

5. Term of the Committee. The Committee shall continue in existence until a written Palau National Youth Policy and a draft of its enabling legislation are completed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 5th day of January, 2004, in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.


Tommy E. Remengosau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau



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FIRST ADDENDUM TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 223

Continuing the Work of the Palau National Youth Policy Committee

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 223, dated January 8, 2004, the Palau National Youth Policy Committee ("Youth Policy Committee") was established; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 5 of Executive Order No. 223, the term of the Youth Policy Committee expired upon submission of a written Palau National Youth Policy and a draft of its enabling legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Policy Committee acted thoroughly and promptly in proposing a Palau National Youth Policy; and

WHEREAS, a Joint Resolution has been transmitted to both houses of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, wherein said Policy is set forth.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the Constitution and applicable laws of the Republic, it is hereby ordered that the term of the Palau National Youth Policy Committee be extended, so that the policy can be implemented and administered thoroughly by those individuals most qualified to do so, as follows:

I. Membership of the Youth Policy Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs or Director of the Bureau of Community Service, who shall act as Chairperson for the Committee;
- Chief of the Division of National Youth Affairs;
- Office of the President, Assistant to the President on Youth Matters;
- Director of Public Health;
- Director of Education;



- Director of the Bureau of Public Safety;
- Director of Human Resources;
- Director of International Trade; and
- Any other willing individual as deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

2. In its implementation of the Youth Policy, the Youth Policy Committee shall assist the various participants and stakeholders in following the ten major policy principles adopted herein, as follows:

1) The nation shall establish programs to promote the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, including but not limited to, development and encouragement of recital of a pledge of allegiance.

2) The nation shall ensure “safe, healthy and enjoyable passage” through the youth period, by developing strategies, for example, to maximize spiritual, physical and mental health, paying special attention to addressing issues of substance abuse, depression and suicide.

3) The nation shall ensure that every young person graduating from high school has the ability to pursue further academic studies or be gainfully employed.

4) The nation will seek to maximize employability of young people and to maximize their economic contribution in all sectors.

5) The nation shall strengthen programs for crime prevention and rehabilitation of incarcerated youth.

6) The nation shall develop and promote programs for sports and recreation.

7) The nation shall create and/or provide an environment and opportunities for youth to benefit from national development.

8) The nation shall ensure that young peoples’ voices are heard on all matters that concern them, including development and sharing of natural resources.

9) The nation shall ensure active participation of young people in decisions regarding resource appropriations.



10) The nation shall develop programs to promote culture and fine arts.

3. Specific Duties and Functions. The Youth Policy Committee shall have the following duties and functions:

- a) To further develop and refine the National Youth Policy;
- b) To create subcommittees to assist in the collection and dissemination of relevant information to necessary and interested parties;
- c) To coordinate implementation of the National Youth Policy; and
- d) To draft legislation to implement the various parts of the National Youth Policy, as deemed necessary;

4. Administrative Support. Administrative Support to the Youth Policy Committee shall be provided by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and other government agencies as deemed necessary.

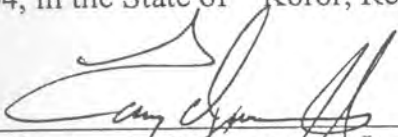
5. Meetings. The Youth Policy Committee shall meet at least two times each month, with the next meeting to be called by the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs or Director of the Bureau of Community Services, within thirty days of the signing of this Order:

6. Reports. The Youth Policy Committee shall report on its progress to the Office of the President on or before July 1, 2005, and annually thereafter.

7. Term. The Youth Policy Committee shall continue in existence until it is disbanded by further Executive Order.

8. Effect of this Order. This Order amends Executive Order No. 223. Hence, the terms of this Addendum to Executive Order No. 223 shall take precedence over the terms of Executive Order 223, to the extent that they may be inconsistent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 22nd day of October, 2004, in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.



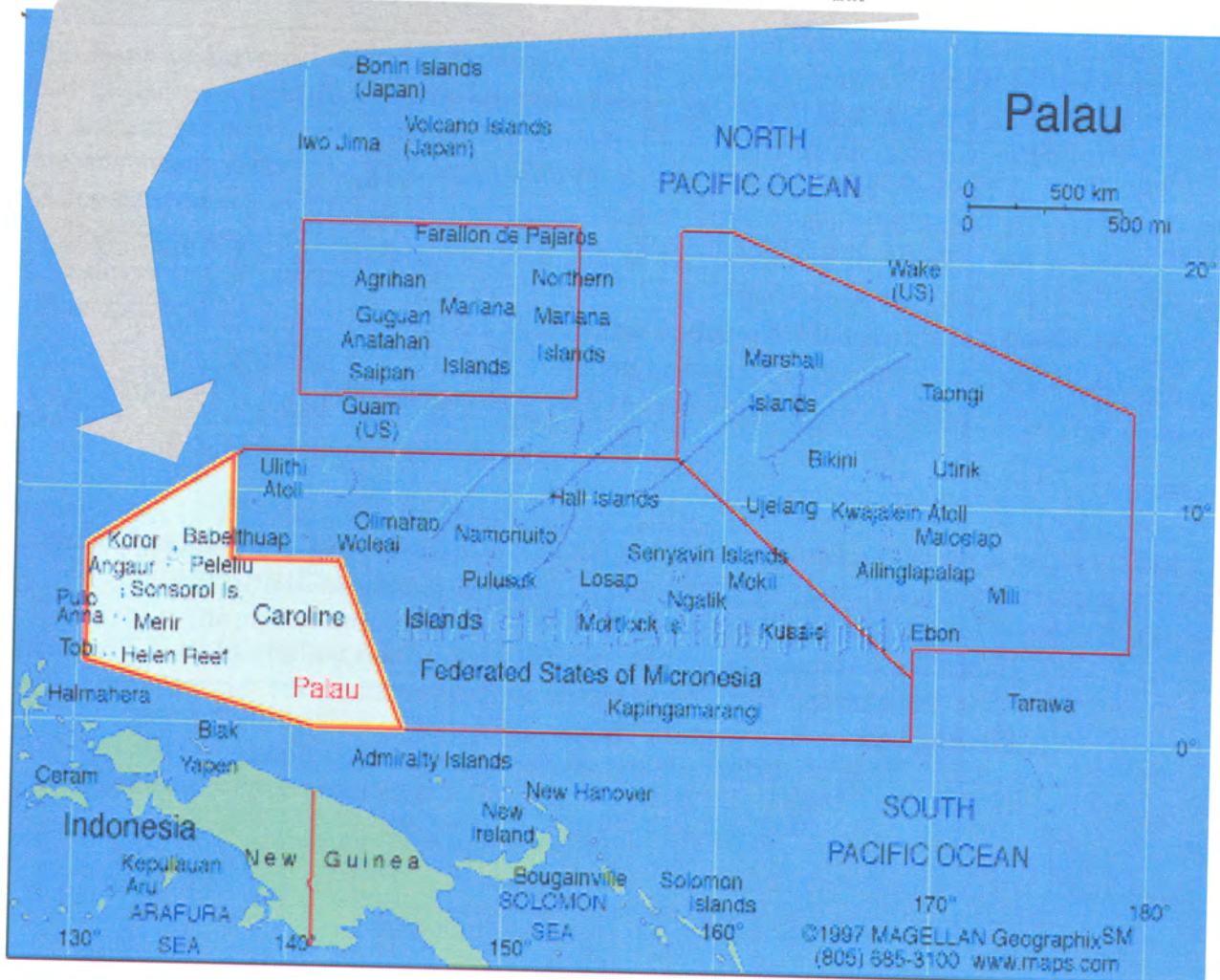
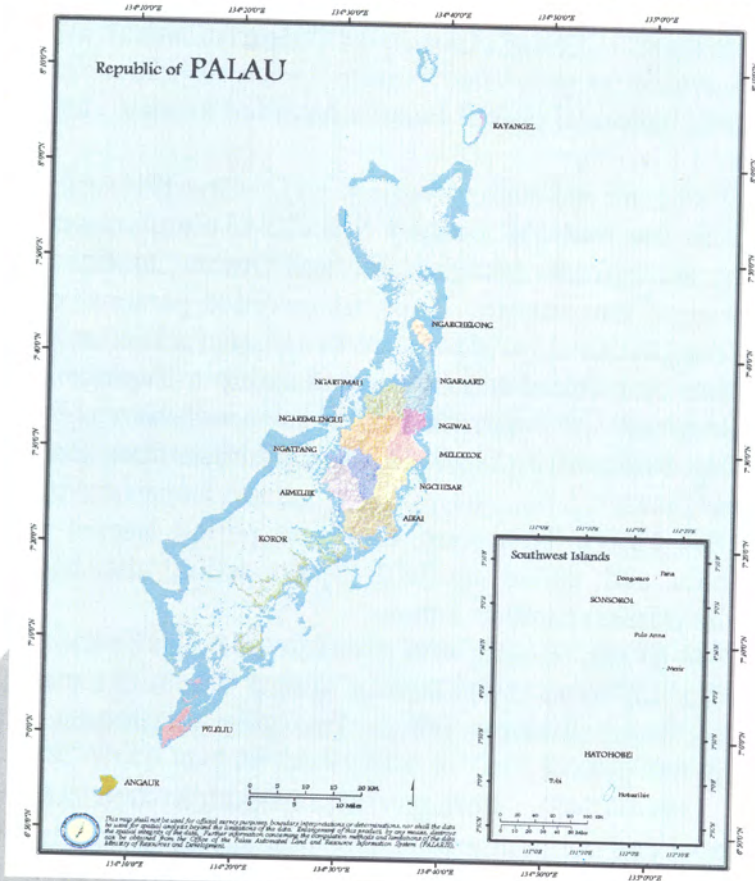
Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau



