



Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga with some of the local high school students that attended the launching of the American Samoa Drug Control Commission's program — a week of activities — this past Monday at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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ASTCA and Hawaiki strengthen partnership through amendment

INCLUDES AN UPDATED FUNDING PLAN

OCTOBER 3, 2017 — PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA — American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) and Hawaiki Submarine Cable LP (Hawaiki) have signed an amendment to their agreement for the installation of a spur connecting American Samoa to the Hawaiki cable and the provision of international capacity to mainland United States.

The contract amendment was successfully negotiated by the parties over the last few weeks and will boost the partnership between Hawaiki and ASTCA, including an updated funding plan based on a mix of local and federal financial sources.

One of the key outcomes of the agreement includes the provision of 200 Gigabits of Internet bandwidth — more than 150 times the capacity currently available in American Samoa — giving ASTCA access to a large volume of capacity at a very competitive cost.

This will enable ASTCA to sell capacity to its Pacific neighbors at the lowest price, and position American Samoa as a hub for broadband connectivity in the Polynesian region.

Hawaiki will start the laying operations in the second week
(Continued on page 10)

GAO report warns of ASG's ability to repay debt

CITES FURTHER DISRUPTIONS IN CANNERY OPERATIONS

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

"Total public debt per capita grew from \$414 per person in fiscal year 2005 to \$1,212.80 in fiscal year 2015," according to the US Government Accountability Office, which also notes that any additional disruption in the local cannery industry will impact the government's ability to repay its debt.

The 88-page GAO's "U.S Territories - Public Debt Outlook" report publicly released Monday afternoon, also states that while American Samoa's general revenue fluctuated, it trended upward between fiscal years 2005 and 2015.

GAO's Public Affairs managing director Charles Young

told Samoa News in August that the comprehensive review for the five territories' public debt is mandated under provision of the federal Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.

"For each of the territories," he said, "GAO will report on trends in public debt and revenue for fiscal years 2005-2015. GAO will also look at the major reported drivers of the debt and what is known about the territories' ability to repay."

PUBLIC DEBT

American Samoa's total public debt outstanding grew from \$27 million in fiscal year 2005 to \$69.5 million in fiscal year 2015, according to the GAO.

It explained that in FY 2007, the territory paid off a general obligation bond that was issued in FY 2000 to refinance prior debt. Between FY 2008 and 2014, American Samoa had no outstanding bonded public debt.

Then in FY 2015, the government issued a general obligation bond for about \$55 million, and in January 2016 a second bond was issued for \$23 million, says the GAO, referring to the bonds series issued by the American Samoa Economic Development Authority.

"Most of American Samoa's bonded debt outstanding is scheduled to mature by 2035," according to the report.

Territorial officials confirmed that the FY 2015 and 2016 general obligation bonds were issued primarily to fund various infrastructure projects, including relocating airport fuel tanks, constructing an inter-island ferry, and establishing a territorial charter bank.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga had informed GAO in August this year that the "American Samoa Government's Debt Structure is the direct result of limited options available to access venture capital to build our economic development infrastructure". Additionally, the issuance of bonds is a difficult pathway to access "because of our weak economy". (See

(Continued on page 5)



MANUMALO ACADEMY NHS RAISES FUNDS FOR HURRICANE IRMA VICTIMS

Yesterday morning, chairman of the American Samoa chapter of the Red Cross, Vaito'a Hans Langkilde was presented a check of \$1,898 by members of the National Honor Society at Manumalo Academy, to help with relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Irma, the strongest hurricane worldwide in 2017 — in terms of wind speed. The money was collected from students who gave — on their own — their lunch money and allowance. NHS president Aitulagi Alofa, in her brief remarks, explained how the funds were collected and the reason behind the donation. She said it was a collaborative effort that was spearheaded by the NHS members and it is their hope the money will be put to good use, by those who need it. Vaito'a expressed his gratitude for the gift, thanking the student body, the faculty and staff, the National Honor Society, as well as school director Papalii Lau'ii Alofa for the generous donation. The Red Cross chair told Samoa News yesterday that the money will be added to the funds collected from other Disaster Relief fundraisers — a radiothon and telethon set for Oct. 28th — as well as whatever is received from solicitation letters already sent out to various government departments and agencies, the private sector, and community organizations. All monies raised will be forwarded to the National Red Cross who will determine where and how the money will be disbursed. Referring to Manumalo's donation, Vaito'a said he is 'shocked' and 'amazed' at how generous the students were, how they were able to raise such a huge amount of money in such a short time. "It's just unbelievable how these kids have responded," he said. As of September 30, 2017, at least 132 deaths have been blamed on Hurricane Irma.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruenan]





