



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION No. 15-139

*Declaring February 25, 2015 as Invasive Species Awareness Day
"Invasive Species Are Everyone's Responsibility"*

WHEREAS, a stable and sustainable economy is dependent upon a healthy natural resource base; and

WHEREAS, the culture and economy of the people of Palau – the Palauan Way of Life – is directly dependent on our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, food security, opportunities for economic prosperity, and natural environments in the Republic of Palau are increasingly impacted and continually threatened by a wide range of invasive plants, animals, insects, and disease organisms; and

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that invasive species management is a fundamental component of efforts to adapt to climate change, to build resilient economies, communities, and ecosystems, and to achieve social and economic development objectives including poverty alleviation and the enhancement of food security, fresh water availability, human health, biological diversity, and coral reef health; and

WHEREAS, Palau has a unique ecological history as islands with their surrounding reefs and lagoons, populated by thousands of native species of marine and terrestrial animals and plants, many of which are found nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, preventing and mitigating invasive species damage directly supports efforts, such as the Protected Areas Network and the Micronesia Challenge, to effectively conserve terrestrial and near-shore natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the most cost-effective way to minimize the impacts of invasive species is to prevent their spread and colonization of new islands through comprehensive, collaborative biosecurity efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is everyone's responsibility, as stewards of the Planet Earth and its environment, to prevent damage to our natural resources; and



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February 25, 2015

Invasive Species Awareness Day

"Invasive Species Are Everyone's Responsibility"

WHEREAS, the last week of February, 2015 is being observed as Invasive Species Awareness Week in the United States by the U.S. National Invasive Species Council and their State, Federal, and non-governmental partners, including many of our Pacific Island neighbors such as the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, other countries and territories in the Pacific will observe National Invasive Species Awareness Week or Day in accordance with their national planning and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) and other regional partners will coordinate a Pacific-wide regional campaign "Invasive Species is Everyone's Responsibility" to support countries and territories, including Palau, as part of the Invasive Species Awareness Week/Day; and

WHEREAS, the Micronesian Chief Executives, in their 20th Summit in Yap State, FSM in June 2014, endorsed the observation of Invasive Species Awareness Week in Micronesia in 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to 1 PNC §503 and Executive Order No. 24, as amended by Executive Order No. 292, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim February 25, 2015, as Invasive Species Awareness Day in the Republic of Palau, with the theme: "Invasive Species Are Everyone's Responsibility," and with activities to be coordinated by the National Invasive Species Committee, as chaired by the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture, and I call on all residents of and visitors to the Republic to join together in preventing and controlling harmful invasive species, in order to protect our natural resources, our economy, and our way of life.

SO PROCLAIMED this 25th day of February 2015 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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