



Republic of Palau *Office of the President*

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November 8, 2017
Serial No. 17-343

The Honorable Hokkons Baules
President of the Senate
10th Olbiil Era Kelulau
Ngerulumud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Signing Statement RE: House Bill No. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 – School Wellness and Nutrition Standards

Dear President Baules:

It is my pleasure to sign HB 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 into law, and in so doing to strike a blow against childhood obesity and other non-communicable diseases in our Republic.

Childhood obesity is not just a Palauan or Pacific problem, but one facing nearly every nation, rich and poor, around the globe. The proliferation of cheap, tasty, and addictive high-calorie low-value “junk food” has contributed meaningfully to the rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes in our country, and in many others. And while the Ministry of Education disagrees with your legislative finding that such “junk food” is sold in schools – and would remind you that there is actually no store or food for sale on public school campuses, we can certainly all do a better, more proactive job of getting good nutrition to our students.

We would do well to address this challenge in the same way we identified it – with careful attention to science-based nutrition standards and best practices. I was pleased to see this very approach taken in the drafting of HB 10-9-1, HD1, SD1. By empowering the Ministries of Health and Education to promulgate wellness and nutrition standards for our nation’s schools, you have set the course to make a real difference in the health of our young citizens.

By singling out Sodium, Sugar, Monosodium Glutamate, and Saturated Fat, you are pointing clearly to the most significant known contributors to obesity and non-communicable disease. By delegating the task of establishing specific “science-based” nutrition standards to the Ministries, you have set up a process flexible enough to incorporate evolving scientific knowledge.



I applaud you for your consistent attention to the wellbeing of Palauan children, and look forward to further collaboration on improving the services our students receive in schools throughout the Republic.

Sincerely,



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



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November 8, 2017
Serial No. 17-343

The Honorable Sabino Anastacio
Speaker of the House of Delegates
10th Olbiil Era Ketulau
Ngerulumud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Signing Statement RE: House Bill No. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 – School Wellness and Nutrition Standards

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

It is my pleasure to sign HB 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 into law, and in so doing to strike a blow against childhood obesity and other non-communicable diseases in our Republic.

Childhood obesity is not just a Palauan or Pacific problem, but one facing nearly every nation, rich and poor, around the globe. The proliferation of cheap, tasty, and addictive high-calorie low-value “junk food” has contributed meaningfully to the rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes in our country, and in many others. And while the Ministry of Education disagrees with your legislative finding that such “junk food” is sold in schools – and would remind you that there is actually no store or food for sale on public school campuses, we can certainly all do a better, more proactive job of getting good nutrition to our students.

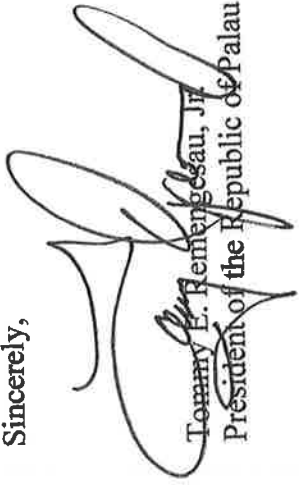
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By singling out Sodium, Sugar, Monosodium Glutamate, and Saturated Fat, you are pointing clearly to the most significant known contributors to obesity and non-communicable disease. By delegating the task of establishing specific “science-based” nutrition standards to the Ministries, you have set up a process flexible enough to incorporate evolving scientific knowledge.



I applaud you for your consistent attention to the wellbeing of Palauan children, and look forward to further collaboration on improving the services our students receive in schools throughout the Republic.

Sincerely,



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



TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2017

HOUSE BILL NO. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1

AN ACT

SEE TITLE INSIDE

OFFERED BY DELEGATE(S) All Delegates

ET AL,

DATE INTRODUCED January 27, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

FIRST READING: January 27, 2017
 REFERRED TO: HSC and *EYA
 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO: 10-17
 DATE ADOPTED: April 18, 2017
 SECOND READING: April 18, 2017
 LEGAL FORMAT: Proper
 REVIEW: April 18, 2017
 THIRD READING: April 27, 2017
 FINAL ACTION: November 02, 2017

SENATE ACTION

FIRST READING: May 02, 2017
 REFERRED TO: Health and Education
 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO: 10-57
 DATE ADOPTED: October 25, 2017
 SECOND READING: October 25, 2017
 LEGAL FORMAT: Proper
 REVIEW: October 30, 2017
 THIRD READING: October 31, 2017
 FINAL ACTION:

