

**Fono 'compromise' passes all tax hikes sought by admin, plus**  
**Page 3**

**Toe pau i lalo le tologi o uta mo le itumalo o le Manu'atele**  
**Le Lali**

**Solomon Islands 18, American Samoa 0, OFC Youth Futsal**  
**Sports**

Dozens of employees from the Department of Human and Social Services took to the streets yesterday, carrying out a 'wave' at the Suigaula ole Atuvasa Beach Park in Utulei, to raise awareness about the importance of being drug free.

Earlier this week, at the launching of the AS Drug Control Commission, DHSS director Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomon revealed that a hotline would be set up for anonymous tipsters who want to report illegal drug activities. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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## Retirement Fund COLA freeze remains in effect

THE FUND IS NOT AN ASG LENDING INSTITUTE, SAY FAIPULE

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

The ASG Employees' Retirement Fund (ASGERF) is still freezing the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for retirees, until the funded status improves to at least 60 percent. The actuary report presented at the February meeting in Honolulu showed that the funded status of the Retirement Fund was 46%.

This is according to Retirement Fund Board Chairman, Va'anatiu Iafeta Tofala and executive director of the ASGERF, I'aulualo Talia Fa'afetai, during a hearing on Tuesday before the House Retirement Committee, chaired by Vailoata Eteuati Amituana'i.

The hearing was called after Tualauta Rep. Samuel Ioka Ale Meleisea told House members that a lot of retirees from his district are asking why the ASGERF is still freezing the COLA, while the cost of living is high. Meleisea said the retirement fund is not only for ASG employees who are still serving in the government, but also for those who have retired.

"The retirees deserve to have the COLA, and I think that is the reason why they are so desperate to know why the Board is still freezing the benefit they deserve," Maleisea said.

Va'anatiu told the committee that last year, government and employee contributions to the Fund fell short of benefit payments to members. Reports from the Retirement Fund presented to the Fono earlier this year, show that contributions for FY2016 totaled \$11,061,000 but benefit payments totaled \$24.1 million.

This means for every dollar that was paid out, the Fund had only 46-cents to cover it. The balance came from the investment returns.

I'aulualo echoed Va'anatiu's testimony and said there are options that have been set to make sure the value of the retirement fund increases every year; and if that happens, and the funded status climbs up to 60% or more, there is a good chance the retirees will have the COLA.

According to I'aulualo, one of the options to increase the value of the funded status is to hike contributions from both employees and employers, if the Fono passes the Board's proposal.

Another Tualauta faipule, Rep. Vui Florence Saulo thanked Va'anatiu and I'aulualo for trying their best to protect the fund, and implementing every aspect to increase the value of the Fund for ASG employees who are working hard to serve the government and the people.

"You're doing a great job for everyone, but one of the concerns from my constituents — and also the community — is the opportunity the Retirement Fund has given to some government agencies to draw loans from the Fund.

"We received reports that ASTCA is asking for a second loan, but the Fund is not in a situation where it can afford any more loans at this time. If you accept ASTCA's application for a second loan, I know for sure they will come back and ask for another loan again," Vui said.

Va'anatiu thanked Vui and members of the committee for their concerns, and the effort they put into ensuring that the retirement fund is well secured for the future of all ASG employees. He told the committee that one of the Board's duties is not only to make sure the fund is fully secured, but also to find ways to invest for the purpose of increasing the Fund's value every year.

He added that the law allows the ASGERF to invest 10% of the total fund locally — for the purpose of increasing its value.

"We believe that accepting ASTCA's first loan application was the right thing to do — not only to invest but also to assist them during their financial need. Although the Board has not acted on ASTCA's second loan application, we believe that accepting that application will also be a right decision to make. We have to take into consideration the impact to the employees and also the government — if something happens to ASTCA," Va'anatiu said.

I'aulualo took the committee back to 2008 when the ASGERF suffered a huge loss of \$44 million from its international fund. Because of that incident, the Board accepted the recommendation to move the \$38 million from the international fund into the ASGERF local fund, to avoid any future loss to the Fund.

I'aulualo told the committee that the government has a perfect record when it comes to loans. Not only do they make their payments on time, they also pay the 8% interest in full.

"The Board believes that investing the fund locally is more secure than investing in the overseas market. We don't want to duplicate the problem that affected our Fund almost 10 years ago," I'aulualo said.

He added that the Board would never act on a decision such as the COLA, unless they consult with the Fund's investment consultant in the US for their input.

Rep. Sataua Dr. Mataese Samuelu wanted to  
(Continued on page 4)



The territory is following orders under a Presidential Proclamation that calls for US flags being flown at half-staff in honor of the victims of the shooting tragedy in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Under US President Donald Trump's Proclamation, all US flags at the White House and "all public buildings and grounds, all military posts and naval stations, and all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States, and its territories and possessions" shall be flown at half staff until sunset tomorrow, October 6, 2017.

