TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

First Regular Session, January 2017

## AN ACT

To establish a National Day of Prayer in the Republic of Palau that shall be announced yearly by Presidential Proclamation, 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 long recognized the importance of seeking the guidance of Almighty God. At the establishment of the Republic of Palau's Constitution, the framers of the Constitution understood that one of the central values and considerations of the Republic was the acknowledgment of God and referenced such in the Preamble. Historically, the Olbiil Era Kelulau has called each legislative session to order with words of prayer. Many people of this Republic, in congregations and as individuals, turn to prayer as a means of uniting and affirming their trust in and dependence on God in times of sorrow and blessing. No matter the religion, practice, or belief, this great island nation affirms the freedom of conscience to express one's beliefs in the manner of his or her choosing and without reservation or reproach. The Olbiil Era Kelulau recognizes and responds to a petition from numerous church representatives and therefore calls for a Presidential Proclamation to provide an opportunity for people of all faiths to come together and pray for God's continued guidance, forgiveness, and protection.

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Section 2. National Day of Prayer.

The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating any day in January as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the Republic of Palau may honor and entreat Almighty God through prayer in groups or as individuals.

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Section 3. <u>Effective date.</u> 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: March 23, 2017

Approved this 13th day of April ,2017 H. E. Tommy/E. Remengeszu, Jr. President of the Republic of Palau