



JOINT LEADERSHIP COVID-19 IMPACT MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Establishing a joint leadership working group to develop and recommend measures to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is radically disrupting global social and economic systems; and

WHEREAS, as a small and relatively isolated island state, the Republic of Palau is especially vulnerable to these global disruptions; and

WHEREAS, international travel restrictions are having cascading economic consequences, striking hardest in industries that are reliant on travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, these economic consequences will significantly impact government revenue, threatening the availability of critical government services, as well as the government's ability to backstop the economy through countercyclical spending; and

WHEREAS, many of the Republic's citizens and residents, including the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, and those without strong financial safety nets, will need government support to weather this crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health and National Emergency Committee are focused on medical emergency response and prevention, but the Republic must take meaningful action to mitigate the likely long-term social and economic impacts of this crisis as well;

NOW THEREFORE, a Joint Leadership COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Working Group is hereby established to advise the President and the presiding officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau:

Joint Leadership COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Working Group: The Joint Leadership COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Working Group shall advise the President and the presiding officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau on recommended measures to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Group shall consist of the following members:

- a) The Chief of Staff of the Office of the President;
- b) The Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means;
- c) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, and Financial Matters;
- d) The Chair of the House Committee on Health, Social, and Cultural Affairs;
- e) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Education;
- f) The Chair of the Governors' Association;



- g) The Chair of the Association of State Speakers;
- h) The Minister of Finance;
- i) The Minister of Natural Resources, the Environment, and Tourism;
- j) The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce;
- k) One Representative of the Chamber of Commerce;
- l) One Representative of the Belau Tourism Association; and
- m) One Representative of the Palau Visitor's Authority.

Meetings: Meetings shall be held regularly, upon the call of the Minister of Finance who shall serve as Chair.

Responsibilities: The Working Group shall be responsible to look beyond emergency response measures and focus on long-term concerns, by:


- a) Assessing the health, safety, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the people of the Republic;
- b) Developing recommendations to ensure the availability of government services;
- c) Developing recommendations to support Palau's most vulnerable citizens and residents;
- d) Developing recommendations to relieve and support the private sector; and
- e) Developing recommendations to ensure the swift recovery of Palau's visitor industry.


Cooperation of Executive Branch Agencies: The Working Group shall receive the full cooperation of all Executive Branch agencies, and particularly of the Bureau of Budget and Planning. The Working Group is encouraged to call upon any relevant agency for its expertise, or for any administrative or other assistance it may reasonably provide.


Committee Staff: The Working Group is encouraged to call upon the staff of relevant committees of the Olbiil Era Kelulau for any administrative or other assistance they may reasonably provide.

Reporting: The Working Group shall meet regularly, and report to the President and the presiding officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau on a weekly basis, until disbanded.

Done in Koror, Palau on this 20th day of March, 2020:


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


Hokkons Baules
President of the Senate


Sabino Anastacio
Speaker of the House of Delegates