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AG says there's no need to apologize to the Chinese Consulate in LA

SAYS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE DOING THEIR JOB

*by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter*

Attorney General, Talauega Eleasalo Ale believes there is no need for the American Samoa Government to apologize to the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles (LA), for the incident that resulted in ASG officials arresting and detaining a Chinese man who showed up at the Post Office to claim a box with Chinese passports inside few months ago.

“Why should our government apologize?” Talauega asked. “There is no need to apologize. Law enforcement officials did their job, and when their investigation was completed, the Chinese man was released and no charges were filed against him.”

This was the Attorney Gen-

eral's explanation to Samoa News last week, when he was asked about the issue involving a Chinese man who was arrested and detained by police, while law enforcement agencies were conducting a joint investigation about a box that contained over 100 Chinese passports.

According to Talauega, when the joint investigation was completed, the Chinese man was released and all of the passports were given out to the people who own it.

Samoa News understands there were 136 passports altogether in the box; there were 68 new passports and 68 old passports; however, the label on the box said there were only 30 passports inside the box.

The passports were sent from the Chinese Consulate office in LA; and the man claiming the box was arrested and detained after local Customs officers on duty noted that the total passports inside the box was 138 — not 30.

According to information provided to Samoa News, four law enforcement agencies were involved in the investigation: the AG's Office, Customs, DPS, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHLS).

Sources tell Samoa News that it took 8 weeks for the 4 agencies to carry out the investigation — but it only took 2 hours for the Chief Immigration Officer (CIO) to complete his own investigation — by having a telephone conversation with the Chinese Consulate — and a report was then filed with the Governor's Office to confirm that the passports were legitimate, and the discrepancy with the number of passports and what was on the label was an oversight.

“The CIO called the Chinese Consulate in LA for verification, and the Chinese Consulate told him there were 138 passports inside the box — not 30. They also explained that the wrong label on the box was an honest mistake by their office,” the source said, adding that the Chinese Consulate in LA provided to the CIO a list of all the Chinese people who own passports that were inside the box.

And after the CIO verified the names on the list, the passports were released to the owners after they were contacted to pick up their passports at the AG's office, and all of them had legal Immigration ID cards.

The Chinese man who picked up the box was detained at the Territorial Correctional Facility for almost two days before he was released.

ID CARD ISSUANCE

Regarding the issuance of ID cards, the AG is now making
(Continued on page 4)

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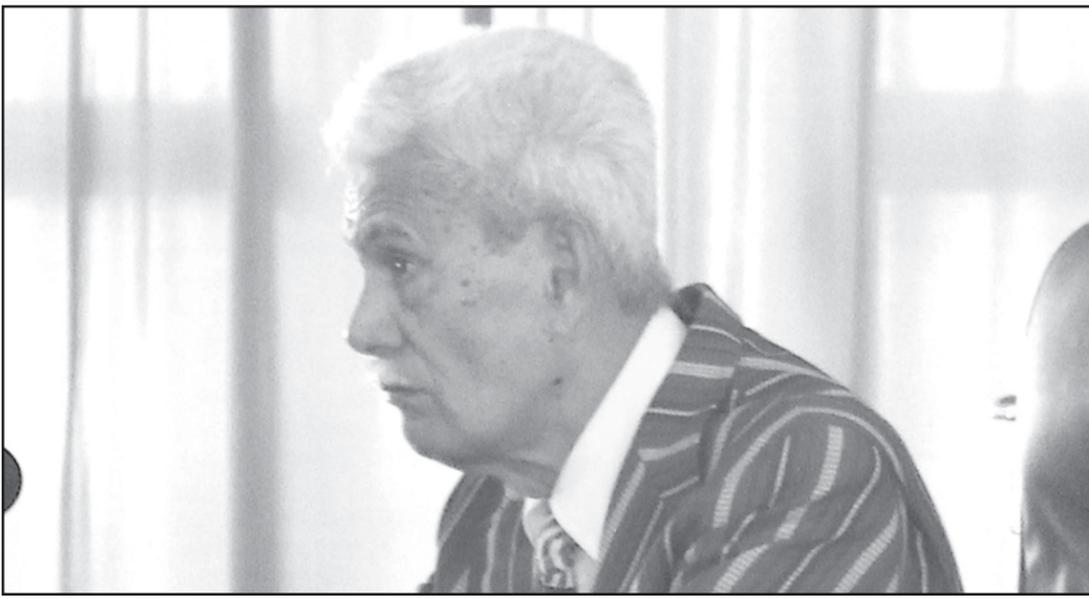
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Pulu Ae Ae Jr. was the only witness at last Friday's public hearing in the Senate on a measure seeking to give the Fono the authority to override the governor's veto of an approved Fono bill. He said the public is not comfortable testifying before the Senate — it needs village level meetings. See story for details. [photo: FS]

