

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 2 of the Palau National Code to establish the Ministry of Interior.

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

1 **Section 1. Legislative findings.** The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that the creation of the
2 Ministry of Interior represents a transformative step in modernizing Palau’s governmental
3 structure to better address the evolving challenges and opportunities facing the Republic. This
4 reorganization is critical to ensuring a more cohesive, efficient, and responsive administration
5 by consolidating several key domestic agencies under a single ministry. Agencies such as the
6 Bureau of Lands and Surveys, the Public Defender’s Office, the Weather Service, and the
7 National Archives will now operate within a unified framework, fostering improved
8 coordination, reducing redundancies, and enhancing the delivery of essential services to the
9 people of Palau.

10 Beyond administrative efficiency, the Ministry of Interior will play a vital role
11 in preserving and promoting Palau’s rich cultural heritage. By safeguarding traditional arts,
12 language, and customs, the Ministry ensures that these invaluable aspects of Palauan identity
13 are passed down to future generations. Additionally, the Ministry will serve as a central
14 institution for the development and empowerment of the nation’s youth, creating programs
15 and opportunities that nurture their potential and enable them to contribute meaningfully to
16 the Republic’s progress.

17 The Ministry will also prioritize sports development, recognizing its ability to
18 inspire national pride, promote healthy lifestyles, and showcase Palauan talent on the regional
19 and international stage. By integrating these diverse but interconnected responsibilities, the
20 Ministry of Interior will foster unity, resilience, and a sense of shared purpose among the
21 people of Palau. This legislation reflects the government’s commitment to building a
22 governance framework that is both efficient and reflective of the cultural and social aspirations
23 of the nation.

24 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 2 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended as
25 follows:

26 “ . . .

1 § 102. Ministries.

2 (a) The major departments of the Executive branch of the national government shall
3 be:

4 (1) the Ministry of State;

5 ...

6 (7) the Ministry of Human Resources, ~~Culture~~, Tourism, and Development; and

7 (8) the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment; and

8 (9) the Ministry of Interior.

9 ...

10 § 117. Functions of Ministry of Human Resources, ~~Culture~~, Tourism, and
11 Development.

12 (a) The Ministry of Human Resources, ~~Culture~~, Tourism, and Development shall be
13 responsible for ~~the preservation, development and promotion of cultural and historical~~
14 ~~resources, including museum facilities,~~ development and promotion of the local economy, and
15 administering the human resources functions of the executive branch workforce, ~~the~~
16 ~~management and development of programs for youth affairs,~~ the promotion and development
17 of tourism, and related matters.

18 (b) The Ministry of Human Resources, ~~Culture~~, Tourism, and Development shall be
19 responsible for developing the national occupational standards of tourism and shall have the
20 following powers and duties:

21 (1) to regulate tourism activities and services throughout Palau, in accordance with the
22 national tourism plan;

23 (2) to register, license, and grade all tourism and tourist-related businesses, including
24 cottages and private residences engaged in guest house services;

25 (3) to develop and implement, in consultation with relevant states, national and quasi-
26 government agencies and stakeholders, criteria for standardization and classification of
27 tourism facilities and services;

1 (4) to develop and regulate, in consultation with the Ministry of Education and Palau
2 Community College, matters relating to education, tourism and hospitality curriculum,
3 examination and certification;

4 (5) to develop and implement a code of practice for the tourism sector;

5 (6) to monitor and assess tourist activities and services to promote continuous
6 improvement and adherence to sound principles and practices of sustainable tourism; and

7 (7) to issue citations for any violations of regulations promulgated consistent with this
8 section and to suspend or revoke any license issued pursuant to this section for failure to
9 comply with regulations.

10 . . .

11 § 121. Functions of Ministry of Interior.

12 (a) The Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for the oversight, coordination, and
13 management of key domestic functions to promote effective governance and administrative
14 integrity.

15 (b) The Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for the preservation, development and
16 promotion of cultural and historical resources (including museum facilities), emergency
17 management, meteorological services, public records and archives, national media and public
18 information, land and resource surveys, and the promotion of gender equity and equality.

19 (c) The Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for programs and services related to
20 the welfare and protection of citizens, including the coordination of domestic administrative
21 affairs.

22 (d) The Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for fostering development of the
23 Republic's youth, preserving and promoting cultural, and advancing participation and
24 excellence in sports.

25 . . . ”

26 **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 19 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended as
27 follows:

28 “ . . .

29 § 103. Definitions.

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this chapter:

2 (a) "Board" means the Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Board.

3 (b) "Chief" means the administrative head of the Division of Cultural Affairs.

4 (c) "Division" means the Division of Cultural Affairs.

5 ...

6 (g) "Minister" and "Ministry" means the Minister and Ministry of ~~Human Resources,~~
7 ~~Culture, Tourism, and Development.~~ Interior.