Part II: Background



Map of the Republic of Palau



Brief History of Palau

The seven (7) distinctly known historical eras of Palau's recorded history, can be best described as follows:

1. **Explorers' Period:** In the mid-15th century Spanish explorers named the group of islands, which includes Palau, the Caroline Islands, after their Queen Caroline.
2. **First Recorded Personal Encounter:** The first recorded personal encounter with foreigners was in 1783, when the British ship, *Antelope*, was shipwrecked on the island of Ulong. This event led to formation of a friendship between the ship's Captain Henry Wilson and Chief Ibedul. Captain Wilson took the paramount chief's son with him to England because the chief wanted his son to be educated in England. Prince Lebuu (Lee Boo) unfortunately died of smallpox a few months later.
3. **Spanish Period (1885-1899).** This short four-year period started with the Pope officially giving Palau to Spain and ended up with Spain selling the islands to Germany. First missionaries (Catholic priests) came to Palau.
4. **German Period (1899-1914).** Began with purchase of Palau by the Germans and ended with seizure of Palau by the Japanese at the start of World War I. First real administration of the islands with economic development activities. The Germans introduced the spelling system of Palauan words during this period.
5. **Japanese Period (1914-1945).** Foreign administration became more elaborate with establishment of school and communication systems. Religion expanded with different forms, including the local religion called 'Modekngei'. This period ended at the close of World War II when the Americans took control of Palau.
6. **American Administration: (1945-1994)**
 - a) Navy administration (1945-1947)
 - b) UN Trusteeship under USA
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) 1947-1978.
7. **Self-determination & Sovereignty (1978-present)**
 - a) A Micronesia-wide referendum on the political status of the six (6) districts and ended TTPI Government (1978)
 - b) Palau Constitutional Convention was held in 1979.
 - c) Palau Constitutional Government period (July 9, 1981 to present).
 - d) Independence under the Compact of Free Association (October 1, 1994 to present)

Government

Palau society today is based on democratic principles as well as traditional customs and values.

A) The modern government has two levels, the National level and the State level.

1) National Government has three branches:

- a) Executive (Administrative) Branch: headed by a popularly elected President and a Vice President. The President appoints members of his cabinet. The Vice President serves as a member of the cabinet.

- b) Legislative Branch (The National Congress): The National Congress is bicameral, with the Senate currently consisting of nine (9) members, each elected at-large and the House of Delegates currently consisting of sixteen (16) members, one for each state.
 - c) The Judicial Branch: The Supreme Court has the Chief Justice and, currently, three associate judges. The Land Court has a senior judge and, currently, three associate judges. The Court of Common Plea currently has only a senior judge.
- 2) The State Governments have only two branches:
- a) Elected governors head the State Executive Branch; and
 - b) The legislatures vary in number of seats, filled by popularly elected legislators and in some states traditional leaders also serve as members of the legislature by virtue of their traditional roles.

B) The Traditional System of Governance

A system of traditional leadership exists in each state, based on the hierarchy of families within a clan and the clans within the hamlet and the hamlet within the state. This leadership system also has a female counterpart. The highest-ranking chief of each state represents the state in the Council of Chiefs, which acts as the highest advisor to the President of the Republic of Palau on traditional and customary practices.

Economy

The 2003 Bank of Hawaii Economic Report states, "Palau's economic development level can best be described as that of a hybrid economy with attributes of both developed and developing economies". "Palau's current financial and communication systems, as well as services such as medical and retail are quite advanced, especially in Koror". With indicators such as the physician to population ratio (1:494), life expectancy at birth (64.5 for males, 70.8 for female) and the spending on health as a share of gross domestic product (11.2%), closer to that of the US's 14% and greater than UK's 8.7%. Palau is a more developed economy than its Asia-Pacific neighbors such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea".

While Palau's per capita income of \$5,482 in 2002 places it at a middle-income level of development, to get a better understanding of the base of this economy, it is important to consider its components and relevant issues which include the following:

- Service sector is the major force in the economy
- Public sector is much larger than the private sector
- Labor force is dominated by migrant workers, particularly at:
 - the professional level
 - the unskilled, low-paying levels
- Economy is heavily subsidized by external assistance (Compact Funds, US Federal Grants, UN Agencies Grants, and Bilateral Aid)
- Credit availability issues greatly limit agriculture, fishing and other income generating projects.

Land And People

The Republic of Palau is an island nation with pristine environment. Palau is an archipelago, which extends between 2 and 9 degrees north latitude and 131 to 135 degrees east longitude. The Palau consists of approximately 300 islands, only nine (9) of which are inhabited. The country has a land area of about 487 sq. km (188 sq.mi). Excluding the Southwest Islands, Palau extends more than 160 km (more than 100 miles) in a north-south direction and about 32 km (20 miles) from east to west. Babeldaob, with an area of more than 337 sq. km (more than 130 sq. mil), is the largest of the islands. The island of Koror is the capitol city of Palau where about 70% of the total population live and work. Palau is only about 500 miles north of the equator. The climate is maritime tropical with average daily temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Its humidity ranges between 80 and 90%. The average rainfall is around 150 inches per year.

The land and the ocean provide the main food sources for Palauans. The overwhelming beauty of its tranquil and pristine waters attracts many interested visitors to the country every year to relax and enjoy such unique environment. The prestigious Smithsonian Institution of the United States has rated Palau one of the ten marine wonders of the world.

According to the year 2000 census, there are 19,129 people in Palau. This is a rise of only 6,456 from the 1973 population. Seventy percent (70%) of the year 2000 population is of Palauan ethnicity, 25% are of Asian origin and over 2% are of other Micronesian ethnic groups while the rest are mainly Caucasians.

The Rationale for the National Youth Policy

The policy implementation strategies illustrate the need to unify our efforts and to share resources. The National Youth Policy programs and activities, include prioritization and allocation of national budget, and provide guidelines for young Palauans by providing them opportunities to play active roles in the national development. Furthermore, the Policy implementation strategies herein are mentioned in the Palau 2020 National Master Development Plan.

The Republic of Palau is a party to a global movement towards addressing the needs of young people. At the First Conference of Pacific Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community held in Tahiti in July 1998, Ministers of Youth and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) adopted the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 (PYS 2005).

The PYS 2005 identified six (6) key strategies to address the challenges facing the youth of the region. One of the SPC's six strategies requiring action before 2005, is the National Youth Policy.

The development of a National Youth Policy does not only comply with the regional goals of the Republic of Palau. It also reflects the International Initiatives calling for the development of national youth policies, such as the United National World *Program Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*; the *UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* and the *Report of the Sixth East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children, Bali, 2003*.

Introduction

The Division of Youth within the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs has the national responsibility for development of youth programs. It advises the Minister on ways to appropriately address the issues and challenges that young Palauans face today. It advised the Minister to undertake the development of a national youth policy as a major strategy for addressing youth issues and policies. As a response, the Executive Order No. 223 established a Palau National Youth Policy Committee to assist the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs. The Committee membership includes various governmental and non-governmental agencies that provide services or activities to the youth of Palau. The Committee's task is to develop and implement this policy.