Veto override issue causes “back-and-forth” between Pulu and Sen. Nua

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Sen. Fonoti Tafa'ifa Aufata was the lone opposition vote on a measure, which gives the Fono authority to override the governor's veto. The proposed amendment to the Constitution now goes to the House for consideration.

The Senate Joint Resolution was approved (14-1) during third and final reading on Monday.

At last Friday's session, after the measure was approved in second reading, Fonoti asked that her “no” vote, which was carried out by a show of hands, be recorded in the daily Senate journal.

She argued to maintain the status quo, which was set up by our forefathers and therefore shouldn't be changed.

COMMITTEE HEARING

The Senate's final vote followed two Senate Rules Committee hearings, including one last Friday for the public to provide testimonies. Only Pulu Ae Ae Jr. showed up to share with senators what the public is looking for, but he ended up being questioned by committee chairman Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua.

Pulu didn't hold back. He publicly claimed that there are problems in government — including the Fono — and senators are fully aware of them. He however declined to go into detail, out of respect for the “Tama o le Atunu'u”.

Pulu, who heads Congresswoman Aumua Amata's District Office in the territory, testified as a private citizen and informed senators what many in the community have shared with him — people are afraid, reluctant and uncomfortable testifying before senators in the Senate chamber. Pulu suggested taking the issue to villages so the community can freely voice their views.

His testimony is the same view several residents have shared with Samoa News, which reported last week about the public hearing. Residents who contacted Samoa News

said they prefer offering testimonies at the village level, where they can speak freely.

At the committee hearing, Pulu said this is the fourth time the veto override has been discussed and he believes many people don't fully understand its importance.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga wanted to hear Pulu's personal view on the measure, and that resulted in a back-and-forth Q&A between the pair that lasted about 15 minutes.

Pulu shared what he calls his honest opinion, saying he is looking ahead to the future of American Samoa and its relationship with the US government. He claims this is the only direct connection that American Samoa has with the feds, and that is the line-item veto, which gives the authority to the US Interior Secretary to make the final decision on the governor's veto of a bill passed by the Fono.

If it is removed, Pulu said the feds might think American Samoa wants to oversee its own government.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga interjected and asked if isn't the federal government's wish for American Samoa to conduct its own affairs when it comes to territorial government.

Pulu reiterated that this is the only connection with the feds and if the feds want American Samoa to handle its own government, “the question is, ‘are we prepared to do that?’” he asked, adding that in his own opinion, American Samoa is not prepared.

He claims that senators are aware of it, but he didn't give examples, although he went on to make further claims that many people are aware of the problems (fa'aletonu) in the Senate and quickly added, “both Houses” referring to the Senate and House.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga again interjected saying that it is his belief that the government is on solid ground and doing well without any problems (leai ni fa'aletonu), and the only fa'aletonu is the Fono's over-

ride authority of the governor's veto, which the Fono does not have.

He asked if Pulu was aware of any bill sent to the Interior Secretary, who then made a decision to override the governor's veto. Pulu responded that perhaps it may have been done years ago, during the early time of the American Samoa Government when the governor was appointed by the US President.