8 ...

9 § 402. Archives Office.

10 (a) There is hereby established within the ~~Ministry of State~~ Ministry of Interior the
11 Palau National Archives (the Archives), wherein shall be stored for preservation and reference
12 such of the public records of the Republic as are transferred thereto or acquired by the
13 Archivist.

14 ..."

15

16 **Section 4. Amendment.** Title 35 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended as
17 follows:

18 "...

19 § 1303. Definitions.

20 (a) "Bureau" means Bureau of Lands and Surveys in the ~~Ministry of Public~~
21 ~~Infrastructure and Industries~~ Ministry of Interior;

22 ...

23 § 1305. Bureau of Lands and Surveys responsibilities; land registration employees.

24 ...

25 (d) The Bureau shall complete the surveying required under this section within a
26 reasonable time period. The ~~Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries~~ Ministry of
27 Interior may utilize private surveyors for the surveying work, through bidding pursuant to law.
28 Land owners may hire private surveyors to complete a private monumentation of the land.
29 Should a party utilize a private surveyor, that surveyor must be registered with the Board of

1 Land Surveyor Examiners and must follow all of the notice provisions in this chapter. A map
2 of a private monumentation is not official until it is certified and registered with the Bureau.

3 (e) Each survey team shall prepare a monthly report detailing its work for that month,
4 which shall include the number of lots surveyed within the monthly reporting period. The
5 Director of the Bureau shall prepare a monthly report detailing the lands scheduled to be
6 monumented and surveyed each month, and the actual work performed on these tasks. The
7 Director of the Bureau shall transmit these reports to the President of the Republic, the
8 ~~Minister of Public Infrastructure and Industries~~ Minister of Interior, the Chairmen of the
9 Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs, and the President of
10 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

11 ...

12 § 1318. Rules and regulations.

13 ...

14 (b) ~~The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries~~ The Ministry of Interior shall
15 promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to implement the provisions of
16 this chapter. These rules and regulations shall be exempt from the provision of Chapter 1 of
17 Title 6 of the Palau National Code Annotated.

18 ...”

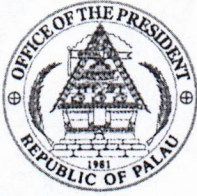
19 **Section 5. General Amendment.**

20 All references in the Palau National Code, the Republic of Palau Public Laws, and all
21 effective regulations to the term “Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism, and
22 Development” shall be changed to “Ministry of Human Resources, Tourism, and
23 Development.”

24 **Section 6. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President
25 of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: 1/16/2025

Introduced by: /s/
His Excellency Surangel Whipps, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRES. COMM. NO. 02
House of Delegates

*Noted
1/28/2025*

SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.
President

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January 16, 2025
Serial No. 25-2626

Session 1/17/25
[Signature]

RECEIVED

House of Delegates
Office of the Speaker

By: *Daphne*
Speaker's Secretary

Date: 01/16 Time: 06:44 pm

The Honorable Gibson Kanai
Speaker of the House of Delegates
Twelfth Olbiil Era Kelulau
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96940

Re: Transmittal of a bill for an act to amend Title 2 of the Palau National Code to create the Ministry of Interior.

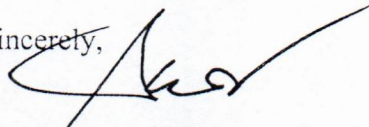
Dear Speaker Kanai,

It is my honor to transmit for your consideration a bill to amend Title 2 of the Palau National Code to establish the Ministry of Interior. This proposed legislation represents a significant step in modernizing Palau's governance structure to better meet the evolving needs of our nation.

The Ministry of Interior will consolidate several domestic agencies and functions under one cohesive structure. This will include the Bureau of Lands and Surveys, and I envision that it will also contain the Public Defender's Office, the Weather Service, and the National Archives. This reorganization is designed to enhance efficiency, eliminate redundancies, and improve coordination between agencies responsible for critical domestic affairs, ensuring a more streamlined and responsive government.

In addition to these administrative functions, the Ministry of Interior will take on a pivotal role in promoting and preserving Palau's cultural heritage, empowering our youth, and advancing sports development. It will lead efforts to safeguard our traditional arts, language, and customs, ensuring their preservation for future generations. By fostering programs to develop young talent and investing in sports at all levels, the ministry will inspire national pride and position Palauan athletes to excel on the international stage. These responsibilities reflect the government's commitment to holistic development and the strengthening of Palauan identity.

This bill underscores our dedication to building a governance framework that is not only effective and accountable but also reflective of the values and aspirations of our people. I respectfully request your support for this important initiative and look forward to the deliberations of your esteemed houses.

Sincerely,

Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

Encl: A bill for an act to amend Title 2 of the Palau National Code to establish the Ministry of Interior.