The development of this policy was made possible by the financial assistance in the forms of grants from the Republic of China through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Canada Funds from the Canadian High Commissioner in Canberra and UNICEF Funds from Suva.

The Committee met regularly to develop this policy. Among the tasks members performed were discussions on the official definition of youth, gathering of relevant data, identification of issues and potential policies, review of drafts of the policy as they were written and approving the final draft of the proposed policy.

Definition of Youth

For this youth policy, 'Youth' is defined as all people between the age of 15 and 35 years. The definition categorizes the target group on which the effective implementation of the policy principles must focus. However, those outside of this age group are welcome to actively participate in the implementation of the youth policy principles.

Youth Profile

At Palau's independence in 1994, (based on the 1995 census) there were 6,167 young people in Republic, comprising 35.8% of the total population (3,794 or 22% were males and 2,826 or 16.4% were females). According to the 2000 Census total population is 19,129 with 6,803 young people (3,794 males and 3,009 females) in Palau. As shown in Table 1, the main target group for this policy is the age range from 15 to 35 years.

Policy Framework

This Policy frames the issue of responding to the concerns of youth in two ways. On one hand, young people should be aware of the significance of their roles as essential contributors to the development of our nation. However, the government and the community should provide them the opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills, support, and the safe environment to perform these roles effectively. Through their contributions the youth also develop a sense of ownership as they become beneficiaries of our national resources. In addition, it is very important that the youth be given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making on issues affecting their lives.

Availability and adequacy of resources to support the Policy implementation strategies are important issues to resolve. The continuity of essential youth programs beyond year 2009, that are currently funded by United States Federal Funds, requires serious consideration. Transition plans must be made before the grants terminate.

Table 1. Youth Population by Age and Gender

Age Group	Total			Male			Female		
	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Total	15,122	17,225	19,129	8,139	9,213	10,450	6,983	8,012	8,679
Less than 5	1,513	1,762	1,308	766	916	690	747	846	618
5 to 9	1,529	1,551	1,700	793	797	856	736	754	844
10 to 14	1,534	1,527	1,555	807	798	794	727	729	761
15 to 19	1,464	1,282	1,382	795	684	738	669	598	644
20 to 24	1,340	1,427	1,342	738	723	731	602	704	611
25 to 29	1,403	1,741	1,910	799	929	1,106	604	812	804
30 to 34	1,338	1,717	2,169	768	1,005	1,219	570	712	950
35 to 39	1,243	1,583	1,891	720	927	1,104	523	656	787

Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing: Office of Planning & Statistics

Table 2: Public and Private Schools Enrollment

School Years	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-03
Total	3,939	4,076	4,070	4,168	4,201	4,279
Public Total	3,042	3,149	3,104	3,205	3,177	3,252
Elementary	2,319	2,398	2,393	2,468	2,481	2,461
Secondary	723	751	711	737	696	791
Private Total	897	927	966	963	1,024	1,027
Elementary	499	515	525	531	552	587
Secondary	398	412	441	432	472	440

Source: Bureau of Education, Ministry of Education
Republic of Palau

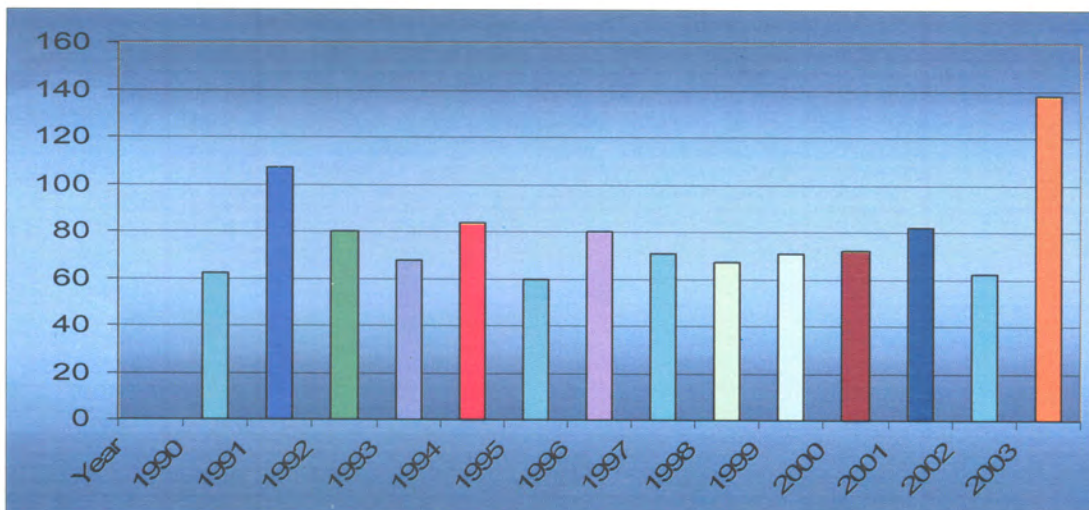
Table 3: Percentage of High School Age in Schools

Year	Enrollment	Approx. % of total high school age
1999-2000	1152	83.3
2000-2001	1179	85.3
2001-2002	1168	84.5
2002-2003	1228	88.6
2003-2004	1221	88.4

Source: Bureau of Education, Ministry of Education, Republic of Palau

Palau Community College Graduates

Table 4: PCC Graduates Summary (Palauans and Non-Palauans)



2000-2004 PCC Graduates – Palauans

	MAJOR	GRAND TOTAL
1	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (AC)	2
2	Agricultural Science (AS)	4
3	Automotive Mechanics (AM)	10
4	Automotive Mechanics Technology (AMT)	1
5	Business Accounting (BA)	65
6	Business Accounting/Bookkeeping (BAB)	1
7	Criminal Justice (CJ)	53
8	Construction (CT)	6
9	Education - Early Childhood (EDEC)	13
10	Education – Elementary Education (EDEE)	27
11	Education – Secondary Education (EDSE)	5
12	Education – Special Education (EDSP)	7
13	Environmental/Marine Science (ES)	4
14	Electrical Technology (ET)	3
15	General Electronics (GE)	10
16	General Electronics Consumer Technician (GECE)	1
17	General Electronics Technology (GET)	3
18	Liberal Arts (LA)	36
19	Nursing (NU)	19
20	Office Administration (OA)	73
21	Small Engine & Outboard Marine Tech (SE)	4
22	Tourism & Hospitality-Food & Beverage Operations (THFB)	1
23	Tourism & Hospitality--Hotel Management (THHM)	13
24	Tourism & Hospitality – Hotel Operations (THHO)	6
25	Tourism & Hospitality –Tour Services (THTS)	9
	Total	376

Source: Palau Community College

Educational Attainment Level

Table 5 : Educational Attainment Level

Educational Attainment	Census Year		
	1990	1995	2000
Total, 25 yrs & over	7,742	9,676	11,842
No school	140	343	365
Elementary: 1 to 8 yrs	2,112	1,773	1,359
High school: 1 to 3 yrs	1,030	1,261	935
4 years	2,059	2,873	5,794
College: 1 to 3 yrs	1,601	2,241	2,209
4 + yrs	800	1,185	1,180
Male, 25 yrs & over	4,240	5,295	6,641
No school	65	135	154
Elementary: 1 to 8 yrs	959	880	597
High school: 1 to 3 yrs	585	706	520
4 years	1,179	1,682	3,555
College: 1 to 3 yrs	1,004	1,268	1,167
4 + yrs	448	624	648
Female, 25 yrs & over	3,502	4,381	5,201
No school	75	208	211
Elementary: 1 to 8 yrs	1,153	893	762
High school: 1 to 3 yrs	445	555	415
4 years	880	1,191	2,239
College: 1 to 3 yrs	597	973	1,042
4 + yrs	352	561	532

Sources: 2000 & 1995 Palau Censuses, table 17; U.S. Bureau of Census 1990 CPH-6

Youth And Employment

Table 6: Employed Youth by Class of Worker, Age Group and Gender

Class of Worker	Total 16+	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Total Youth	% of Youth to Total
Total, 16+	9,383	80	817	1,563	1,842	4,302	45.8
Private wage & Salary workers	6,500	62	624	1,227	1,385	3,298	50.7
Government workers	2,745	16	170	330	440	956	34.8
Self-employed workers	99	2	1	6	13	22	22.2
Unpaid family worker	39	-	22	-	4	26	66.7
Male, 16+	5,827	50	453	935	1,100	2,538	43.6
Private wage & salary workers	4,131	38	334	750	853	1,975	47.8
Government workers	1,653	10	164	257	292	723	43.7
Self-employed	67	2	1	3	8	14	20.8
Unpaid family workers	28	-	21	-	-	21	75.0
Female, 16+	3,556	30	364	628	742	1,764	49.6
Private wage & salary workers	2,369	24	290	477	532	1,323	55.8
Government workers	1,144	6	73	148	201	428	37.4
Self-employed workers	32	-	-	3	5	8	25.0
Unpaid family workers	11	-	1	-	4	5	45.4

Source: 2000 Palau Census. Office of Planning & Statistics, Republic of Palau

Fertility

This data as well as other population data indicate not only a low fertility rate but also a decreasing trend. This has become an important issue in national development in that it signifies a slow population growth over the next decades.