As to Nuanuaolefeagaiga's comments that there are no problems — “leai ni fa'aletonu” in government — Pulu said he doesn't want to share public details of what he says are problems, adding that if he speaks about such problems, senators wouldn't want to hear them.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga interjected again, saying that if there are problems, those are particular to an individual but not the Fono nor the government, which is solid and moving forward. That prompted Pulu to react with a short-laugh response.

The committee chairman said only one bill was sent to the Interior Secretary for a decision on the governor's veto, but up to now there is still no reply. Nuanuaolefeagaiga didn't provide any other details on the matter.

When the floor was opened for questions from committee members, Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie acknowledged that others in the past have tried unsuccessfully to address the Fono's veto override authority. He said the check and balance in government is achieved through the Fono's veto override authority.

Gaoteote said this is an important issue to review now, for future generations who will be taking up seats in the Fono. He then agreed to dismiss the witness.

In his parting remarks, Pulu made clear that he is not against the measure, which he supports, but the final decision rests with the Senate. He asked for forgiveness if he said anything wrong, but added that he didn't want to publicly share what

(Continued on page 10)

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▶ AG says...

Continued from page 2

changes on the days ID cards are issued to the public. Instead of only one day a week — it's now four days a week.

In an interview with Samoa News last week, Talauega said the issuing of ID cards and renewals can now be carried out from 7:30a.m. — 4:00p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Friday is set aside for the issuance of new ID cards.

Talauega said he already told House members last week that there will be changes made with regards to the days that ID cards are issued, after he “noticed the difficulties our people were facing when ID cards were issued only one day per week. So now, I have given directions to designate Monday to Thursday for ID card renewals, and reserve Friday for the issuance of new ID cards.”

The AG said that on the second day when his office made the change limiting issu-

ance of ID cards to Wednesday only, they witnessed the problem people were facing.

Confirmed by the AG also, is that as of last week, the machine used to take photos for ID cards was not working, and the Immigration office is not issuing any ID cards until the machine is repaired. When the initial change was made to issue ID cards on Wednesday only, one woman told Samoa News that her two children were late to school during the first and second day of the change, because there were a lot of people who were in line before them. And after two hours of waiting in line on both days, she sent her children to school while she stood in line to get her photo ID. “I waited for over 4 hours to take my photo ID. Now the machine is not working, I have no idea when my two children are going to take their photos for their IDs. I hope this is not a repeat of the same problem the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in Tafuna is facing right now,” the woman said.

One year later, TBAS still doesn't have a routing number

BUT THEY HAVE TAKEN OVER CAR LOAN PORTFOLIOS FROM LOCAL DEALERSHIPS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

While the Territorial Bank of American Samoa awaits federal approval of its routing number, TBAS continues to carry out operations, including “active car activities”, in which the bank has taken over car loan portfolios from local car dealers. This is according to Utu Abe Mala'e, chairman of the ASG's Territorial Bancorp Holding Company board, the governing body of TBAS, when he appeared yesterday before a Senate committee hearing on issues regarding the American Samoa Power Authority, where he serves as executive director.

Yesterday marked the one-year anniversary since TBAS was officially launched and opened its doors for business and since then, TBAS officials have been working diligently to secure a routing number, which is needed for among other things, to issue checking accounts for bank customers.

During the committee hearing, Sen. Tua'olo Manaia Fruean inquired on the status of the routing number, to which Utu said TBAS is still waiting for it, adding that they are

working on other ways to secure the routing number.

When asked after the hearing for clarification, Utu told Samoa News that “there is a turnover of federal officials in Washington, D.C. and we are working with those people now.”

At the Senate hearing, Tua'olo asked if the feds have recommended that the government not be involved in a commercial bank, to which Utu said, that's one of the recommendations, for the government to reduce its involvement but it's not in writing.

Utu explained that the bank's plan at this point is that in three-years — if the routing number is received now — the bank is turned over to operate in the private sector, like a community bank and the government steps away, although the government will still have shares in the bank but “not controlling shares”.

Responding to other inquiries from Tua'olo, Utu explained that there are “active loan activities.” For example, car loans such as those with ASCO Motors and Samoa Motors have been taken over by TBAS, despite not having a routing number.

In response to a question from Tua'olo, if the bank is operating at a loss, Utu said “yes”, adding that the bank is looking to “operate at a loss” during the first two years of operations, but improve thereafter.

