



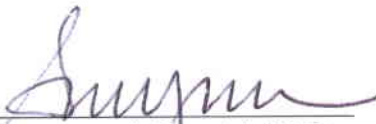
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

**POLICY DECLARING A STATE OF HEALTH EMERGENCY  
ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

MOH Policy No. 4-2011

**APPROVED BY:**  
Executive Committee

**ISSUED BY:**

  
Stevenson J. Kuartei, M.D.  
Minister of Health

April 22, 2011

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health's vision statement is "Healthy Palau in Healthful Environment" and the mission statement is "The Ministry of Health shall take positive actions to attain healthful environment, promote health and social welfare, protect family health and safety and provide health care services throughout the Republic of Palau (Palau)";

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health's vision and mission statements are adopted from Article VI of the Palau National Constitution, "The Responsibilities of the National Government";

WHEREAS, a regional declaration of the State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA Resolution No. 48-1) has been endorsed by the Micronesian Chief Executives, Micronesian Presidents, Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures, Micronesian Traditional Leaders Council and Micronesian Chief Justices;

WHEREAS, the Nadi Statement is on the Crisis of NCDs in the Pacific Island Countries and is being adopted as a pan Pacific statement on NCDs and working its way to the High Level

Meeting in the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011;

WHEREAS, NCDs are also called lifestyle related diseases or chronic diseases are of an epidemic proportion in Palau and the Ministry of Health is spending as least 55% of its budget in managing NCDs and this situation is worsening;

WHEREAS, the leading causes of death, off-island medical referrals, hospital admissions and hemodialysis are NCDs and indicators shows that the youth in Palau will develop a much bigger burden in the future because they have highest tobacco use in the region, increasing alcohol consumption, obesity rates at 33% of all schools children;

WHEREAS, the current health care system in Palau, including the health account, human resource capacities, ancillary and support services, model of health care delivery and over all policy designs are not aligned to address the burden of NCDs efficiently;

WHEREAS, strengthening care systems, reinvigorating primary health care and revitalizing health setting will improve other programs in the Ministry of Health;

WHEREAS, the burden of NCDs in Palau is not a Ministry of Health problem but a “whole society” problem that will require a “whole of society” approach for adequate management which incorporates health promotion and health protection strategies;

WHEREAS, the 8 thematic priorities of the Bureau of Public Health are: Creating a Healthy Workplace, Obesity, Alcohol Abuse, Tobacco Use, Injury/Violence, Depression, Emerging and Re-Emerging Infections and Immunization;

WHEREAS, specific attention must be paid to the children from birth to 18 years of age, potential parents, especially mothers, and the unborn generations;

WHEREAS, health protections activities must be strengthened to create a setting where health promotion can be enhanced and strengthened, example of these health protection include Tobacco Control Legislation as an implementation of FCTC, implementable Breast Feeding Act, implementation of healthy settings such as Chew Free Zones, Physical Activity, Friendly Communities and other such policies and laws;

WHEREAS, NCDs presents a crisis in Palau that if left unaddressed aggressively will begin to threaten Palau’s economic and social development;

WHEREAS, the Minister of Health fully concurs with the intent of this Policy and accepts its mandate on behalf of all current residents of Palau and the coming generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following shall be the policy regarding the State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases to be implemented by the Minister of Health;

- The Minister of Health shall declare a State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases within the Ministry of Health.

- **The Minister of Health shall utilize the Incident Command System to manage this crisis and will align all of its policies, programs, services and activities with this policy immediately.**
- **The Minister of Health shall advocate at the highest level of our government that a State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases be declared by the President.**