Table 7: Age Specific Fertility Rate

Age Group	1990	1995	2000*
15-19	0.045	0.055	0.025
20-24	0.151	0.129	0.093
25-29	0.185	0.105	0.095
30-34	0.111	0.076	0.075
35-39	0.054	0.075	0.047

Sources: 1990 Census Monograph, table 6.12; 1995 Census Bureau of Public Health, Republic of Palau

Youth In Special Circumstances

School Dropouts

A large proportion of the young people, who fall within the defined youth population, by legal definition, should still be in school. Data from 21st Century Community Learning Center indicates approximately 20% of Palau's high school students drop out of school every year. This begins around 8th grade where approximately 5% drop out. On the average, 250 students move from elementary to high school each year. Of this number, approximately 50 to 70 of the students are at risk of academic failure and would most likely not graduate from high school. Research shows that students who spend even one to four hours a week in extracurricular activities were 60 percent less likely to have dropped out of school by 12th grade than their peers who did not participate.

These and other contributing factors require serious attention and immediate action. Policy makers must guarantee access to better education and revise the current laws to accommodate the current educational needs.

Table 8: School Dropout Rates

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Elementary Schools	0.12%	0.20%	0.40%
Palau High School	4.5%	9.01%	8.37%
Overall	1.13%	2.23%	2.18%

Source: *Ministry of Education*

Youth Who Are Sexually Active

Due to early maturity of children today, the survey below indicates that children become sexuality active at earlier age than before. Therefore, policies and programs have to place more emphasis on the protection and enforcement of the laws to protect the vulnerable youth population.

The table below contains results of the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Measures should be implemented to improve these statistics.

Table 9: Sexual Behavior Survey: Palau High School

Sexual Behaviors (of High School Students)	1999	2001	2003
% who ever has sexual intercourse	45.4	47.6	41.6
% had first sexual intercourse before age 13	9.9	11.8	7.7
% has sexual intercourse with 4 or more people	18.9	20.1	17.2
% of those who had sex in past 3 months who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	30.2	28.7	35.5
% of those who had sex in past 3 months who used condom during last sexual intercourse	51.9	35.8	44.6
% of those who had sex in past 3 months who used birth control pills during last sexual intercourse.	11.9	12.4	7.0
% who had been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant one or more times	5.3	5.0	2.7
% who have never had sex, have not had sex in past 3 months, or used a condom the last time they had sex	85.3	70.0	74.3
% who had ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school	65.8	70.0	74.3

Source: *YRBS 2003: Palau High School, Republic of Palau*

Youth Involved With Alcohol And Other Illegal Substances

Many within this population are involved in the use of various drugs, from hard drugs such as metamphetamine, to betel nuts. Policies require improvements to meet the needs of the community. The data in this table indicate several issues:

Table 10: Percent of High School Students Who Used Illegal Substances

	1999	2001	2003
Alcohol			
Past 30 day use	39.3	47.8	51.2
Past 30 day heavy drinking	23.2	30.4	34
Tobacco			
Current use of any tobacco product	N/a	71	41.9*
Ice (Metamphetamine)			
Use Ice 1 or more times in their life	10.1	13.9	8.9
Marijuana			
Past 30 day use	32.7	25.3	33.9
Early Initiation			
Alcohol before age 13	27.1	24.5	22.2
Marijuana before age 13	16.4	16.9	16.6
Tobacco before age 13	N/a	N/a	24.9*

Source: Tobacco Program, Republic of Palau

Youth With Risk Behaviors

Many young people with weight problems are undergoing great emotional stress. A holistic approach is required for all stakeholders to work together to create policies and programs for prevention measures.

Table 11: Weight Problems

Weight & Diet Management Questions	1999	2001	2003
% who are at risk for becoming overweight	13.8	14.6	14.9
% who are overweight	8.8	15.5	15.5
% who exercised to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight during the past 30 days	49.8	50.1	52.
% who drank 100% fruit juice one or more times during the past 7 days	61.5	66.0	65.9
% who ate fruit one or more time during the last 7 days	86.9	87.5	83.7
% who ate green salad one or more times during the last 7 days	66.1	64.7	56.9
% who ate other vegetable one or more times during the past days	89.6	84.5	83.6

Source: YRBS 2003: Palau High School

Suicide is an area of real concern. Since a 1999 survey, consistently around 43% of the students have shown symptoms of depression and about 30% of all students have attempted suicide, 10% of whom require attention of a physician or nurse.

Table 12: Suicide Attempts

Suicide-related Survey Questions	1999	2001	2003
% who during the past 12 months, ever felt so sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.	43.8	43.	43.6
% who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months.	27.3	29.3	27.3
% who've attempted suicide, during the past 12 months resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	3.9	5.8	5.5

Source: YRBS 2003: Palau High School

Youth Who Are Physically Or Mentally Challenged

Although, not a large portion in this population group, there are still a good number of young people with physical and mental challenges. They are especially vulnerable to discrimination and neglect, and warrant programs to answer their special needs.

Table 13: Prevalence of Persons with Special Health Care Needs

Age Group	General Population	No. of Known Clients	PrevalenceRate/1000 Pop.
15 – 18	1,153	113	115.35
19 – 21	674	86	127.59
22 and over	12,739	30	2.35

Source: ROP CHSCN Database, MCH Program

Youth Who Are Victims of Violence

Some of the younger members of this age groups are still caught in situations of domestic violence or violence in the school setting. Some members of this age group have fallen into the category of perpetrators of domestic violence. All of the young men and young women, whether they are victims or perpetrators of violence in any setting, need assistance. While the trend for all categories of injury and violence seems to indicate a general decrease, the overall levels are still bothersome for this age group, particularly, when violence and injuries occur in the school premises.

Table 14: Prevalence of Injury & Violence Among High School Students

Category of Injury and Violence	1999	2001	2003
% who did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school	16.1	15.2	15.0
% who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	31.3	29.7	29.6
% who were injured in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	6.8	7.2	5.6
% who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months	14.0	15.1	13.1
% who were ever hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during past 12 months	14.8	11.9	11.2

Source: YRBS 2003: Palau High School

Economic Disadvantaged Households and Unemployed Youth

Analysis of the 1991 Household Income and Expenditure data and the 1995 census data suggests that up to 25% of households might be described as living in 'relative poverty' (unable to afford a standard of living in accordance with prevailing community expectations). Households in rural areas and those headed by women, senior citizens or youth are at a particular economic disadvantage.

Table 15. Disadvantaged Households

	Households with Income (Below \$2,500 per year)		Households with Income (\$2,500-4,999 per year)	
Koror-Airai	230	10.4%	136	6.1%
Rural States	231	30.2%	153	20.0%

Source: Office of Planning & Statistics

Employed young people deserve to be treated fairly, not exploited because of their age or lack of job skills. They need to be given the opportunities for realistic wage earning jobs based on the cost of living. A non-discriminatory salary structure needs to be revised by the Government of Palau and should be observed by all employers.

Youth in Conflict with the Law

A large portion of the youth population are still minors under the law. This group needs special attention concerning their rights, particularly the incarcerated ones.

