



# OFFICE OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS

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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Dear Householder,

I would like to introduce you to the Republic of Palau Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2006. This survey is being undertaken by the Office of Statistics, Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance.

This survey is conducted to collect Income and Expenditure information from households throughout the Republic of Palau. Information will not be collected from all households throughout the Republic of Palau; instead a 20% sample using a random selection process will be applied. Your household was selected using this approach which is why this Statistics enumerator is visiting you.

## 1. OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the HIES is to construct a new Consumer Price Index which measures the inflation in the country. That is, the survey will be used to collect data on the behaviour of household consumption expenditure patterns which will help from the weights that would reflect the relative importance which consumers attach to certain goods and services. Other important economic indicators will also be produced from the survey as well as important poverty and health related indicators. All information will assist with future planning and policy development which will greatly benefit the people of the Republic of Palau. The HIES survey results are also expected to provide value information to be used for the upcoming Compact of Free Association (COFA) review that Palau plans to begin preparation for in early 2007 although actual review with the United States will be in 2009.

## 2. CONFIDENTIALITY

All information collected in this survey will be used only for Statistical purposes and shall be held in strict confidentiality. All enumerators, supervisors, Office of Statistics staff and all personnel that will be involved in the survey shall be required to take an oath of confidentiality/ secrecy to ensure survey information are kept confidential and used for the purpose explained above and nothing else.

The ownership of the data belongs to the people of the Republic of Palau, data security, confidentiality and institutional ownership will be held with the Office of Statistics, Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance and will be made available to partner development organizations and other institutions/individuals provided the confidentiality issue is upheld.

## 3. COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

Your cooperation and support by means of providing the most reliable answers to the questions asked will be the most important factor to the success of this HIES. Also your cooperation will be in giving your most precious time to answer the questions which the enumerator will ask you and your household during the period of the HIES.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Finally, I wish to take this chance to sincerely thank you and your household for your involvement and contribution to the HIES by being part of this national household income and expenditure survey.

Yours sincerely,

Elbuchl Sadang, Minister  
Ministry of Finance