When asked for further clarification about TBAS purchasing loan portfolios, Utu replied “Yes, the bank has purchased car loan portfolios from Samoa Motors and others [and] the automobile dealers were happy to sell them to TBAS.”

“You see, the automobile dealers prefer to sell the cars and not act as the bank for the car buyers,” he continued.

Car dealers like ASCO Motors and Samoa Motors have had their own in-house financing for some time now, to help customers purchase vehicles. Over the past several months, customers have reported having problems meeting the strict requirements set by the local commercial banks to get a car loan. Tua'olo called for support of TBAS and asked about ASPA to which Utu said, he along with ASPA personnel have accounts at TBAS, but issuance of checks cannot be done until a routing number is secured.



ACCURACY

We make an issue of it every day.

If you want to comment about our accuracy, call Samoa News at 633-5599



Some of the territory's pulenuu who were present during the official launch of the AS Drug Control Commission's program, Monday morning at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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GAO report warns...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News Aug. 18th edition for details of Lolo's letter, which is also included in the GAO report.)

In its report, GAO said that between FY 2005 and 2015, American Samoa's loan balance was significantly greater than bonded debt outstanding for all years except FY 2015. Additionally, American Samoa's loan balance consists of both loans from the U.S. government and intra-governmental loans, or loans between the territory's primary government and component units (such as the Retirement Fund.)

The two federal government loans are from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency community disaster loans totaling \$10.2 million in 1993 and 1994, and a 1999 Department of the Interior loan of \$18.6 million (which has been referred to by ASG as the tobacco loan, where American Samoa gave up its rights to the national Master Settlement Agreement with certain tobacco companies in exchange for a lump sum loan of up to \$18.6 million, and all proceeds from the tobacco settlement goes directly to DOI to repay the loan). Inter government loans: In 2006 and 2007, the government also entered into two loan agreements with the government retirement fund, in the amounts of \$10 million and \$20 million, in part to finance infrastructure projects. (Samoa News notes that these two loans were paid off with ASEDAs bonds proceeds).

"American Samoa's total public debt outstanding has remained small, relative to its economy between fiscal years 2005 and 2015," the GAO notes.

GENERAL REVENUE

GAO explained that general revenue fluctuated, but trended upward between FY 2005 and 2015. For example, general revenue of \$116.5 million in FY 2015 represented a 20% increase over revenues of \$97.4 million in FY 2005.

Additionally, approximately 55% of general revenue earned during this period comprised tax revenues all of which came from income and excise taxes.

Total revenue — i.e. general revenue and program revenue combined — also fluctuated but trended upward between the same period.

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES

"While American Samoa's level of public debt is relatively low compared to other territories, we found that it faces significant economic vulnerabilities that may hamper its ability to repay that debt," according to the report, which noted that American Samoa's economy relies heavily on the tuna processing and canning industry, which provides indirect benefits to other industries and the territory's economy.

This same industry has faced

many challenges and territorial officials have expressed concerns about federal policies that may hamper the tuna industry, such as federally mandated minimum wage increases and a decrease in fishing grounds.

Last December, Samoa Tuna Processors Inc., indefinitely suspended its operations in the territory, and StarKist Samoa temporarily suspended operations twice, late last year.

"Changes in American Samoa's tuna industry have been important determinants of changes in its GDP (Gross Domestic Product), and additional disruptions in the industry would reduce revenue and hamper GDP growth, which, if severe enough, could impede the repayment of existing debt," the GAO points out. (Samoa News will report on other details from the GAO report in future editions.)

OTHER TERRITORIES

A summary of what GAO found for the other territories:

- Between FY 2005 and 2014, Puerto Rico's total public debt outstanding (public debt) grew from \$39.2 billion to \$67.8 billion. Despite some revenue growth, Puerto Rico's net position was negative and declining during the period, reflecting its deteriorating financial position.

- CNMI's public debt declined from \$251.7 million to \$144.7 million between FY 2005 and 2015. Most of CNMI's debt was used to refinance prior debt and fund infrastructure projects.

- Between FY 2005 and 2015, Guam's public debt more than doubled from almost \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion. Most of Guam's debt was used to comply with federal requirements and court orders.

