



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

**Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.**  
*President*

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November 8, 2017  
Serial No. 17-343

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

**Signing Statement RE: House Bill No. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 – School Wellness and Nutrition Standards**

Dear President Baules:

It is my pleasure to sign HB 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 into law, and in so doing to strike a blow against childhood obesity and other non-communicable diseases in our Republic.

Childhood obesity is not just a Palauan or Pacific problem, but one facing nearly every nation, rich and poor, around the globe. The proliferation of cheap, tasty, and addictive high-calorie low-value “junk food” has contributed meaningfully to the rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes in our country, and in many others. And while the Ministry of Education disagrees with your legislative finding that such “junk food” is sold in schools – and would remind you that there is actually no store or food for sale on public school campuses, we can certainly all do a better, more proactive job of getting good nutrition to our students.

We would do well to address this challenge in the same way we identified it – with careful attention to science-based nutrition standards and best practices. I was pleased to see this very approach taken in the drafting of HB 10-9-1, HD1, SD1. By empowering the Ministries of Health and Education to promulgate wellness and nutrition standards for our nation’s schools, you have set the course to make a real difference in the health of our young citizens.

By singling out Sodium, Sugar, Monosodium Glutamate, and Saturated Fat, you are pointing clearly to the most significant known contributors to obesity and non-communicable disease. By delegating the task of establishing specific “science-based” nutrition standards to the Ministries, you have set up a process flexible enough to incorporate evolving scientific knowledge.



I applaud you for your consistent attention to the wellbeing of Palauan children, and look forward to further collaboration on improving the services our students receive in schools throughout the Republic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

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



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November 8, 2017  
Serial No. 17-343

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

**Signing Statement RE: House Bill No. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1 – School Wellness and Nutrition Standards**

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

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Childhood obesity is not just a Palauan or Pacific problem, but one facing nearly every nation, rich and poor, around the globe. The proliferation of cheap, tasty, and addictive high-calorie low-value “junk food” has contributed meaningfully to the rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes in our country, and in many others. And while the Ministry of Education disagrees with your legislative finding that such “junk food” is sold in schools – and would remind you that there is actually no store or food for sale on public school campuses, we can certainly all do a better, more proactive job of getting good nutrition to our students.

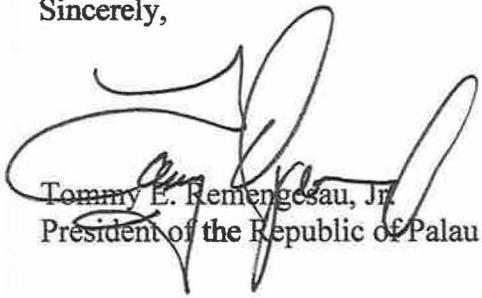
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Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau



# TENTH OLBIL ERA KELULAU

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2017

HOUSE BILL NO. 10-9-1, HD1, SD1

## AN ACT

SEE TITLE INSIDE

OFFERED BY DELEGATE(S) All Delegates

ET AL,

DATE INTRODUCED January 27, 2017

## HOUSE ACTION

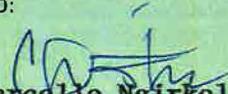
FIRST READING:	January 27, 2017
REFERRED TO:	HSC and *EYA
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-17
DATE ADOPTED:	April 18, 2017
SECOND READING:	April 18, 2017
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	April 18, 2017
THIRD READING:	April 27, 2017
FINAL ACTION:	November 02, 2017

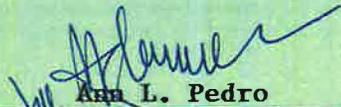
## SENATE ACTION

FIRST READING:	May 02, 2017
REFERRED TO:	Health and Education
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO:	10-57
DATE ADOPTED:	October 25, 2017
SECOND READING:	October 25, 2017
LEGAL FORMAT:	Proper
REVIEW:	October 30, 2017
THIRD READING:	October 31, 2017
FINAL ACTION:	

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE:	None
COMMITTEE REPORT:	None
DATE PASSED:	None

  
 Marcello Ngirkelau  
 HOUSE CLERK

  
 Ann L. Pedro  
 SENATE CLERK



1           (1) a requirement that each school permit appropriate persons such as parents,  
2 students, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board,  
3 school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development,  
4 implementation, and periodic review and update of the school wellness and nutrition  
5 standards;

6           (2) a requirement that each school inform and update the parents and students  
7 about the content and implementation of the school wellness and nutrition standards by  
8 whatever means may effectively publicize the standards, including radio, television,  
9 newspaper, or other mediums; and

10           (3) a requirement that the Ministry of Education periodically measure and make  
11 available to the public an assessment on the implementation of the school wellness and  
12 nutrition standards, including the extent to which schools are in compliance with the  
13 school wellness and nutrition standards.

14           § 902. Technical assistance and best practices.

15           The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, shall provide  
16 information and technical assistance to local schools and school food authorities, for use  
17 in establishing healthy school environments that are intended to promote student health  
18 and wellness.

19           § 903. National school nutrition standards.

20           (a) In accordance with the school wellness and nutrition standards, the Ministry of  
21 Education shall promulgate regulations to establish science-based nutrition standards for  
22 foods sold in schools.

23           (b) In establishing nutrition standards under this section, the Ministry of Education  
24 shall:

25           (1) establish standards that are consistent with the dietary guidelines as  
26 established by the Ministry of Health, including the essential food groups to  
27 encourage the consumption of necessary nutrients identified in the dietary  
28 guidelines; and

29           (2) consider –

- 1           (A) authoritative scientific recommendations for nutrition standards;
- 2           (B) local diet and customary food items produced in the Republic of Palau;
- 3           (C) the practical application of the nutrition standards; and
- 4           (D) special exemptions for school-sponsored fundraisers, if the fundraisers
- 5           are approved by the school Parent Teacher Association and are infrequent
- 6           within the school.

7           **§ 904. Prohibition of sale of certain food items on school property.**

8           (a) The Ministry of Education, working in coordination with the Ministry of

9           Health, shall promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this Chapter to prohibit

10           certain beverage and food items known to contribute to obesity and the onset of

11           non-communicable diseases. In promulgating these regulations, the Ministry of

12           Education and the Ministry of Health shall consider factors, including but not be limited

13           to:

- 14                   (1) the item's sodium content;
- 15                   (2) the item's sugar content;
- 16                   (3) the presence of monosodium glutamate; and
- 17                   (4) the item's saturated fat content.

18           (b) Any person found in violation of subsection (a) or subsection 905 of this Chapter

19           shall be guilty of a violation and liable for a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per

20           occurrence.

21           **§ 905. Prohibition of use of public funds.**

22           No public funds shall be used by any public or private school to acquire and distribute

23           food items that are known to contribute to obesity and the onset of non-communicable

24           diseases.”

25           Section 3. **Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the

26           President of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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**PASSED: November 02, 2017**

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2017.



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