Table 16: Prison Data

Category	Data
Total Prison Population	100
35 and Under	41
Over 35	59
Males	93
Females	7
Palauans	94
Foreigners	6
Average prison term	18 months – 5 years
Estimated Ratio of convicts who are repeat offenders	Over half
Average age of repeat offenders at start of criminal behavior	15-20 years

Source: Ministry of Justice, Republic of Palau

Rights and Responsibilities of Youth in Palau

Rights of Young People

The rights of the young people of Palau are those fundamental rights expressed in Article IV of the Constitution. In addition, since Palau ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in August of 1995, it continually seeks to address specific issues that may require programs and enabling legislation to implement.

Responsibilities and Obligations of Young People

Most of the responsibilities are therefore implicit rather than explicit and are learned/taught rather than legislated or regulated. They have to do mainly with roles of good citizenship and stewardship. Responsibilities are based on traditional and customary values and rules of behavior within the family, the clan or the community. As this policy will focus on youth's contribution to nation building and the sharing of the fruits of national development, it urges young people to be proactive and serious in their responsibilities in the areas of good citizenship and responsible stewardship.

The policy principles stresses the rights of young people to:

- have access to all levels of educational opportunities
(i.e. formal and non-formal education, vocational and /or tertiary education);
- fair treatment under the law;
- participation in decision making affecting them;
- accessibility and quality health care; and
- equal employment opportunities.



Part III: National Youth Policy



A) **Goals of the National Youth Policy**

- 1) **Youth Must Be Empowered To Become Productive and Contributing Members of the Community.**
- 2) **A System Must Be Created, Where The Right To Access Quality Public Services and Sharing of National Resources Is Maximized for Young Palauans.**

B) **Guiding Principles**

1) **To Seek Guidance Under Almighty God**

The last phrase in the preamble of the Palau's Constitution acknowledges the essential role of God's guidance in the affairs of this nation. It indicates that national aspirations and people's hard work, while being the essential building blocks in nation building, would still not be all that is required to ensure and sustain sovereignty. In the end, guidance, translates into Palauan as '*ulekerreuil*' – nurturing, of this young nation by Almighty God would still be required. Thus, nurturing of the spiritual aspect of the young people's development is an important guiding principle in the development of this national policy for youth.

2) **To Create Enabling Conditions**

An empowering environment gives young people a sense of direction and purpose. Youth empowerment focuses on enabling young people to have a say in decisions that affect them. It involves guiding them in their attempt to navigate the complexities of life. Proper guidance, coupled with building positive attitudes and fostering integrity and values, should enable young people to make informed choices about their future. This policy puts great emphasis on the role of enabling environment as the key factor in shaping the behavior outcomes we desire for our young people.

3) **To Promote and Support Strong and Healthy Family Units**

The home environment is critical in the healthy development of a young person. Relationships in the home can build self-esteem and provide models for other relationships in the school or community. During these times when there are so many pressures on the home unit, i.e., economic necessity for work, many extracurricular attractions for both parents and young people, it is imperative that the sanctity and joys of the family unit be protected and preserved.

4) To Promote the Spirit of Cooperation, Collaboration and Partnership

Young people understand well the concept of teamwork as they have had ample opportunities to see it at work, mainly in team sports that they love and enjoy such as baseball and basketball. It is not enough just to have a team. Each member of the team must share the same spirit of direction and desire to work to achieve the team's goals. The same principles in teamwork apply in building partnership, cooperation and collaboration.. The government must show that it values, seeks and supports partnership from young people. Since partnership, by definition, is a two-way street; young people must also seek to strengthen their partnership role with the adult-dominated leadership of the nation. In addition, the terms of reference for cooperation and collaboration should be clear to avoid duplication of efforts and, instead increase mutual support and maximize utilization of scarce resources for development.

5) To Make Positive Contributions To National Development

As a young nation, Palau needs nurturing and support in order to develop and grow as envisioned. It is imperative for everyone to contribute to this growth and development. This means that resources must be developed and shared equally even for growth of a nation. When inequality exists there is lack of harmony and balance and national development is stunted. When inequality in the use of resources occurs, obesity and malnutrition occur and there is no harmony. Everyone's activity influences national development, either positively or negatively. This policy seeks to direct young people's contribution in the positive way so that the nation can truly develop and grow.

6) To Strive for Inclusiveness and Acceptance

Inclusiveness refers to acceptance of everyone. Palau is fortunate that its culture already places great emphasis in the roles of girls and women in society. While this recognition has translated into equality in education and health care delivery, it must be equally evident in employment and national leadership. Youth is the phase of life to emphasize and instill the positive concept of gender inclusiveness so that women can truly have equal roles not only "in the house", but also "in the senate." Inclusiveness also refers to everyone in the community including youth with disabilities. This means that youth with disabilities and other ethnic minorities in our nation must be include in discussions of areas that affect their lives. Young people must see the concept of inclusiveness practiced during their youthful days, so it can become a natural way of life in adulthood and they, in turn, can pass it along to their children.

C) Policy Mandates

The Executive Order No. 223 and the 7th National Congress through House Joint Resolution No. 7-9-5S, HD2, acknowledge the ten major policy principles as follows:

- 1) The nation shall establish programs to promote the spirit of nationalism and patriotism including but not limited to, development and encouragement of recital of a pledge of allegiance.
- 2) The nation shall ensure “safe, healthy and enjoyable passage” through youth period, by developing strategies, for example, to maximize spiritual, physical and mental health, paying special attention to addressing issues of substance abuse, depression and suicide.
- 3) The nation shall ensure that every young person graduating from high school has the ability to pursue further academic studies or be gainfully employed.
- 4) The nation will seek to maximize employability of young people and to maximize their economic contributions in all sectors.
- 5) The nation shall strengthen programs for crime prevention and rehabilitation of incarcerated youth.
- 6) The nation shall develop and promote programs for sports and recreation.
- 7) The nation shall create and/or provide an environment and opportunities for youth to benefit from national development.
- 8) The nation shall ensure that young people’s voices are heard on all matters that concern them, including development and sharing of natural resources.
- 9) The nation shall ensure active participation of young people in decisions, regarding resource appropriations.
- 10) The nation shall develop programs to promote culture and fine arts.



D) Congressional Support





SEVENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

March 2005

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To endorse National Youth Policy to promote, facilitate and provide the environment and opportunities that will allow Palau's youth to equally contribute to and benefit from national development.

OFFERED BY DELEGATE(S) Noah Secharraimul

ET AL,

DATE INTRODUCED March 11, 2005

HOUSE ACTION

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: TYSA

DATE: March 11, 2005

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT: 7-9

DATE ADOPTED: March 11, 2005

SENATE ACTION

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: YASW

DATE: March 14, 2005

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT: 7-22


DATE ADOPTED: March 14, 2005

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION

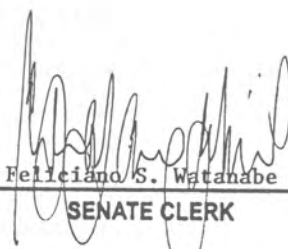
DATE: None

COMMITTEE REPORT; None

DATE ADOPTED: None


Betty M. Ingereklii

HOUSE CLERK


Feliciano S. Watanabe

SENATE CLERK

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To endorse National Youth Policy to promote, facilitate and provide the environment and opportunities that will allow Palau's youth to equally contribute to and benefit from national development.

1 WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau, as a member of the Pacific Community, is committed to
2 creation and implementation of a national strategy outlining future directions and initiatives for youth; and

3 WHEREAS, the youth of Palau must play a strategic role with positive contributions to the overall
4 development of the Republic of Palau and region; and

5 WHEREAS, the proposed Pacific Youth Strategy 2005, adopted by the Ministers of Youth at the
6 First Pacific Youth Ministers' Meeting held in Papeete, French Polynesia in 1998, aims at creating and
7 maintaining genuine opportunities for youth to play an active role in the economic, social, cultural and
8 spiritual development of society; and

9 WHEREAS, Article IV of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, Fundamental Rights,
10 mandates preferential treatment of minors for their protection (Section 5), requires the government to
11 "protect children from exploitation" (Section 11), requires accused juveniles lawfully detained to be
12 separated from convicted criminals (Section 7) and other preferential treatment for the youth of Palau; and

13 WHEREAS, the Committee on National Youth Policy ("Committee") was formed pursuant to
14 Executive Order No. 223, dated January 8, 2004, to assist in formulation of a National Youth Policy, and
15 the Committee has studied the issues and has made recommendations regarding the content of a National
16 Youth Policy; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Youth Policy endorsed herein marks an important milestone in national
18 development and implementation of a course of action specifically geared to enhance the development and
19 well-being of young people in Palau; and

20 WHEREAS, the Olbil Era Kelulau finds that there should be guiding principles and goals
21 articulated and endorsed on the national level, so that a framework is created upon which to build a stronger
22 and more complete set of laws and regulations for future implementation thereof; now, therefore

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Delegates, Seventh Olbil Era Kelulau, the Senate
24 concurring, that the Republic of Palau's National Youth Policy is hereby endorsed as follows:

- 25 (A) **GOALS:** There are two main goals of the Proposed Youth Policy. ~~First,~~ youth must be
26 empowered to become productive and contributing members of the community. ~~Second,~~
27 a system must be created, where the right to access quality public services and sharing of
28 national resources is maximized for young Palauans.