- U.S. Virgin Islands' public debt between FY 2005 and 2015 nearly doubled, reaching \$2.6 billion. Since 2010, most of USVI's debt was used to fund general government operations.

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POSTED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 thru OCTOBER 25, 2017
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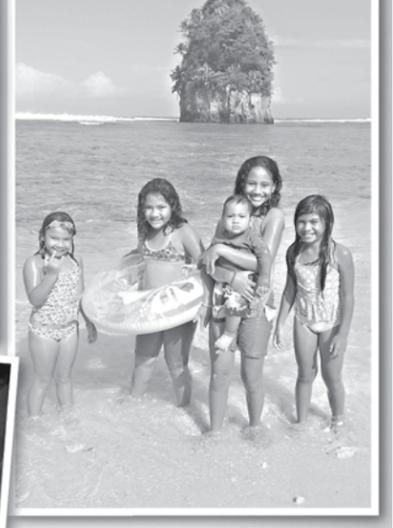
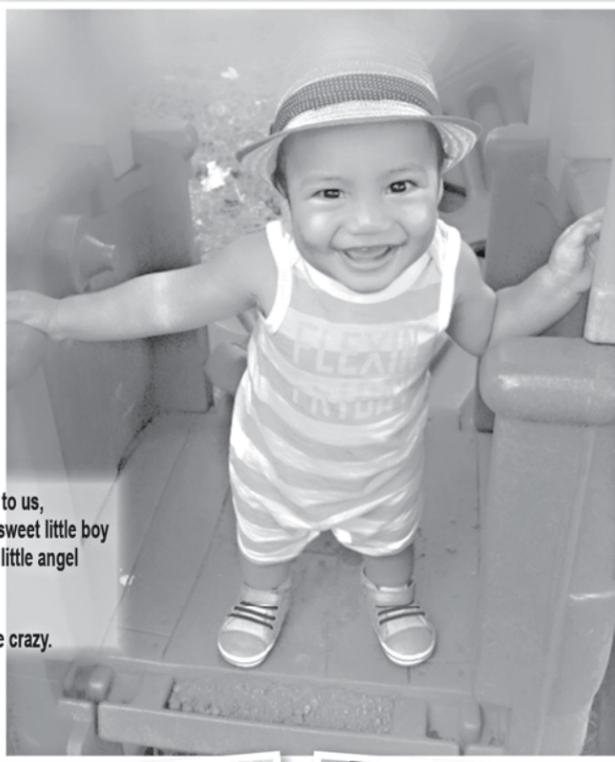
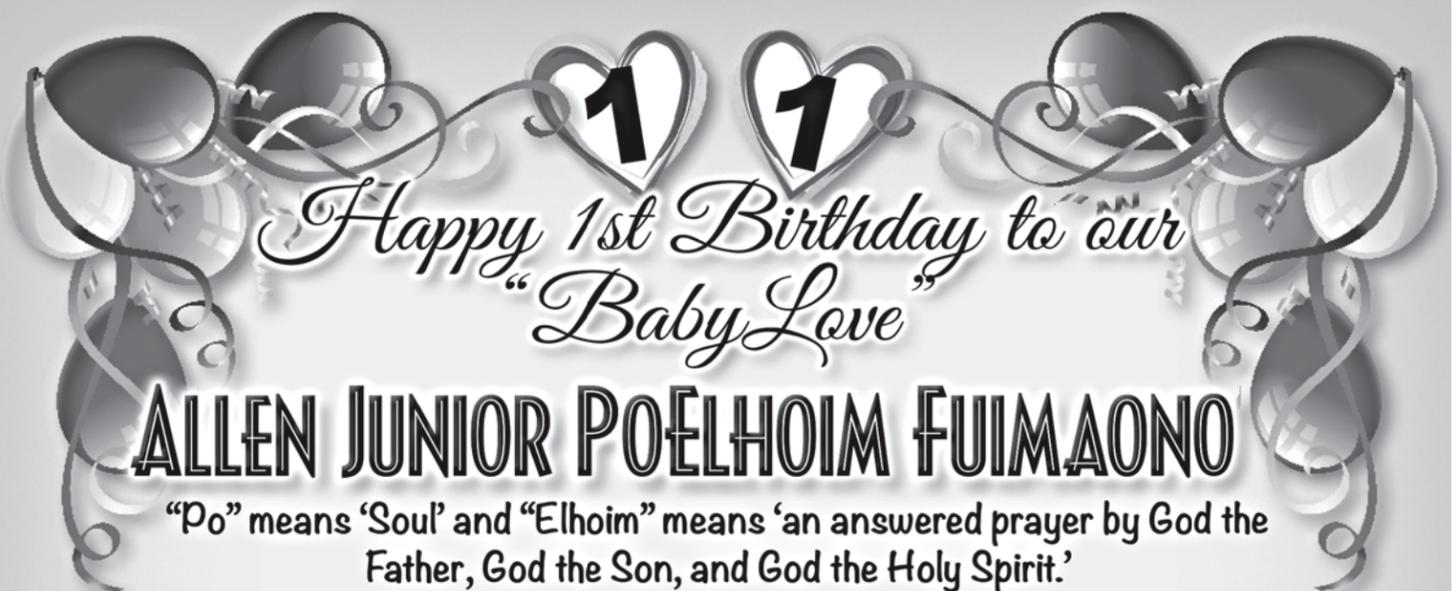
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WHAT'S HAPPENING: Vegas gunman wired \$100,000 to Philippines