Flags are also to be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all "United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations."

"Our Nation is heartbroken," said Trump. "We mourn with all whose loved ones were murdered and injured" during the horrible Oct. 1st tragedy in Las Vegas, Nevada. "As we grieve, we pray that God may provide comfort and relief to all those suffering."

Pictured are the flags at Manumalo Academy, where the United States, American Samoa, and Christian flags are raised every morning, accompanied by the playing of the national anthems prior to the start of the regular school day.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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# There is no hike in electric rates, says ASPA executive director

**INCREASED USAGE, CONFUSION WITH CYCLE BILLING, AND DELINQUENCY TO BLAME**

by Fili Sagapolutele

*Samoa News Correspondent*

Increased consumer consumption of electricity is one of the three issues American Samoa Power Authority executive director Utu Abe Malae says has resulted in some people thinking there is an electric rate hike, when none has taken place.

"We cannot implement any electric rate hike, without a public hearing and assessment," Utu said in his testimony during a Senate Power/Water Committee hearing Tuesday, after complaints were received by some senators about a sudden increase in electric bills.

Utu said the same consumer complaints about the hike in rates were also lodged with Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who in turn wrote a letter to the ASPA board of directors complaining about the \$0.40 per kilowatt hour (kWh) rate.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries after the committee hearing, Utu said he wondered why "all of a sudden customers are unable to read their electricity bills after all these years?"

He said he investigated the cause of the complaints

"because the rates have not increased — definitely not to \$0.40 kWh. It is about \$0.29 kWh."

According to Utu, there "are actually three things that have confused some customers."

First is the "cycle billing", which is the new process involved with reading of customers' electric meters and billing.

"Instead of reading all the watt-hour meters in one batch, one week each month, we are dividing the customers into three groups or cycles," he explained. "As soon as one group is read, then the bills are processed. Within 10 days the next group of meters are read. Then within 10 days, the third one completes the month."

The second issue, Utu said, deals with electric bills not being paid on time. "Delinquency is building up because of the shrinking economy. Therefore there is frustration felt by customers who cannot fully discharge their obligation in one month, and having the balance added to the following month's bill."

And the third issue is "increased consumption of energy," said Utu. "Customers

are using more electricity and this was apparent when the rates fell to \$0.25 kWh. Our austral winter is warmer than normal and there is more air conditioning being used."

Utu gave similar explanation during the Senate hearing, and stressed, that "there is no 40 cents per kilowatt hour rate" which was the rate a few years back. Utu provided a handout — information sheets — to senators as well as a display board for visual effects, providing the same details.

Included in the information sheets is the ASPA Sept. 8, 2017 monthly fuel surcharge notification. (Through paid advertisement, ASPA publishes this document in the Samoa News on a monthly basis.)

According to ASPA, the fuel surcharge rate, which is about 70%- 75% of the total kWh price, changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel charge rate also includes the "renewable reduction" from electricity produced by ASPA's Photo Voltaic panels. The fuel being saved from producing electricity through the PV panels is passed on to customers as "Renewable Reduction" savings.

(Continued on page 4)

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# Fono 'compromise' passes all tax hikes sought by admin, plus

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET MOVES FORWARD IN SENATE

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

A Conference Committee of three members from each Fono chamber convened yesterday to debate changes the House made to the Senate version of an Administration bill seeking to make several changes to provisions of local statute pertaining to excise taxes.

The conference was called after the Senate rejected House amendments and in the end, committee members reached a compromise and issued a report that was approved and adopted yesterday by the Senate.

Also yesterday, the Senate passed in second reading the government's \$11.34 million fiscal year 2018 Supplemental Budget which was introduced in both the Senate and House on Tuesday. However, in the House, a decision on the conference committee report is delayed until today's session.

Both chambers must agree and adopt the Conference Committee report in order for the bill to be officially approved by the Fono.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Among the changes to local excise tax laws proposed by the Lolo Administration is the repeal of the 5% miscellaneous excise tax over a period of time. The Senate last week approved its version of the measure — with several amendments — which includes keeping the miscellaneous tax, but hiking it by another 5% up to 10%.

The Senate also added to its version of the bill a provision repealing the current 2% wage tax, which is paid by all wage earners in the territory.

The House amended the Senate version of the bill, by putting the total miscellaneous excise tax at 8% and deleting the section that repeals the 2% wage tax.

The Senate early this week rejected House amendments, which resulted in a Conference Committee being called.