1 (B) **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** There are six principles which should guide future legislation
2 and implementation of the National Youth Policy, as follows:

- 3 1) To Seek Guidance Under Almighty God;
- 4 2) To Promote Enabling Conditions;
- 5 3) To Promote and Support Strong and Healthy Family Units;
- 6 4) To Promote the Spirit of Cooperation, Collaboration and Partnership;
- 7 5) To Make Positive Contributions to the National Development; and
- 8 6) To Strive for Inclusiveness and Acceptance.

9 (C) **POLICY MANDATES:** There are ten policy mandates, each of which merits prompt
10 implementation through future legislation, regulation, or otherwise.

- 11 1) The nation shall establish programs to promote the spirit of nationalism and
12 patriotism, including but not limited to, development and encouragement of recital
13 of a pledge of allegiance.
- 14 2) The nation shall ensure “safe, healthy and enjoyable passage” through the youth
15 period, by developing strategies, for example, to maximize spiritual, physical and
16 mental health, paying special attention to addressing issues of substance abuse,
17 depression and suicide.
- 18 3) The nation shall ensure that every young person graduating from high school has
19 the ability to pursue further academic studies or be gainfully employed.
- 20 4) The nation will seek to maximize employability of young people and to maximize
21 their economic contribution in all sectors.
- 22 5) The nation shall strengthen programs for crime prevention and rehabilitation of
23 incarcerated youth.
- 24 6) The nation shall develop and promote programs for sports and recreation.
- 25 7) The nation shall promote an environment and opportunities for youth to benefit
26 from national development.
- 27 8) The nation shall ensure the young people’s voices are heard on all matters that
28 concern them, including development and sharing of natural resources.
- 29 9) The nation shall ensure active participation of young people in decisions regarding
30 resource appropriations.
- 31 10) The nation shall develop programs to promote culture and fine arts; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Division of Youth, within the Bureau of Community
2 Service of the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, should have a central role in implementation
3 of the policy. The Palau National Youth Congress should work as a partner with the Division of Youth in
4 this endeavor. Each State is encouraged to have its own youth organization, which should select a state
5 youth coordinator to represent the state youth organization in the Palau National Youth Congress. A variety
6 of government and non-governmental agencies also will be called upon to participate in the implementation
7 of the policy to assure its success. These groups should collaborate to evaluate the progress of policy
8 implementation; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that legislation proposed or to be proposed to implement the
10 policy shall be afforded proper consideration; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that progress of implementation of this National Youth Policy
12 shall be reflected in writing, with annual reports submitted to the President and both houses of the Olbiil
13 Era Kelulau by the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, commencing June 1, 2005; and

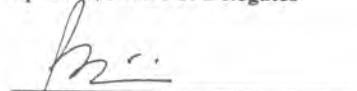
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to
15 Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.; President of the Republic of Palau, Minister of Community and Cultural
16 Affairs, all State Governors, all State Youth Leaders, President of Palau National Youth Congress, Speaker
17 of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate of the Seventh Olbiil Era Kelulau.

ADOPTED: March 14, 2005

As Certified and Attested To By;



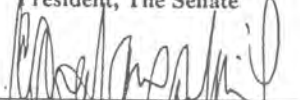
Augustine Mesebeluu
Speaker, House of Delegates



Betty M. Ingereklii
Clerk, House of Delegates



Surangel S. Whipps
President, The Senate



Feliciano S. Watanabe
Clerk, The Senate

Part IV: Implementation Strategies



Policy #1. Strategies on Youth and Nationalism/Patriotism

The role nationalism plays in a Palauan's life is found in the expressions, such as:

- *Molatk er a beluam me a blim.*
- *Di bo mad el kirel a Belau.*

Parents discipline their children to know their roots - the family they come from and to uphold Palau's honor wherever they are. Such knowledge will guide the young people's behaviors under all circumstances, but especially when they are away from home. True nationalism is deep-rooted among the people, culture and traditions.

Table 17: Strategies on Youth and Nationalism/ Patriotism

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Ensure understanding of the Palau Constitution	Understanding and Appreciation of Palau's National Foundation	MOE & Court
3. Ensure understanding and preservation/promotion of Palauan culture and traditions	Understanding & appreciation of Palauan Culture and traditions	DNYA, BDA, MOE, COC, etc.
4. Facilitate appreciation, love and loyalty to Palau's environment and natural heritage	Increased activities for protection and enjoyment of environment	EQPB, PCS, NGOs, PICRIC, MRD, MOE, Churches, PVA, etc.
5. Strengthen character education	Decrease criminal behavior, greater productivity of youth	Churches, Families, MOE, COC, MOJ, etc.
6. Revive community sense of responsibility for behavior of youth	Greater ability of adults to provide guidance to youth in need.	COC, DNYA, MOE, Churches, Families, etc.

Policy #2. Strategies on Youth and Health

Good health enhances one's ability to perform and fulfill responsibilities in the workplace, in sports or in social settings. Youth is the period in life where physical strength should be at its height. It is a period when young people are most vulnerable to health risks due to their natural desires to experiment with new things and to challenge societal norms. Young people are, therefore, most vulnerable to deceitful product advertisements such as those for tobacco, alcohol and food fads. They are most at risk for undesirable health consequences of irresponsible sexual behaviors. They are most at risk for deadly consequences of alcohol/drug abuse. It is crucial that health during this period is safeguarded as a matter of national policy.

Table 18: Strategies on Youth and Health

Strategy	Intended Outcome	Responsible Agencies
<p>1. Develop strategies for physical fitness, with special attention to addressing weight problems, including obesity; physical activities, and role of nutrition in health, fitness and quality of life</p> <p>a) Strengthening of Palau in Motion Initiative</p> <p>b) Strengthening of nutrition education, including breastfeeding; and</p> <p>c) Strengthening of sporting programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More active young people • Greater prevalence of normal BMI in youth • Greater prevalence of breastfeeding in young mothers 	<p>Division of Parks & Recreation, MOH, BSG PNO, MOE, etc.</p>
<p>2. Develop strategies to strengthen mental health, paying special attention to addressing issues of substance abuse, depression and suicide</p> <p>a) Implementation of Substance Abuse Prevention Plan;</p> <p>b) Implementation of FCTC</p> <p>c) Strengthen Mental Health Programs & Decrease Risk Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased criminal behavior • Decreased use of tobacco and alcohol among youth • Decreased suicides among youth 	<p>MOH, C SAP, MOJ, MOE, Churches, DNYA, etc.</p>
<p>3. Strengthen education awareness and strategies, i.e., separate discussions for boys and girls to encourage discussions in light of cultural sensitivity in regards to discussion of sex matters, for reproductive health, especially addressing issues of:</p> <p>a). HIV/AIDS</p> <p>(i) Preventive measures, i.e., abstinence, condom use; pre/post test counseling;</p> <p>(ii) Treatment measures, i.e., availability of drug treatment, counseling, pt/family support services, stigma/discrimination reduction initiatives.</p> <p>b) Sexually Transmitted Infections</p> <p>c) Unplanned Teen Pregnancy</p>	<p>-Reduction in incidence of STI</p> <p>-Reduction in incidence of unplanned teen pregnancy;</p> <p>-Increase in number of planned pregnancies</p> <p>-Control of HIV</p> <p>-Free exchange of info. about sex in schools</p>	<p>MOH, MOE, CPG, etc.</p>
<p>4. Address Spiritual Health:</p> <p>a) Strengthen the role of family and community in instilling and maintaining values that are important to Palauans.</p> <p>b) Clarify and encourage role of spiritual activities:</p> <p>(i) Identify locally available counseling resources that can be utilized through established mechanism.</p> <p>(ii) Religious counselors are able/allowed to post their schedules on school bulletin boards for students to utilize when needed.</p> <p>(iii) Address spiritual health issues related to peer groups and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater outward indications of tradition/spiritual values among youth i.e., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Reverence - Decrease in criminal behavior 	<p>Churches Schools Community leaders</p>
<p>5. Ensure safety of young people in homes, school, playground and workplace</p> <p>a) Increase the percentage of children and youth living in a permanent and safe environment.</p> <p>b) Prevent and treat child/youth abuse, neglect and family violence and provide stable family situations.</p> <p>c) Consider ways to further prevent and punish child abuse.</p> <p>d) Investigate and resolve the inappropriate and unsafe treatment of children with disabilities</p>	<p>Reduction in incidence of reported child abuse.</p> <p>Increase in number of reported cases of abuse.</p> <p>Relevant legislation</p> <p>Improve handling of reported cases</p>	<p>VOCA MOH</p> <p>OEK</p> <p>BP, Court, OEK, etc.</p> <p>MOJ</p>
<p>6. Special attention be given to ensure availability of and access to health care services for youth in special circumstances</p>	<p>Reduction in number of youth in special circumstances.</p> <p>Contribution of persons with physical and mental challenges</p>	<p>MOH, BFSCA, BH, etc.</p>