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who opened fire on country music concertgoers, killing 59 of them, had transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the attack, a U.S. official said.

In addition, Stephen Paddock reported at least a dozen gambling transactions of \$10,000 or more in the past several weeks before Sunday's shooting outside the Mandalay Bay hotel casino in Las Vegas, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement told The Associated Press. The rampage by Paddock also injured more than 500 people. Paddock, 64, killed himself as authorities closed in on him in his hotel room.

More about the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history:

THE INVESTIGATION

Investigators want to interview Paddock's girlfriend, who was out of the country at the time of the shooting. On Tuesday, they called Marilou Danley "a person of interest" and said the FBI was bringing her back to the U.S. on Wednesday for questioning. On Tuesday, the 62-year-old was in the Philippines.

Authorities also say Paddock placed a camera in a food service cart outside his 32nd-floor hotel room and set up cameras inside his room. Sheriff Joe Lombardo said authorities believe Paddock put them in place so he could see if law enforcement was coming to try to take him into custody.

THE VICTIMS

Those killed included a man celebrating his 23rd wedding anniversary, a one-time high school cheerleader and a Pennsylvania wrestling coach.

Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center said an additional victim died Tuesday afternoon. The additional fatality kept the death toll at 59 after Clark County Coroner John Fudenberg revised his earlier count of victims downward by one. More than 500 people were injured in the attacks. Forty-eight of them, including a 16-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl, remained in critical condition Tuesday evening, hospital officials said.

THE GUNMAN

So far, law enforcement and family members haven't been able to explain what motivated a multimillionaire with no evidence of criminal history to inflict so much carnage.



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HB FRUIT SALAD 415	\$1.00ea
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SEDAAP SUPREME 48CT	\$8.99cs
SUGAR 20/1K	\$19.99cs
ENSURE VANILLA 30/8oz	\$31.99cs
ENSURE PLUS VANILLA 30/8oz	\$31.99cs
GLUCERNA VANILLA 24/8oz	\$31.99cs
GLUCERNA CHOCOLATE 24/8oz	\$31.99cs
SEAWEED 30/3CT	\$22.50cs/.75ea
SAMOA CHUNK LIGHT TUNA 12CT	\$10.99cs/.99ea
SAMOA CHUNK WHITE TUNA 12CT	\$11.99cs/1.10ea
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PORK BUTT	\$1.45/lb
MILK FISH	\$1.99/lb
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HAPPY WHITE SUNDAY
 FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF KS MART

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HAPPY WHITE SUNDAY
 FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF KS MART



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

compiled by Samoa News Staff DOC TO HOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR TOMORROW

The Dept. of Commerce is inviting the public to attend an economic development seminar 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Lee Auditorium. The seminar is being held in partnership with the University of Hawaii's Pacific Business Center Program and the keynote speaker will be Nikolao Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, who will be addressing "Sustainable Economic Development Utilizing Local Resources Towards Greater Self Reliance in the US Territories."

(Currently, according to DOC, "OIA has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and oversight of federal programs and funds in the freely associated Federal States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.")