Senate conferees were Sens. Magalei Logovi'i, Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga Nua and Tuaolo Manaia Fruean. House conferees were Reps. Vaili-uama Steve Leasiolagi, Toeaina Faufano Autele and Lavea Fatulegaa P. Mauga.

Magalei, who is chairman of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, explained the reasons behind the Senate's amendments and other details to support its reason for hiking the miscellaneous tax up to 10%.

The House conferees were given a chance to explain their amendments, with Toeaina saying that many questions were asked of the ASG Revenue Task Force — who came up with the five proposed revenue measures — but not all of them were answered.

He said the government has

presented new revenues measures, but there is no effort in reducing expenditures.

Tuaolo interjected and asked the House conferees to explain the reasons behind their amendments. Toeaina suggested keeping the wage tax in place but for the government to enforce collection.

"So is that your compromise? To keep the wage tax?" Tuaolo asked, to which Vaili-uama, who is the House Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman, responded that the wage tax is repealed by the House as part of its amendment made to the Administration's 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT).

To save time, Tuaolo suggested starting a "compromise" debate with the 3% that the House added on to the 5% miscellaneous tax, saying that the AMBT bill is not part of the

debate.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga recalled what senators had stated last week that it's easy to collect the excise tax, since it's carried out at the dock, while the government is faced with difficulty in collecting the wage tax. He questioned whether the Tax Office will fully be able to collect the 1% AMBT, when ASG is having trouble collecting the wage tax.

Tuaolo then offered his "compromise", which is to accept the 3% the House added to the 5%. "Politics is an art of compromise," said Tuaolo, adding that he would prefer not to see both chambers taking too long to reach a decision.

Vaili-uama said the House's decision on the 3% increase in the miscellaneous tax was not an easy task.

(Continued on page 4)

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## ▶ Retirement Fund...

*Continued from page 1*

know if the 8% loan interest would help increase the value of the Fund. He said if it does, then ASGERF will have enough to cover the COLA for retirees.

I'aulualo responded affirmatively — that the 8% loan interest is another way to increase the Fund's value.

Of the recommendation to increase contributions from the members — from the current 11% to 15% or 16%, Vice Speaker Fetui Fetu Jr. said the last recommendation he heard after the meeting in Honolulu with the Fund's actual consultant, was to raise the employees' contribution from 3% to 5% while ASG contributes 11%.

"The Board needs to remind employees that the increase in contributions to the Fund is their

own money, their own savings in the Fund. It's very difficult for local residents to save about 2% of their paycheck every pay period; but in this case, the employee is saving this money for the future when they retire," Fetui said.

Va'anatiu said the Board has already sent their proposal to Governor Lolo M. Moliga for his review, and they're still waiting for a response.

Although the Board believes that investing the Fund locally is a good way to increase the Fund's value, representatives believe that the main purpose the retirement fund was established is for government employees when they get retire — not as a lending institute for the government.



Taape Fa'amuli, Reggie Meredith and Su'a Wilson Fitiao at the opening of the Pacific World Arts Exhibition at the Oakland Museum in Oakland, California back in July 2015. [Courtesy photo]

## ▶ There is no hike...

*Continued from page 2*

Utu informed senators that last November, the kilowatt rate was at 25-cents and stressed that the rate all depends on the cost of fuel. For this year, he said the rate peaked in May, when it was about 30-cents per kilowatt hour. Then in June, the rate started to decline a bit as the new power generators at the Satala plant were commissioned the month before.

Another info sheet showed senators the Fuel Expense Trend for FY 2017 — covering October 2016 to August 2017 — noted that fuel expenses last October (at the start of FY 2017) was \$2.23 million. By March this year, the expense was \$2.69 million before it decreased to \$1.97 million in both July and August.

# The legacy of the Tatau Festival in American Samoa continues...

Are you ready? Just weeks before the 13th Annual Tisa's Tattoo Fest, 2017. Did you know that the biggest export in American Samoa is the Samoan Tattoo? Years of promoting the Tatau has earned American Samoa a name, in the who's who of the tattoo world of Pago Pago. "We revived the Tatau art, and exported more Samoan Tattoos than NFL players and soldiers over the years," according to Tisa Faamuli, founder of Tisa's Tattoo Fest.

Marketing is a key factor in promoting a product to the international community. Most importantly, we are building a tourism product for American Samoa's struggling tourism industry that needs help.

Tourists and visitors travel to our island to get traditional tattoos annually. Clearly, we have created a successful tattooing market for tourism on Tutuila Island, Tisa told Samoa News.

This year, Tisa's Tattoo Fest, proudly highlights the best of local tattoo artists. The most exciting part of introducing a product in the market is the new growth. Local artists are doing amazing art not only in the ink, but their spinoff is worth noting.

International Award winning Traditional Tufuga artist, Su'a Fitiao Wilson of Matu'ú is world renowned for his traditional tattooing art of Pe'a and Malu Tatau.

