



**Republic of Palau**  
*Office of the President*

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
*President*

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940  
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828  
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662  
Email: rop.president@palaunet.com

February 19, 2020  
Serial No. 20-1611

The Honorable Hokkons Baules  
President of the Senate  
10<sup>th</sup> Olbiil Era Kelulau  
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol  
Republic of Palau 96939

**Re: Signing Statement for SB No. 10-165, SD1, HD1**

Dear Senate President Baules:

I am pleased to be able to sign into law SB 10-165, SD1, HD1, a bill that will amend the Palau National Code to provide that one hundred percent of the revenue that the states derive from the administration and management of state lands by their respective public authorities will go to those states. This bill will bring the PNC into line with the requirements of our Constitution, and make the PNC reflect the current practice with respect to the retention of such funds. I want to thank you for your attention to this important bill and providing me with the opportunity to sign it into law.


This bill amends Section 217 of Title 35 of the Palau National Code to provide that “all,” rather than “three-fourths,” of the revenue generated from a state authority’s administration and management of public lands shall be deposited directly into the treasury of that state government. As you note, Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution requires that “all revenues” be deposited into the appropriate treasury. For lands that are owned by our states, and which are entirely administered and managed by state public land authorities, it is certainly the case that the appropriate treasury is that of the respective state.

Indeed, it appears that the Eighth Olbiil Era Kelulau intended this change when it passed RPPL 8-18. Section 15 of that law amended Section 217 of Title 35 by removing the “last clause . . . requiring one-fourth of all revenues derived by a state land authority’s administration of public lands inure to the National Treasury . . . .” RPPL 8-18 further states that in exchange for the repeal of that provision, “the Koror State Government and its land authority shall reasonably accommodate, free of charge, the needs of the National Government to utilize public buildings and public lands in Koror State.” Since RPPL 8-18 became law, all states have been retaining one hundred percent of the funds derived from their respective state land authorities’ administration.



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: Speaker of the House of Delegates Sabino Anastacio



**Republic of Palau**  
*Office of the President*

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
*President*

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940  
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828  
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662  
Email: [rop.president@palaunet.com](mailto:rop.president@palaunet.com)

February 19, 2020  
Serial No. 20-1611

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

**Re: Signing Statement for SB No. 10-165, SD1, HD1**

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

I am pleased to be able to sign into law SB 10-165, SD1, HD1, a bill that will amend the Palau National Code to provide that one hundred percent of the revenue that the states derive from the administration and management of state lands by their respective public authorities will go to those states. This bill will bring the PNC into line with the requirements of our Constitution, and make the PNC reflect the current practice with respect to the retention of such funds. I want to thank you for your attention to this important bill and providing me with the opportunity to sign it into law.

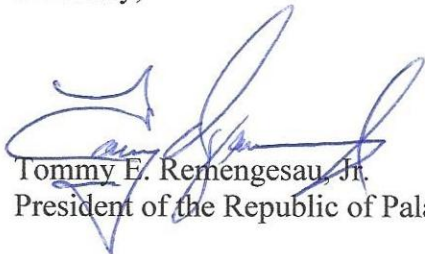
This bill amends Section 217 of Title 35 of the Palau National Code to provide that "all," rather than "three-fourths," of the revenue generated from a state authority's administration and management of public lands shall be deposited directly into the treasury of that state government. As you note, Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution requires that "all revenues" be deposited into the appropriate treasury. For lands that are owned by our states, and which are entirely administered and managed by state public land authorities, it is certainly the case that the appropriate treasury is that of the respective state.

Indeed, it appears that the Eighth Olbiil Era Kelulau intended this change when it passed RPPL 8-18. Section 15 of that law amended Section 217 of Title 35 by removing the "last clause . . . requiring one-fourth of all revenues derived by a state land authority's administration of public lands inure to the National Treasury . . ." RPPL 8-18 further states that in exchange for the repeal of that provision, "the Koror State Government and its land authority shall reasonably accommodate, free of charge, the needs of the National Government to utilize public buildings and public lands in Koror State." Since RPPL 8-18 became law, all states have been retaining one hundred percent of the funds derived from their respective state land authorities' administration.



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



**The Senate**  
**TENTH OLBIIL ERA KELULAU**  
 P.O. Box 8, Ngerulmud  
 Republic of Palau 96939

Thirteenth Regular Session

January 2020

INTRODUCED AS SENATE BILL NO. 10-165, SD1, HD1

**AN ACT**

SEE TITLE INSIDE

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR (S) Senate President Hokkons Baules

ET, AL.,

DATE INTRODUCED October 31, 2019

**SENATE ACTION**

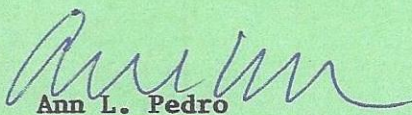
FIRST READING:	October 31, 2019
REFERRED TO:	Ways and Means and Financial Matters
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO.:	10-223
DATE ADOPTED:	November 19, 2019
SECOND READING:	November 19, 2019
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	November 22, 2019
THIRD READING:	November 22, 2019
FINAL READING:	February 6, 2020

**HOUSE ACTION**

FIRST READING:	November 29, 2019
REFERRED TO:	Judiciary, Governmental Affairs & Human Rights
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO.:	10-103
DATE ADOPTED:	February 5, 2020
SECOND READING:	February 5, 2020
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	February 5, 2020
THIRD READING:	February 6, 2020
FINAL READING:	February 6, 2020

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION**

DATE:	None
COMMITTEE REPORT NO.:	None
DATE PASSED:	None
FINAL READING:	None

  
 Ann L. Pedro

CLERK OF THE SENATE

  
 Marcello Ngirkelau

CLERK, HOUSE OF DELEGATES

AN ACT

To ensure that all the revenue derived from the administration and management of state public lands by a state public land authority is deposited directly into the treasury of that state.

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

1           Section 1. Legislative Findings. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that the revenues  
 2 from the administration and management of state public lands by state public land  
 3 authorities should be paid directly to that state’s respective treasury. Article XII, Section  
 4 1 of the Constitution requires that revenues are deposited in the appropriate treasury,  
 5 and the appropriate treasury, for the purposes of receiving proceeds earned through the  
 6 administration and management of state public lands, is that of the state who has  
 7 administered and managed those public lands.

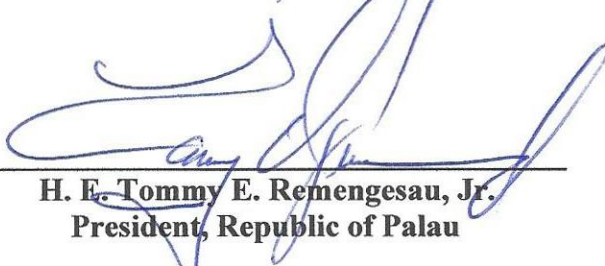
8           Section 2. Amendment. Title 35 of the Palau National Code is amended at Section  
 9 217 as follows:

10           “§ 217. Control of funds.  
 11 All revenue realized and received by the Authority generated from the  
 12 administration and management of public lands shall be transmitted to the Director of  
 13 the Bureau of the National Treasury for inclusion in the National Treasury; provided  
 14 that whenever a state authority is created pursuant to section 215 of this title, then all  
 15 revenue generated from the state authority’s administration and management of public  
 16 lands shall be deposited directly into the treasury of that state government.”

17           Section 3. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
 18 President of the Republic of Palau, or upon becoming law without such approval.

Passed on: February 6, 2020

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.



\_\_\_\_\_  
 H. E. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
 President, Republic of Palau