Policy #3. Strategies on Youth and Education

Knowledge is the basis of sound decision-making. Education is a means to employment of the young people. Young people need to possess the skills to make rational decisions to improve their standards of living. Equal access to quality education is a key to achievement of the goal of 'healthy islands' envisioned by the Pacific Island countries' Ministers and Directors of Health at the dawn of the 21st Century when they met in Fiji in 1995.

Table 19: Strategies on Youth and Education

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Develop strategies to maximize attendance in school. a) Implement Education Consolidation Plan b) Develop capability or coordinate with existing capability to provide counseling required by students in need c) Develop referral mechanisms for services including churches or other faith-based activities. d) Designate school and develop policies to keep students within boundaries for school period. e) Strengthen parental involvement (PTA/Parental Committees, BFSCA) f) Remedial programs (tutorials during school, summer schools, teachers aid, peer tutors, student tutors) g) Enhance quality of teachers in elementary and high schools h) Strengthen career guidance programs in schools i) Strengthen community 'after-school' programs, including mentoring programs.	Documented improvement in attendance	MOE
	Existence of referral mechanism Set boundaries & relevant policies	PTA BFSCA, DNYA, Schools, etc. PCC
2. Strengthen strategies for high school graduates to be adequately prepared to enter college or to enter the workforce. a) Ensure that all areas of education during formative years are strengthened (preschool, K-8); - quality of teaching b) Maintain ideal ratio of 25 students (space) to one teacher (redistribution of students?) c) Develop a mechanism to utilize available resources, i.e., retirees, and local experts to maximize effective and quality teaching. d) Strengthen vocational education options at PCC: -Articulating programs from high school e) Promote more suitable Informal educational initiatives, i.e., Adult High School, GED, Adult Leadership Program, etc.	Documented greater involvement of parents Existence of remedial programs	All relevant Org. /agencies
	Certification of elementary school teacher Greater employability/employment Increased potential for higher education/increased acceptance to higher education programs Promote character building	
3.. Strengthen character building and promote nationalism and patriotism through learning of Palauan language, culture as part of school curriculum. a) Integrate character building skills in daily lesson b) Establish mechanisms in schools to acknowledge and encourage character-building skills.	Safer school environment	

Policy #4. Strategies on Youth and Employment

It is the vision of this Government to create the most suitable environment for the youth of Palau to gain personal growth as they strive for a better tomorrow. With that in mind, this Youth Policy provides the guidelines for creating youth programs and usage of national resources for economic development as well as the development of its human resources.

Table 20: Strategies on Youth and Employment

Strategy	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Strengthen role of family and home education on value work, work ethic, and industriousness .	Reduction in truancy and other anti-social, criminal behavior in youth	Churches, PTA, OEK, Schools President & Ministers
2. Strengthen role of school in enforcing value of work, work ethic and industriousness (group work – cooperation, coordination).	Improvement in teamwork in sports, community services	MOE
3. Strengthen role of community leaders in modeling value of work, work ethic and industriousness	Improved image of public leaders	OEK, President & Cabinet Members, COC, Women's Groups, Rubekul Belau & Churches
4. Strengthen career counseling program	Availability of career development programs	MOE, PTA, MOH, etc.
5. Ensure employability and marketability of youth: a) Education – knowledge and skills b) Division of Job Placement – skills and job opportunities and human resources development	Increase youth employment	DJP, MOE, DNYA, PCC, etc.
6. Improve citizen labor ratios within Palau's labor market through support of some form of national training council and complementary activities a) Coordinate, develop and support certification processes and personnel b) Apprenticeship and training programs coordinate and collaborate with each other to ensure that such programs are available and accessible to youth. c) Support private industry development through the in-workplace development of Palau employee skills. d) Classification of workers and appropriate wages e) Encourage youth to work during the summer break. f) Develop incentives for entrepreneurship.	Increase youth employment Greater involvement of private sectors	DJP & Labor Office BPSS, CC, DNYA, etc.
7. Develop schemes for entrepreneurship: a) Business b) Entertainment	Credit Availability; Private Sector Business Incentive Programs & Assistance	DJP CC, PCC , DNYA, etc.
8. Specifically address gender issues in the workplace a) All forms of harassment b) Maternity/paternity leave c) Compensation, including salary/wages d) Promotion and training	Absence of harassment at work; Equity in job opportunities; compensatory mechanisms, including salaries and wages; promotion and training opportunities. Absence of gender discrimination	Women's Office, Court, Labor, etc.

No nation is ever completely free from criminal elements. Criminal and anti-social behaviors rob the youth of self-respect and respect from society, and diminishes their potential to make more meaningful contributions to society. The efforts to minimize the effect of crimes and anti-social attitudes/behaviors are multicultural in nature thus demanding unified efforts of parents and community leaders. There should be a national effort to strengthen crime related programs.

Policy #5. Strategies on Youth and Justice

Table 21: Strategies on Youth and Justice

Strategy	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Establish a specific program to address issues of youth in conflict with the law	Existence of Program Improve programs for youth in conflict with law Possible legislation	MCCA, MOJ, MOE, DNYA, etc.
2. Public education on laws	Reduction in youth crime	MOJ, Court
3 Separate detention for juveniles	Existence of Separate Detention; Improved handling of juveniles	MOJ, Court
4. Strengthen rehabilitation programs: a) Use of traditional systems b) Coordination with relevant programs to address skills required for transition into society.	Improved rehabilitation programs and process. Documented improved integration into society Reduction in repeat offenses	MOJ, COC Probation Office, etc.
5. Ensure or encourage non-criminal and non-violent behavior and activities: a). Establishment of programs in junior or senior year based on traditional values and cadet programs; b) Establishment of programs for non-students between 15-34 years old through community established skills programs.	Decreased ratio of youth in conflict with the law or entering criminal behavior.	MOE, MOJ, PTA, COC, DNYA, State Gov'ts. , etc.

Policy #6. Strategies on Sports and Recreations

Communities need sports and recreation programs for enjoyment of leisure time and to improve the health of the people. Communities need clean and safe public facilities for their recreational use.

Sports play a significant role in the development of our nation in terms of the physical and mental health, as well as the spiritual development of her people. In addition, in sports, young people can be encouraged to stay free from drug use, learn the value of teamwork and, more importantly, the value of sportsmanship as well as the value of representation. In this respect, sports can contribute significantly to nationalism and patriotism as well as value of hard work and perseverance towards goal achievement, values that are well understood and held in the Palauan culture.

Table 22: Strategies on Youth Sports and Recreation

Strategy	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Drug-free sports	Government funded sporting events must be drug free and participants and coaches must consent to drug testing.	MOE, PNOC, SFA, DPR, etc.
2. Promote fair competition and good sportsmanship	Absence of violence	PNOC, SFA, MOE, DPR, etc.
3. Advocacy and skills for teamwork	Evidence of teamwork at sports and workplace	MOE, MCCA & MC&T, etc.
4. Pride and responsibilities of representation	Youth of representatives in youth organizations must become mentors & role models.	MOE, MCCA, Rubekul Belau, MOH, etc.
5. Teach and promote concept of benefit-sharing as a direct outcome of participative contribution - at home, in school, in labor-related activities and in sports	Parenting classes	MOE, MOH, MCCA, NGOs, PCC, etc.