Today, Su'a also teaches Samoan traditional art at Pacific Horizon, and ASCC of American Samoa. He has continued the traditional fiber arts and teaching new generations, the art of tapa making. Painting and carving are also an impressive part of his portfolio. Su'a travels the world to promote the art of American Samoa by doing demonstrations of the Tatau along with his wife, renowned local artist Reggie Meredith. This artistic power couple has brought good will for our country by sharing the art of our ancestors with the international and local communities.

Did you see that Moana canoe that sailed into harbor earlier this year? Su'a explored the art of building a sailing alia canoe of our ancestors and successfully sailed the newly built canoe into Pago Pago Harbor, during the showing of the famous MOANA movie this past summer. It was well received and cheered by all, on its first voyage to Pago Pago Harbor. Be on the lookout for the next phase of voyaging alia building by Master Builder and Tufuga Su'a Fitiao Wilson.

Duffy Hudson, another award winning artist of Tisa's Tattoo Fest, uses a tattooing machine

to apply his popular tattoos, commonly used in the tattooing world today. Duffy expanded his tattooing career into painting, influenced by his tattoo art. He has successfully been commissioned to do paintings and art locally. His amazing work can be viewed in local restaurants and public buildings, where they are displayed and are available for purchase. Duffy is a highly sought after tattoo artist by off island customers. He owns and operates Tatau Manaia, also known as (beautiful tattoos) in English. Log on to his Facebook social media page to book your tattoo.

Joe Ioane, has carved out quite a career for himself in Tattoo ink. An award winning artist four times at Tisa's Tattoo Fest, Joe built the first tattoo shop OFF THE ROCK, on island and a reputation to serve his customers. His location is ideal and convenient for the traveling public. American Samoa is proud to have a beautiful Tattoo shop that represents our island well and meets the demands of tattoos from tourists and visitors to our island. Joe is also a member of US Armed Forces; he serves the Army proudly and is an outstanding father and member of the community. He and his wife Uila expanded their tattoo shop to include fashion for women, men, and children. Their new line of clothing is also greatly influenced by Joe's tattooing career and full support of his lovely wife Uila. OFF The Rock is located on the beautiful coastline of Avau village before Nu'uuli, heading west of town.

El Uiligitone, comes from a well-known artist family, he is a nephew of the famous Sau Uiligitone of Vaitogi, and is no stranger to the art of Tattooing. Like the rest of our local tattooists, El is a free style artist who has won awards for best of the fest tattooing, in previous tattoo festival competitions and is highly recommended for his unique free style Ink.

We look forward to welcoming tattoo artists Paulo Mauia of Finest Tattoo Shop of Samoa, who honors the Annual Tattoo Fest with some of the finest ink in the last three years.

We want to welcome back one of the best tattoo artists, who is representing himself from Tonga. Otto won the best of the fest award for smaller tattoos competition, last year. Be on the lookout for this unique and fine ink artist at the fest this October 26-29, 2017 at Alega village.

Do you want to increase visibility of your business on island? Join the fest and be a sponsor, of the famous Tisa's Tattoo Festival event.

(Source: media release, Tisa's Tattoo Fest)

## ▶ Fono 'compromise'...

*Continued from page 3*

After a back and forth debate, the conferees reached a compromise, after which Magalei revealed that the Senate will move forward with the Supplemental bill.

Major amendments approved by the conference committee include an increase from 5% to 8% for the miscellaneous tax, and repealing the 2% wage tax.

Additionally, all revenues collected that are not specifically earmarked for any purpose

will be deposited in the general fund, and the bill is effective immediately upon passage by the Fono and approval from the governor.

Samoa News notes that the excise tax bill also includes provisions that establish a new non-carbonated sugary drinks tax; amends beer tax to volume, not value; amends tax on importing secondhand items (such as used cars), and imposes a new tax on imported heavy construction equipment.

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

by Samoa News Staff

## CPT TALAVOU AVEGALIO ASSUMES COMMAND OF DETACHMENT 1 ALPHA COMPANY 3RD OF THE 140TH AVIATION

Captain Jerrod Talavou Avegalio, in a change of command ceremony on September 9th, assumed command of Detachment 1 Alpha Company 3rd of the 140th Aviation (S&S) from outgoing commander, Captain Jayson Yang in Hilo, Hawaii.

Captain Avegalio, a black hawk pilot, had recently returned from a deployment to the Middle East and now assumes his new command of an aviation unit comprised primarily of the Lakota helicopter.

The 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, was constituted on July 31, 1987 in the California Army National Guard as the 140th Aviation, a parent regiment under the United States Army Regimental System. The 3rd of the 140th Aviation Regiment and its units have responded to a wide array of emergencies to include, wild-fires, floods, search and rescues, overseas deployments, and combat rotations in the global war on terror.