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE: None
 COMMITTEE REPORT: None
 DATE PASSED: None

Marcellio Ngirke-lau
 HOUSE CLERK

Ann L. Pedro
 SENATE CLERK

AN ACT

To amend Title 22 to include a new Chapter 9 to implement school wellness and nutrition standards for all schools, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIIIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that the future of the
2 Republic of Palau lies in the hands of our bright and promising children. Throughout
3 their illustrious educational experience in the exceptional public and private schools of
4 the Republic, their minds are fed with necessary knowledge so that in due time, they will
5 be competent and exceptional leaders to continue to drive the Republic of Palau forward
6 into the next generation. At the same time, with the increasing availability of junk food
7 items being sold in the schools, the children of the Republic are not being fed the nutrients
8 they need to succeed in life. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that it is in the best interests of
9 the Republic of Palau to ensure our children’s minds and bodies are filled with the best
10 local food items and information available. The purpose of this bill is to establish school
11 wellness and nutrition standards, and to prohibit the sale of food items that promote
12 obesity and lead to the onset of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

13 Section 2. Amendment. Title 22 is amended to include a new Chapter 9 as follows:

14 “Chapter 9

15 School Wellness and Nutrition Standards

16 § 901. School Wellness and Nutrition Standards.

17 (a) The Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, shall
18 promulgate regulations that provide a framework and guideline for all schools in the
19 Republic of Palau to establish school wellness and nutrition standards, including, at a
20 minimum:

21 (1) goals for promotion and education of proper nutrition and substance use,
22 physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness; and

23 (2) nutrition guidelines for the reduction of childhood obesity.

24 (b) The Ministry of Education shall promulgate regulations to implement the school
25 wellness and nutrition, including:

1 (1) a requirement that each school permit appropriate persons such as parents,
 2 students, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board,
 3 school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development,
 4 implementation, and periodic review and update of the school wellness and nutrition
 5 standards;

6 (2) a requirement that each school inform and update the parents and students
 7 about the content and implementation of the school wellness and nutrition standards by
 8 whatever means may effectively publicize the standards, including radio, television,
 9 newspaper, or other mediums; and

10 (3) a requirement that the Ministry of Education periodically measure and make
 11 available to the public an assessment on the implementation of the school wellness and
 12 nutrition standards, including the extent to which schools are in compliance with the
 13 school wellness and nutrition standards.

14 § 902. Technical assistance and best practices.

15 The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, shall provide
 16 information and technical assistance to local schools and school food authorities, for use
 17 in establishing healthy school environments that are intended to promote student health
 18 and wellness.

19 § 903. National school nutrition standards.

20 (a) In accordance with the school wellness and nutrition standards, the Ministry of
 21 Education shall promulgate regulations to establish science-based nutrition standards for
 22 foods sold in schools.

23 (b) In establishing nutrition standards under this section, the Ministry of Education
 24 shall:

25 (1) establish standards that are consistent with the dietary guidelines as
 26 established by the Ministry of Health, including the essential food groups to
 27 encourage the consumption of necessary nutrients identified in the dietary
 28 guidelines; and

29 (2) consider –

- 1 (A) authoritative scientific recommendations for nutrition standards;
2 (B) local diet and customary food items produced in the Republic of Palau;
3 (C) the practical application of the nutrition standards; and
4 (D) special exemptions for school-sponsored fundraisers, if the fundraisers
5 are approved by the school Parent Teacher Association and are infrequent
6 within the school.

7 § 904. Prohibition of sale of certain food items on school property.

8 (a) The Ministry of Education, working in coordination with the Ministry of
9 Health, shall promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this Chapter to prohibit
10 certain beverage and food items known to contribute to obesity and the onset of
11 non-communicable diseases. In promulgating these regulations, the Ministry of
12 Education and the Ministry of Health shall consider factors, including but not be limited

13 to:

- 14 (1) the item's sodium content;
15 (2) the item's sugar content;
16 (3) the presence of monosodium glutamate; and
17 (4) the item's saturated fat content.

18 (b) Any person found in violation of subsection (a) or subsection 905 of this Chapter
19 shall be guilty of a violation and liable for a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per
20 occurrence.

21 § 905. Prohibition of use of public funds.

22 No public funds shall be used by any public or private school to acquire and distribute
23 food items that are known to contribute to obesity and the onset of non-communicable
24 diseases.”

25 Section 3. Effective date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
26 President of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED: November 02, 2017

Approved this 8th day of NOVEMBER, 2017.



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