

P- 1st Reading
6/4/26
PS
TEM CC

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Section 1102 of Title 13 of the Palau National Code to establish Melekeok, Ngchesar, Aimeliik, Ngatpang, and Ngarchelong as seaports of entry into the Republic of Palau, and for other related purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Legislative Findings.** The Olbiil Era Kelulau recognizes the need for
2 sustained economic progress and development in the Republic of Palau. The Olbiil Era
3 Kelulau has the responsibility under the Constitution of the Republic “to regulate commerce
4 with foreign nations and among the several states” and “to regulate navigation, shipping, and
5 the use of navigable waters”; given congestion at the Malakal Port in Koror and the upcoming
6 Malakal Port Expansion Project, the Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that it is necessary to legally
7 permit new ports of entry. Specifically, allowing access to marinas, piers and docks in
8 Melekeok, Ngchesar, Aimeliik, Ngatpang, and Ngarchelong will provide economic
9 opportunities for these states and expand the use of existing facilities. In addition, the
10 opportunity for these states to become official ports of entry will ease congestion in Malakal
11 Harbor, and multiple seaports will enhance Palau’s reputation for trade. Palau actively
12 supports the Blue Economy, an initiative that focuses on sustainable shipping and port
13 development. It emphasizes green infrastructure, innovative financing, and proactive policies
14 to enhance economic growth while protecting ecosystems. Establishing multiple seaports
15 allows for a hybrid infrastructure system to support Palau’s economic growth while protecting
16 its ecosystem. This Bill has the support of the states to be added, who strongly support a multi-
17 port approach that allows successful projects to move forward in supporting our national
18 development.

19 **Section 2. Amendment.** All references to “territorial waters” in Chapter 2 of Title 7 of
20 the Palau National Code shall be replaced with “territorial sea”.

21 **Section 3. Amendment.** Amend Chapter 2 of Title 7 to modify Section 207 and add a
22 new Section 209, as follows:

23 “§ 207. Penalties for violations; seizure and forfeiture of vessel.

1 (a) If any owner, master, person, company, corporation...

2 ...

3 (f) If any port operator or other person having charge of an official seaport of entry
4 fails to comply with the provisions of this Chapter, obstructs, or otherwise interferes with the
5 exercise of any powers conferred to the Ministry of Public Industries and Infrastructure by
6 this Chapter, or engages in any unlawful act under this Chapter, he shall be fined not less than
7 five thousand dollars (\$5000) for each such failure, obstruction, interference, or unlawful
8 engagement.

9 ...

10 § 210. Supervision of official seaports of entry and anchorages.

11 (a) The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries shall have the authority to
12 regulate the use of Palau's navigable waters, to regulate movement of ships in Palau's
13 territorial waters, and to control vessel traffic, including assignments of berthing spaces in
14 official seaports of entry, as consistent with Section 106 of Title 2 of the Palau National Code.

15 (b) The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries shall have the authority to
16 establish in coordination with affected states, and by regulation, anchorages for large and
17 smaller vessels in close proximity to official seaports of entry and use of Malakal Harbor and
18 other harbors as consistent with Section 106 of Title 2 of the Palau National Code.

19 **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 1102 of Title 13 of the Palau National Code is hereby
20 amended to read as Follows:

21 **§1102. Official ports of entry.**

22 The official ports of entry in the Republic shall be sites designated for such purpose
23 at the following:

24 (a) Malakal Harbor;

25 (b) Ngardmau Dock

26 (c) Melekeok

27 (d) Ngchesar

28 (e) Aimeliik

29 (f) Ngatpang


- 1 (g) Ngarchelong
- 2 (e h) Airai Airport
- 3 (d i) Peleliu Airport; and
- 4 (e j) Angaur Airport

5 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President
6 of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval, except as otherwise
7 provided by law.


Date: 5/13/2020

Introduced by: 
Senator Lencer Basilius


Senator Salvador "Sadoi" Bellames


Senator Kerai Mariur


Senator Secilil Eldebeckel


Senator Siegfried Bai Nakamura


Senator TJ Imrur Remengesau