Captain Jerrod Talavou Avegalio, is the son of Papalii Dr. Failautusi Avegalio and Linda Spear Avegalio of Leone. He is a graduate of Kahuku High School and former captain of the track and field team that won the 2003 State Championship where he also set the Hawaii State record in the discus that stands to this day.

That year he was named the Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year for Hawaii. A scholar athlete, Avegalio is a graduate of the University of Hawaii, Shidler College of Business Administration and UH ROTC program with a bachelor's degree in management information systems. Raised on his grandfathers farm in Pavaiai - Talavou, as his family calls him - is a beekeeper and raises a variety of ginger flowers with his wife Shelly when he is not flying. His love of growing flowers comes from his late great aunt Ve'a Enesi of Leone.

His dream is to visit Ofu, Manu'a, where his grandfather is descended from.

## AMATA RELEASES STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN SAMOA SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON DC — Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata released prepared remarks to the Small Business Committee regarding small business tax reform and American Samoa's employers.

"It's a privilege to raise awareness in Congress about American Samoa's local economy and the circumstances of our small businesses,"

Aumua Amata said. "My Statement to the Small Business Committee highlights a specific way in which the tax code treats small businesses in American Samoa differently, and how that could be a disadvantage to growth."

"Right now, tax reform is a major topic in Congress, and my priority is to see that upcoming changes in the tax code are made with an understanding of American Samoa's economic realities," Congresswoman Amata continued. "This hearing is an important topic, and I will continue my outreach to other Members of Congress to ensure they understand the impact of reforms on American Samoa."

Today's hearing was titled, "Small Business Tax Reform: Modernizing the Code for the Nation's Job Creators." The Congresswoman's full Statement to the Committee on Small Business is below:

Talofa, Good Morning. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this important meeting on tax reform. Over 95% of businesses located in my home of American Samoa are small businesses. On top of all the other issues that small businesses in American Samoa face is that the IRS treats businesses incorporated in the territories as foreign companies – which creates a perverse incentive that discourages territorial small businesses from expanding to the mainland.

All five territories are facing severe crisis – from natural disasters to economic collapse. Growth of small businesses can ensure sustainability and reduce the volatility of the territories.

My hope is that we can work together to promote small business growth in the territories – and encourage a change to the tax code that would incentivize and not deter small business growth in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the USVI.

## AMATA VOTES IN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MARKUP OF BILLS

WASHINGTON DC — Wednesday, Oct. 4 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata voted in the markup and passage of nine bills by the Natural Resources Committee.

"I'm pleased with the opportunity to support my colleagues in these bills that make a difference in various regions of the country, each dealing with specific concerns that have come up," said Aumua Amata. "The issues that develop in each district may look a little different from place to place, but ultimately coming together to address problems in this way is always worthwhile work. I congratulate each of these sponsors on passage of legislation to

(Continued on page 7)



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American Samoa Government  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

#### DOCUMENT

The RFP Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

#### REVIEW

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

#### RIGHT OF REJECTION

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public.



**DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON**  
Chief Procurement Officer

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# KS MART

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### ► Community briefs

Continued from page 5

solve a need in these areas.”

The House Natural Resources Committee today passed the following bills, and more information about each is available on the Committee’s website: H.R. 210 (Rep. Don Young of AK), To facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes. “Native American Energy Act”.

H.R. 424 (Rep. Collin Peterson), To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes. “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017”.

H.R. 717 (Rep. Pete Olson), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require review of the economic cost of adding a species to the list of endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. “Listing Reform Act”.

H.R. 1274 (Rep. Dan Newhouse), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require making available to States affected by determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species all data that is the basis of such determinations, and for other purposes. “State, Tribal and Local Species Transpar-

ency and Recovery Act.

H.R. 1488 (Rep. Peter Visclosky), To retitle Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes. “The Indiana Dunes National Park Act”. H.R. 2600 (Rep. David Young of IA), To provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2603 (Rep. Louie Gohmert), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that nonnative species in the United States shall not be treated as endangered species or threatened species for purposes “Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or the “SAVES Act”.

H.R. 2897 (Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton), To authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes. H.R. 3131 (Rep. Bill Huizenga), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes. “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”.

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With the purchase of any Adult Combo.

Good for one Cool Kids Combo\* per child.

Offer good till White Sunday 8th October 2017

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## AMERICAN SAMOA LEGAL AID, INC.

Letialua Building, Second Floor  
P.O. Box 5984  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Telephone: 684-633-3300 • Fax: 684-633-3303

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: ASLA STAFF ATTORNEY

The American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc. ("ASLA") is seeking to employ one full-time attorney on a three year contract for our non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income residents of American Samoa.