Policy #7. Strategies on Youth Participation in National Development

When one participates in building or developing something, he/she can claim rightful ownership and the right to share benefits derived from it. This sense of ownership and a state in our nation's well being should be well understood and subscribed to by the young people. The right to sharing of benefits is a direct outcome of participation in nation building activities and every Palauan should understand this as his/her fundamental right. The government should promote and support it, as a matter of policy. The feeling of rightful sharing of benefits should be strengthened.

Table 23: Strategies on Youth Participation

Strategies	Intended Outcome	Responsible Agencies
1. Teach and promote concept of benefit-sharing as a direct outcome of participative contribution-at home, in school, in labor related activities and in sports.	Responsible and productive members of home and community.	MOE, MOH, and all concerned
2. All eighth (8 th) graders to adopt community project, i.e. cleaning the park or tree planting.	Build sense of belonging, responsibility and patriotism.	MOE & Private Schools
3. Youth organizations to actively participate in activities to protect, preserve and conserve the environment and natural resources.	Sense of ownership and pride	EQPB, State Gov'ts, PCS, etc.
4. Youth organizations to identify and restore national heritage.	Protect and preserve national heritage.	DNYA, Bureau of Arts & Culture, EQPB, State Governments, etc.

Policy #8. Strategies on Youth and Their Voices

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be heard. In Palau, they are particularly vulnerable to denial of this right based on traditional concepts of expression. However, everyone's needs must be understood within the context of his/her own condition. This means that young people have special needs that merit a special share of the national resources. Even within the youth sector, there exist various groups whose special needs must be addressed specifically. Listening to the young people and responding to their special needs provides a mechanism for them to share and benefit rightfully from the resources of the nation. The special groups within the youth category, whose circumstances dictate special needs, require isolated and specific responses from the Government in the forms of policies and/or services.

Table 24: Strategies on Youth and Their Voices

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Ensure mechanism for youth to voice concerns at state and national levels. a) State Youth Coordinator to serve as liaison officer to state and national governments.	Participation	Exec. Branch, OEK DNYA, PNYC, etc.
2. Strengthen support and participation of national and state leaders in youth related activities.	Participation	OEK, Exec. Branch, PNYC, DNYA, etc.
3. Strengthen state and local youth organizations through information and financial support mechanisms	Sharing of resources and better networking	Governors, PNYC, DNYA, etc.

Policy #9. Strategies on Youth and Their Participation in Decision-Making/Resource Appropriation

Participation in matters affecting one's life is a fundamental right. Participation enables meaningful contribution to national development, and participants also should benefit from the decisions made by the national leaders. The young people need to take active participating roles in economic development through self-employment in agriculture, fishing, tourism, etc. Participation should be encouraged and supported at all levels of our society and government.

Table 25: Strategies on Youth in Decision Making

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. State governments to ensure young people's participation in development-contributing activities a) Registration, facilitation and monitoring youth's relevant activities	Community projects	DNYA, Governors, SYL, etc.
2. Develop mechanism(s) to ensure youth participation in discussions and appropriation of national resources and use of treasures: a) Encourage schools to take students to public hearings on economic development.	Youth Budget in State Governments Participate in public hearings in hamlets and states	Governors, SYL, etc.

Policy #10. Strategies on Youth and Culture & Fine Arts

Palauan culture and traditions are full of leisure time- enriching and life-fulfilling activities in the form of songs, dances, legends and crafts. They are national resources and treasures to be shared and appreciated and young people must have their share of these rich resources. Knowledge and understanding of these resources will lead to the appreciation and the strengthening of Palauan values. This will result in the wish to protect and preserve our heritage for generations to come.

“Palau does not want to follow the undisciplined approach of many of its neighbors in realizing prosperity. Rather, we want a voyage that will strengthen our culture, not destroy it. We want a voyage that will preserve our unique environment, not damage it for future generations. We want a voyage that will benefit all of the people of Palau, not just a few”.

Source: *His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.*
President, Republic of Palau
State of the Republic Address
2 April 2004

Table 26 : Strategies on Youth and Culture & Fine Arts

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Strengthen Palauan language and culture curricula in all schools.	Greater appreciation of culture	MOE, MCCA, PCC, Private Schools, etc.
2. Encourage, facilitate, promote and strengthen existing use of various communication media, i.e., radio programs, theater groups, puppet shows, etc., to inform, teach and share Palauan culture and fine arts.	Media programs, Theater Plays, Music & Dance festivals, Training opportunities for performers, cultural classes	Radio stations, Berkel Belau Theater, PVA, etc.
3. Maximize utilization of relevant facilities, i.e., museums and cultural centers for education on culture and fine arts.	Museum, Culture Center Schedule of Activities, Tours, Storytelling Performances, Shows	MCCA, PVA, Community Organizations, Private Enterprises, NGOs, etc.
4. Utilize available human resources, i.e. the aged, members of Society of Historians, Chiefs and other community leaders to teach and share Palauan culture and traditions.	Classes, lectures, tours, storytelling, arts & crafts lessons and displays	Old Age/Retirees, Society of Historians, PVA, etc.

The National Youth Policy Committee continues its task to develop in detail the National Action Plan for effective implementation of youth programs and activities with all the stakeholders in the community. Some of the strategies for implementation are already in existence, but may require improvement and better collaborative efforts from other service providers, which this committee is trying to strengthen.

ACRONYMS

BODA	Bureau of Domestic Affairs
BFSCA	Belau, Family, School and Community Association
BH	Behavioral Health
BMI	Body Mass index
BNM	Belau National Museum
BOPSS	Bureau of Public Service System
BPS	Bureau of Public Safety
BSG	Breast Feeding Support Group
CC	Chamber of Commerce
CHSCN	Children with Special Circumstance Needs
COC	Council of Chiefs
CoPopChi	Committee on Population and Children
CPG	Community Planning Group
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSAP	Council on Substance Abuse Prevention
EQPB	Environment Quality Protection Board
GED	General Education Development
HOD	House of Delegates
MCCA	Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MRD	Ministry of Resources and Development
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NYP	National Youth Policy
OEK	Olbiil Era Kelulau
PCC	Palau Community College
PCS	Palau Conservation Society
PICRC	Palau international Coral Reef Center
PNOC	Palau National Olympic Committee
PNYC	Palau National Youth Congress
PTA	Parent/Teachers Association
PYB	Pacific Youth Bureau
PYS	Pacific Youth Strategy
ROP	Republic of Palau
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TTPI	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
UK	United Kingdom
Un	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations (International) Children's (Emergency Funds)
USA	United States of America
VOCA	Victims of Crimes Assistance
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey



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APPENDICES

Palau National Youth Policy Committee Members

The committee was officially created on the 8th of January 2004 by Executive Order No. 223. The membership is comprised of representatives from various youth related agencies. The committee was tasked to develop the First National Youth Policy for the young people of Palau.

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Minister Alexander Merep	NYP Chairman	MCCA
Director Augurio Joseph	NYP Vice Chairman	Bureau of Community Services
Mr. Emery Wenty	Director	Bureau of Education, MOE
Doctor Stevenson Kuartei	Director	Bureau of Public Health
Mr. Hazime Telei	Director	Bureau of Public Safety, MOJ
Mr. Manasseh Temol	Chief	Division of Job Placement, MOCT
Ms. Risong Tarkong	Assistant to the President	Office of the President, ROP
Rev. Limitz Iyar	Assistant to the President on Youth Matters	Office of the President, ROP
Mr. Gustav Aitaro	Administrative Assistant I	Bureau of International Trade, MOS
Ms. Virginia (Ginny) Nakamura	Chief , Div. of Nat'l Youth Affairs and Project Coordinator, Palau National Youth Policy	Division of Youth Affairs, MCCA

INVITED MEMBERS THROUGH MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Special Thanks to the invited members for their contribution to the formulation and development of this policy.

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Mr. Mlib Tmetuchl	Senator	Chairman, Youth & Soc. Welfare Sixth Olbiil Era Kelulau
Mr. Noah Secharraimul	Delegate	Chairman, Youth & Social Welfare Committee House of Delegates, Sixth OEK
PNYC Representative		Palau National Youth Congress



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