February 26, 2020
Serial No. 20-1623

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

Signing Statement Re: HB 10-44-3S, HD3, SD1 – To develop a uniform national street and home address system for the Republic of Palau; and for other related purposes

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

Thank you for your work on House Bill No. 10-44-3S, HD3, SD1, to develop a uniform national street and home address system for the Republic of Palau. This important bill has been a long time in the making; it was referred back in the 9th OEK, as House Bill 9-110-6, HD1, SD2, and I am glad you followed-up on this important measure.

The Ministry of Finance, and the Office of Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System, are in full support of this bill. However, they have also raised a significant concern regarding its implementation, and I recommend we act on that concern.

As they point out, this bill requires state governments to take the first step by assigning names to local roads. After that, PALARIS will develop a uniform national address system, and assign addresses to homes and businesses on each named road. Due to its inexperience in developing address systems, PALARIS will most likely need to engage one or more consultants.

This order of work allows more time for each party to do its own part. However, it also creates funding uncertainty for PALARIS, which does not know when it will be called upon to start the process. Therefore, we should ensure initial funding will be available whenever state governments provide naming resolutions to PALARIS. I recommend a non-lapsing appropriation of $75,000, as an amendment to the pending Supplemental Budget Bill.

After that initial appropriation, continued funding can be provided by future OEKs through the Road Use Tax, as you have wisely provided. I am proud to sign this bill, and thank you for your consideration of the important funding issue it raises.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Senate President Hokkons Baules
Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

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10th Olbiil Era Kelulau
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President of the Republic of Palau

CC: Speaker of the House of Delegates Sabino Anastacio
TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

HOUSE BILL NO. 10-44-3S, HD3, SD1

AN ACT

SEE TITLE INSIDE

OFFERED BY DELEGATES OTOBED, KEMESONG, SATSKE, GUBLERT, GIBBONS JR.
ARURANG, KANAI, MARTINO, NGIRATKAI, KANAI, BASILUS ET AL.

DATE INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2017

HOUSE ACTION

FIRST READING: May 29, 2017
REFERRED TO: CP6D
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO: 10-33
DATE ADOPTED: October 25, 2017
SECOND READING: October 25, 2017
LEGAL FORMAT: Proper
REVIEW: October 25, 2017
THIRD READING: November 02, 2017 w/HD3
FINAL ACTION: February 05, 2020 w/SD1

SENATE ACTION

FIRST READING: November 27, 2019
REFERRED TO: CIP
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO: 10-234
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:

MARGRELLI NGIRKELAD
HOUSE CLERK

ANN L. PEDRO
SENATE CLERK
AN ACT

To develop a uniform national street and home address system for the Republic of Palau, 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 has grown in population and the economy has grown increasingly more complex. The time has come for the Republic to implement a uniform system of street names and addresses. Street names and addresses will assist emergency personnel to locate people in a timely manner, will further increase economic growth and development, and will assist in master planning efforts at the state and national level. The technology already exists for the uniform system of street names and addresses. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology has been widely used in recent years for numerous projects in the Republic, and Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System (PALARIS) has the expertise to carry out this endeavor. The Olbiil Era Kelulau believes that the states should be entrusted with the authority to decide upon appropriate names for the roads within their territory. However, in deciding upon such names, the states should consider using the names by which these roads and areas have been historically and traditionally known.

Section 2. Amendment. Title 31 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended to add a new Chapter 13 within Division 1 as follows:

“Chapter 13

Streets and Addresses

§ 1301. Designation of street names and addresses.

(a) Within one calendar year of the effective date of this Act, each state government shall adopt by duly ratified resolution a name for each road, including secondary and public access roads, within its state, and shall promptly inform Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System (PALARIS) of the adoption of the road name. When deciding upon such names, each state must consider using the names
by which these roads and areas have been historically and traditionally known.

Whenever a new road is constructed, or any amendments by the state government are
made to the name of an existing road, the state government shall promptly inform
PALARIS of the adoption of the road name.

(b) Upon receiving a state resolution that provides for the names of each street in
its territory, PALARIS shall develop a uniform national system to:

(1) assign the name adopted by the state government to each public road
within the Republic;

(2) assign street numbers consisting of no more than five digits for each
dwelling unit and place of business on all public and private streets, or in the case
of dwelling units constituting part of traditional clan platforms, a name consistent
with Palauan tradition; and

(3) furnish free of charge to each dwelling or commercial unit owner a
certificate designating the unit’s street number or name and location.

(c) PALARIS shall keep and maintain on a regular basis a national address index
which shall be a public record of all streets and numbers or names assigned in
accordance with this chapter.

§ 1302. Duty of property owner to post designated street numbers or names.

(a) The owner of each dwelling or place of business assigned a street number or
name shall affix the number or name to the front entrance of the structure if visible from
the road, or to a sign or number post if not visible from the road, in such a way that the
numbers or name can be clearly seen from the roadway.

(b) Street numbers or names shall be not less than three inches (3") in height.

(c) Street numbers or names shall be of a different color from the background on
which they are placed.

(d) Street numbers or names shall be affixed in a permanent manner to the
building or post; use of effaceable materials such as chalk is prohibited.

(e) All buildings shall be numbered or named at the expense of the owner.
§ 1303. Posting of designated street names.

(a) Each state government shall place street signs at each intersection of two or more public roads within the territory of that state no more than twenty feet (20') from the intersection.

(b) Street signs shall be no less than eighteen inches (18") by six inches (6") in size and shall be posted no lower than three feet (3') above the ground, and no higher than twenty feet (20') above the ground.

§ 1304. Penalties.

(a) Any person found tearing down, defacing or changing any number or name put up in accordance with this Act shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not more than $10.00.

(b) Any owner of a building in the Republic of Palau who neglects to number or name such buildings as provided in this chapter, or who places, maintains, or allows to remain thereon any number or name other than that assigned by PALARIS, shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of no more than $20.00.

§ 1305. Regulations.

PALARIS shall adopt rules and regulations consistent with this Act and in accordance with Title 6 of the Palau National Code.”

Section 3. Amendment. Section 1404 of Title 40 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended as follows:

“§ 1404. Road use tax.

(a) …

(b) Road Maintenance Fund. There shall be established within the National Treasury a separate and distinct account for Road Maintenance. The total amount assessed and levied as an annual road use tax on all motor vehicles shall be deposited into the Road Maintenance Fund as collected to be used solely for the upkeep, maintenance, and repair of the Republic of Palau’s national and state government roads.
and roadway traffic control devices. Subject to appropriation by the Olbiil Era Kelulau, the Road Maintenance Fund shall also be available to fund the Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System’s work to implement a uniform national street address system and to fund state implementation of the national street address system.”

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

PASSED: February 05, 2020

Approved this ___ day of February, 2020

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