Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

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February 19, 2020
Serial No. 20-1612

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

Re: Signing Statement for HB No. 10-61-4, HD2, SD1

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

I am very proud to be able to sign into law HB 10-61-4, HD2, SD1, a bill that will ensure that all Palauans, regardless of financial status, have the ability to pursue higher education at Palau Community College. You rightly note in this bill that Palau's success tomorrow depends on our investment today in the educational development of younger Palauans. I want to thank you for your focus on this very important issue and spending the time necessary to bring this bill to this stage.

This bill works by amending the powers of PCC's Board of Trustees, prohibiting the Board from denying any Palauan citizen the ability to enroll on the basis of a lack of funding in four specific situations: first, where a student is denied funding from all outside sources and has insufficient family contributions; second, where a student is placed on academic probation and is no longer eligible for funding while he or she attempts to improve his or her grades pursuant to a PCC-approved plan; third, where a student has reached the maximum limit of funding but has not completed his or her degree in a reasonable time frame; and fourth, where a high school student is dual-enrolled at PCC. I have been told that this bill should help between 65 and 75 students a year who otherwise would not be able to continue their studies.

In order to ensure that this new requirement does not negatively impact PCC's finances, you had the foresight to include in this bill $60,000 to help offset the bill's cost. Thank you for including this provision, ensuring that PCC will not need to adjust any of its other programs in order to provide for this new policy. Although this amount should be sufficient to ensure the bill is able to accomplish its intent, it may be necessary to adjust the amount in the future if PCC finds that it requires additional funding.

I thank you again for your work in crafting this bill. I am pleased to be able to sign it into law today.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Senate President Hokkons Baules

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February 19, 2020
Serial No. 20-1612

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

Re: Signing Statement for HB No. 10-61-4, HD2, SD1

Dear Senate President Baules:

I am very proud to be able to sign into law HB 10-61-4, HD2, SD1, a bill that will ensure that all Palauans, regardless of financial status, have the ability to pursue higher education at Palau Community College. You rightly note in this bill that Palau's success tomorrow depends on our investment today in the educational development of younger Palauans. I want to thank you for your focus on this very important issue and spending the time necessary to bring this bill to this stage.

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Sincerely,

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

CC: Speaker of the House of Delegates Sabino Anastacio

RPPL NO. 10-49

TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

HOUSE BILL NO. HOUSE BILL NO. 10-61-4, HD2, SD1

AN ACT

SEE TITLE INSIDE

OFFERED BY DELEGATE(S) SABINO ANASTACIO AND ALL DELEGATES EXCEPT DELEGATE KEMESONG, DELEGATE ONGIDOBEL ET AL,

DATE INTRODUCED October 25, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

FIRST READING:	October 25, 2017
REFERRED TO:	E&YA
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-51
DATE ADOPTED:	May 17, 2018
SECOND READING:	May 17, 2018 w/HD1
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	May 17, 2018
THIRD READING:	August 02, 2018
FINAL ACTION:	February 05, 2020 w/SD1

SENATE ACTION

FIRST READING:	August 02, 2018
REFERRED TO:	H&E/W&M
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-236
DATE ADOPTED:	January 29, 2020
SECOND READING:	January 29, 2020
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	January 29, 2020
THIRD READING:	February 04, 2020
FINAL ACTION:	

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE:

COMMITTEE REPORT:

DATE PASSED:

MARCELLO NGIRKELAU
HOUSE CLERK

ANN L. PEDRO
SENATE CLERK

TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

Fourth Regular Session, October 2017

RPPL No. 10-49

(Passed as House Bill No. 10-61-4, HD2, SD1)

AN ACT

To provide for the educational needs of the Republic of Palau's youth by guaranteeing every Palauan access to college education at Palau Community College; to allocate sufficient funding for Palau Community College's education assistance; and for other related purposes.

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that the Republic of Palau's young people are its most valuable treasure. Our great island nation's bright future depends upon our youth's ability to one day lead it into a place among the world's developed nations. Today, although Palau's economy is one of the Pacific's greatest success stories, there is a truth we must confront: our country has a small population, and many of our young people lack the skills they will need to become the leaders of tomorrow. We must build upon our nation's growth potential by investing in the educational development of our young people who will one day take their rightful place as our nation's leaders.

As part of this investment, the Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that all Palauans should have access to the education they will need to participate in Palau's future. Today, every Palauan is guaranteed access to education through the twelfth grade. Palau must expand this universal and guaranteed access to include the opportunity to obtain higher education and an advanced degree, regardless of financial means. To this end, the Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that Palau Community College should be available to all Palauan citizens. Together with currently available grants, scholarships, and other aid to cover books, supplies, and living expenses, this guaranteed higher education will ensure that no Palauan is deprived of an education by financial need.

Section 2. Amendment. Section 316(c) of Title 22 is amended as follows:

"§ 316. Powers.

The Board of Trustees shall have general policy management and control over the affairs of the College, and to this end, shall have the power to:

...

(c) fix, in its discretion, the rates charged the students of the College for tuition, fees, room and board, and other necessary charges, and grant tuition waivers as the Board shall deem appropriate, except that no Palauan citizen shall be denied enrollment as a degree-seeking student on the basis of lack of funding in the following circumstances:

(1) a student is denied funding from all outside sources and has insufficient family contributions;

(2) a student is placed on academic probation and is no longer eligible for funding while he attempts to improve his grades under a plan determined by the College to improve these grades;

(3) a student has reached the maximum limit of funding but has not completed his degree in a reasonable time frame to be determined by the College; or

(4) a student is enrolled in a dual-enrollment program as defined by the College.

..."

Section 3. Amendment. Section 9 of RPPL 10-42 is hereby amended as follows:

"Section 9. Education Assistance. The sum of $5,496,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated and is hereby appropriated for expenditure or obligation for Fiscal Year 2020 to subsidize the educational institutions and scholarship program, as set forth below. The total amount authorized to be appropriated and that is hereby appropriated in this section shall come from local revenues. The total authorization and appropriation shall be allocated according to the following schedule, respectively:

(1)	**Palau Community College**	**$2,546,000**
	(a) PCC Operations	**(2,398,000)**

Of these funds, $60,000 shall be earmarked for tuition assistance to Palauan students pursuant to 22 PNC §316(c). The funds earmarked in this subsection shall be non-lapsing.

(b)	PCC Board of Trustees	(38,000)
(c)	PCC CRE	(35,000)
(d)	COM Board of Regents	(25,000)
(e)	PCC Navigation Program	(50,000)
(2) Aid to Non-Public Schools		$947,000
...		
(3) National Scholarship Fund		$2,003,000
...		
	Section 9 Total	$5,496,000"

Section 4. Effective date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED: February 05, 2020

Approved this 19th **day of** February **, 2020**

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