**About the Position:**

ASLA is interested in an attorney with legal experience in handling Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Date Violence, and Stalking cases. ASLA will also consider applicant's experience in handling cases in Family Law, Housing, Administrative Law, Immigration, Consumer, Social Security, Public Benefits and Veteran Benefits.

**Responsibilities:**

- Provide effective legal advice and representation of ASLA clients.
- Perform work assigned by the Executive Director.
- Comply with applicable Legal Services Corporation regulations in 45 CFR Part 1600 et. seq.
- Adhere to ASLA Board and Office policies.
- Comply with ASLA U.S. Department of Justice Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking program grant guidelines.
- Articulate ASLA's mission in the legal community, judiciary, government, nonprofit organizations and the community at large.

**Requirements:**

- Admitted or being admitted to practice law in American Samoa.
- Possess the highest ethical standards.
- Five years experience as an attorney practicing law in American Samoa or the U.S.A. or Samoa.
- Familiarity with Legal Services Corporation regulations is preferable.
- Possess excellent communication skills. Ability to speak and write both in English and Samoan will be favorably considered.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Familiarity with the PIKA case management system is preferable.
- Value diversity and be culturally competent.
- Ability to work well together with the Board, Executive Director and support staff to fulfill the ASLA mission and Strategic Plan action goals.
- Demonstrate a commitment to serve low-income residents.

**Starting Salary:**

- Depends on experience, salary in the range of \$42,000-48,000 per year for full-time attorney plus generous leave benefits.

**Applicants:** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **Deadline for applications is Monday 10/16/17 at noon.** Interested candidates should submit a letter expressing why they are interested in the position of ASLA Staff Attorney as well as what they believe they can contribute to the future of the program and its client community. The letter should be accompanied by a current resume with the names and contact information of three references. Application letter and resume should be submitted electronically via email in Microsoft Word format to ASLA Executive Director Fainu'ulelei L.P.F. Ala'ilima-Utu at the following email address: [Fautu@aslegalaid.org](mailto:Fautu@aslegalaid.org).

*ASLA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## Some Las Vegas victims died with family, friends at side

Some died with family, some with friends. Others were with "family" — friends they considered family — when they were shot and killed.

All shared the terror caused by a gunman spraying bullets into a crowd of concertgoers from a high-rise hotel in Las Vegas, ending a day of dancing and smiles with bloody horror.

Here are stories about some of the 58 people who didn't make it out alive.

### 'FAMILY' GROUP MISSING A MEMBER

Nicol Kimura, 38, went to the festival with a group of seven men and women who call themselves "family" — friends who are like family. She was fatally shot seconds after the gunfire began, said Ryan Miller, a businessman and pastor who is part of the group.

A Southern California native who lived in Placentia, Kimura's survivors include her parents, a sister and the friends who were with her when she died. She was single and didn't have children, but she was treated like family by the kids of group members, Miller said.

"She was a mom to all of our kids; they called her 'auntie,'" he said. "I have two kids myself, and they were just absolutely devastated that they will not be able to see her again."

Kimura worked in a tax office for Orange County and spent most weekends with her friends. No one else in the group was shot.

"She was just such an amazing woman and she was just such a light," he said.

### HE WAS 'TOO GOOD FOR THIS WORLD'

Brian Fraser, a father of four, was moving toward the stage in anticipation of Jason Aldean playing his favorite song, "Dirt Road Anthem," when gunshots rang out. While others around him ducked for safety, Fraser looked around to try to spot where the shots were coming from, so that he could shield his wife. He died doing just that, his son, Nick Arellano, said.

Fraser's friend ushered their wives and friends to safety before rushing back to perform CPR on Fraser. A doctor and several nurses in the crowd came to help, eventually loading Fraser into a wheelbarrow and taking him to paramedics.

Arellano recounted the story as told to him by his wife, his mother, and family friends. Arellano had been at the concert with them for the prior two days, but chose to head home early, just missing the harrowing scene.

Arellano described Fraser, 39, as "the definition of American," a man who boated, hunted, fished and snowboarded. Fraser married his wife, Stephanie, 11 years ago, adopting Arellano and one of her other children.

The couple had two more children together, now ages 4 and 10. The family lives in La Palma, California.

He worked as vice president of sales for a mortgage company and mentored fellow loan officers around the country.

"He taught me what it meant to be an honest, motivated, driven, loving man to not only family and friends, but even to just strangers, or anyone he came in contact with — just to be a human being to everyone on this planet," Arellano said.

### MOM WAS ENJOYING WEEKEND AWAY WITH GIRLFRIENDS

A few hours before the shooting, Lisa Patterson called her husband to tell him what a great time she was having with her girlfriends — one of the rare weekends she was not coaching one of her kids' softball teams or volunteering at a school or church event.

Her husband, Bob Patterson, told his wife, a country music lover, to enjoy herself and stay for the last band, assuring her he could get their kids off to school the next morning.

It was the last time Bob Patterson spoke to his wife. After news broke of the shooting spree, he spent the night calling hospitals trying to find her. By 6 a.m. Monday, he and his 16-year-old son, Robert, jumped in the car and drove three hours from their Los Angeles suburb to Las Vegas to find her. His 19-year-old daughter, Amber, drove over from Arizona.

They spent 10 hours searching. Late Monday, Bob Patterson was approached by an official at the Las Vegas convention center, where the coroner's office set up operations to have more space where families could come to identify those who died. "My children who had been waiting 100 feet outside the room, knew when I came back out that she had died by the look on my face," he said. "My oldest daughter instantly broke down and fell on the ground crying."

Patterson was given his wife's blood-stained purse, her cell phone and wrist band she wore to get into festival, but little information.

"I have not been told yet how she died," said Patterson on Wednesday as he planned a funeral for his 46-year-old wife in their home town of Lomita next Friday at their Catholic church.

After he and his children headed home to Lomita, he told his 8-year-old daughter, Brooke, that "mommy passed away." He said since she is so young, she seems to be taking it the best out of all of them.

Bob Patterson met his wife when she was 18 and immediately was taken by her beauty, he said. They dated for seven years and were married for 21 years. They opened a hardware flooring store together. They were always together, he said, whether it was running their business, helping at their church, volunteering at school or coaching the many sports their kids did.



Deacons Charet Uiagalelei and Malaki Timu, at the Feast Day celebration for Saint Lorenzo Ruiz this past Sunday at Fatu-o-Aiga. [photo: Bea Galzote]

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TONGATAPU TO FAGALII	WST	901.60	1,494.50	845.25	1,396.50
	USD	368.00	610.00	345.00	570.00
	TOP	772.80	1,281.00	724.50	1,197.00
TONGATAPU TO PAGOPAGO	WST	901.60	1,445.50	845.25	1,396.50
	USD	368.00	590.00	345.00	570.00
	TOP	772.80	1,239.00	724.50	1,197.00

**Office locations:** Taufusi next to Maria's Pharmacy - Ph(685)30005 | Fagalii airport terminal - Ph (685)30007 | Faleolo airport terminal - Ph (685)7530003 | Tafuna airport terminal - Ph (684)6993002 | Nukualofa Tonga: c/- Jones Travel Ph(676)26110 and Palu Aviation Ph(676)21111

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# TSM MART

## WHITE SUNDAY SPECIALS!

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• SMOKE PICNIC HAM .....	\$1.55/lb	• LIPTON - 50CT .....	\$2.95/pc
• PORK CHOPS .....	\$1.45/lb	• WESSON OIL - 24OZ .....	\$2.30/pc
• PORK HEAD .....	\$1.50/lb	• WESSON OIL - 48OZ .....	\$3.90/pc
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• SWAIL FILLET .....	\$2.95/lb	• WESSON OIL - 1GAL .....	\$9.99/pc
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• SHRIMP 21-25 - 2LB .....	\$14.95/pk	• KIKKOMAN - 15OZ .....	\$2.35/pc
• BAR S CHOPPED HAM - 5LB .....	\$9.95/pc	• KIKKOMAN - 20OZ .....	\$2.95/pc
• BAR S CHOPPED HAM - 10LB .....	\$19.95/pc	• KIKKOMAN - 2QT .....	\$6.10/pc
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		• BF MAYO - 30OZ .....	\$4.65/pc
		• BF MAYO - 48OZ .....	\$6.60/pc
		• BF MAYO - 64OZ .....	\$8.10/pc
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		• SUGAR - 4KG .....	\$4.70/pk
		• FLOUR - 2LB .....	\$1.20/pk
		• FLOUR - 5LB .....	\$2.50/pk
		• FLOUR - 10LB .....	\$4.90/pk
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# DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

P. O. Box 9, Pago Pago A.S. 96799  
 Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163 • Website: www.dbas.as

## DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY HUD-HOME PROGRAM YEAR 2016-2017

In accordance with the American Samoa Government **Citizen Participation Plan** for Community Planning and Development Programs, an estimated amount of **\$573,260** in **HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds** will be available at the Development Bank of American Samoa to provide long-term mortgage financing for the



Figure 2: Standard Home

construction of new homes across the Territory.

Those who are **eligible to apply** include **U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals and American Samoa Permanent Residents**. To qualify for an affordable, home loan, must provide a warranty deed or land lease agreement completely registered and certified by the Territorial Registrar's Office during the workshop with a valid form of identification.



Figure 1: Home in a floor zone area

**Attendance is mandatory for all who wish to apply** as it is important that all potential applicants are well aware and informed about HOME. Therefore, DBAS and DOC will

conduct community workshops for all local residents throughout the Territory on the following dates and locations:

### HOME LOTTERY SCHEDULE FOR TUTUILA RESIDENTS ONLY

<u>WORKSHOP / LOTTERY DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Wednesday, October 11, 2017	9:00 am	Western	Ilili Catholic Hall
Thursday, October 12, 2017	9:00 am	Central & Eastern	DYWA Youth Center-Pago Pago
<u>ISSUING PASSES DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
October 16, 2017 – October 27, 2017	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	DBAS Office in Pago Pago	
<u>ISSUING LOTTERY TICKETS DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
October 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	DBAS Office in Pago Pago	
<u>LOTTERY DATE FOR TUTUILA RESIDENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
Wednesday, November 15, 2017	9:00 am	Lee Auditorium – Main Building	

### HOME LOTTERY SCHEDULE FOR MANU'A RESIDENTS ONLY

<u>WORKSHOP/LOTTERY DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
TBA	TBA	Fitiuta	TBA
TBA	TBA	Tau/Faleasao	TBA
TBA	TBA	Ofu	TBA
TBA	TBA	Olosega	TBA



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## FALETUPE O ATINA'E O AMERIKA SAMOA POROKALAMA FAATUPU (INIVESI) FAAPAAGA MO FALENOFO POROKALAMA TAUSAGA 2016-2017

### FA'AALIGA O TUPE UA IAI NEI

Ua faia lenei fa'asalalauga e tusa ai ma le Fuafuaga Auai o Tagatanuu ua faavaeina e le malo o Amerika Samoa mo le Polokalama Faatupu Faapaaga mo Falenofo (HOME) o le a faatupeina i se aofa'iga e \$573,260 e fa'atupe ai aitalafu fa'aumiumi mo le fausia o falefou i Amerika Samoa. O e agava'a ona talosaga mo nei nogatupe o nesionale



Figure 2: Standard Home

o Amerika, sitiseni o Amerika, ma e ua iai pepa nofo mau i Amerika Samoa.

Mo i latou e agava'a i lenei nonogatupe mo le fausiaina o falefou i lalo ole porokalama o falenofo, e tatau ona taua'aina mai pepa o fanua (deed/lease agreement) ua uma ona fa'amauina pe resitara i le Ofisa o Resitara a le malo.

E taua tele lou auai i semina o le a fa'atautaia e le Faletupe o Atina'e fa'apea le Ofisa o Fefa'atauaiga ma Alaga Manuia. O lou le auai mai, o le a le maua ai sou avanoa mo le loto ua fuafuaina mo lenei tausaga. O lea ia, fa'amolemole fa'autagia mai lenei

fa'asalalauga mo aso ma nofoaga o le a fa'atautaia ai semina mo le mamalu o le atunu'u e fia auai:



Figure 1: Home in a floor zone area

### SE'I FA'ATULAGAINA MO I LATOU I TUTUILA

<u>ASO O LE SEMINA</u>	<u>TAIMI</u>	<u>ITUMALO</u>	<u>NOFOAGA</u>
Wednesday, October 11, 2017	9:00 am	Sisifo	Hall – Ekalesia Katoliko Iiili
Thursday, October 12, 2017	9:00 am	Fagaloa / Sasa'e	Fale o tupulaga i Pago Pago
<u>ASO E TUFATUFAINA AI PEPA PASI</u>	<u>TAIMI</u>		<u>NOFOAGA</u>
October 16, 2017 – October 27, 2017	9:00 am – 4:00 pm		Ofisa DBAS i Pago Pago
<u>ASO E TUFATUFAINA AI PEPA LOTO/SE'I</u>	<u>TAIMI</u>		<u>NOFOAGA</u>
October 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017	9:00 am – 4:00 pm		Ofisa DBAS i Pago Pago
<u>ASO O LE LOTO/SE'I MO I LATOU I TUTUILA</u>	<u>TAIMI</u>		<u>NOFOAGA</u>
Wednesday, November 15, 2017	9:00 am		Fale Laumei i Utulei

### SE'I FA'ATULAGAINA MO I LATOU I MANU'A

<u>ASO O LE SEMINA</u>	<u>TAIMI</u>	<u>ITUMALO</u>	<u>NOFOAGA</u>
Toe Fa'alauiloa atu	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu	Fitiuta	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu
Toe Fa'alauiloa atu	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu	Tau/Faleasao	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu
		Ofu	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu
		Olosega	Toe Fa'alauiloa atu

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