Other presentations will revolve around the USDOL-funded Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative (PRBI) research and development findings to be transferred locally for recommended phased implementation; technology and products; ongoing initiatives at the Department of Agriculture; and current updates on Agribusiness development in American Samoa (i.e. Fitiuta greens, chEAT day, and Avegalio Farms)

DOC officials note that tomorrow's seminar is a wonderful networking opportunity, and a great chance for all participants to engage in some productive discussions regarding economic development efforts in American Samoa.

LOLO ANNOUNCES NEW ENTRY FORMS FOR TRAVELERS

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga yesterday announced the implementation of the new single Entry Form to eliminate the response burden and replication of information by completing two or more forms by travelers upon arrival into American Samoa.

According to a press release from the Governor's Office yesterday, a new arrival form has been developed to combine

all statutory requirements pertaining to Immigration, Customs, Quarantine, Health and Tourism.

By law, "all travelers crossing the borders into American Samoa must identify himself or herself by recording information such as name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, nationality, country of origin, country of citizen, race, place of permanent residency, intended future permanent residence and, if a United States citizen or national, the facts on which claims of that status are based."

Lolo noted that Title 27, Chapter 10 of the ASCA "requires that all good brought into American Samoa must be declared on the Customs portion of the form as well as the Agriculture-Quarantine portion."

Furthermore, "All travelers must also comply with health

alerts and warnings."

Lolo said a companion form for departures has also been developed to improve the collection of data on resident travelers, reasons for moving abroad, tourism travel, and other pertinent information to improve local visitor industry developments."

The new arrival and departure forms were implemented beginning Sunday, Oct. 1st and the Governor urges all government agencies, travel agencies, airlines, shipping agencies, fishing vessels, cruise ship agencies, etc. "to take the necessary steps to adhere to the new entry and departure forms," which he said were "designed to ease the burden on travelers and to ensure the collection of information necessary is provided for services planning of the American Samoa Government.



Members of the Youth For Christ (YFC) Music Ministry performed this past Sunday at Fatu-o-Aiga during the Feast Day celebration of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, the patron saint of the Philippines. [photo: Bea Galzote]



WHITE SUNDAY Special

Only at Aveina & Kruse Supermarkets

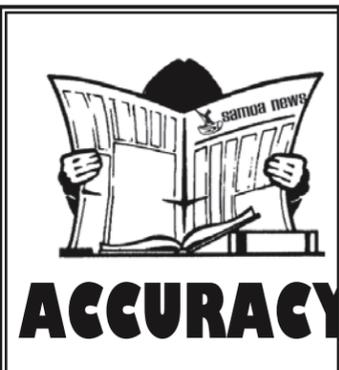
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Conditions: Promotion applies to retail sales only at Aveina and Kruse Supermarkets. Store may impose limit on promotion stocks purchased. Promotion available only while stocks last. The store management's decision is final. Promotion period October 2nd to 7th, 2017.



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Origin Energy wishes all the children of American Samoa a happy, safe and blessed White Sunday. May you shine on your special day, perform your best on scriptural recitations, biblical stories, songs and creative dance performances.

E fa'amanuia atu le Aso Sa Pa'epa'e i fanau uma o Amerika Samoa mai le kamupani o le Origin Energy. Ia aveva outou ma lamepa susulu ile tou aso fa'apitoa e ala i le fa'atinoaina o tala mai le Tusi Paia, laugaina ole upu, fa'apea pesepesega.

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- CORNED BEEF BRISKET \$3.45/lb
- BEEF BABY BACK RIB COM \$1.40/lb
- SMOKE PICNIC HAM \$1.55/lb
- PORK CHOPS \$1.45/lb
- PORK HEAD \$1.50/lb
- WHOLE CHICKEN \$1.49/lb
- SWAIL FILLET \$2.95/lb
- SWAIL STEAK \$4.50/pk
- POMPANO FISH \$2.65/lb
- MILK FISH \$1.79/lb
- WHOLE MACKEREL \$1.25/lb
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- SHRIMP 21-25 - 2LB \$14.95/pk
- BAR S CHOPPED HAM - 5LB \$9.95/pk
- BAR S CHOPPED HAM - 10LB \$19.95/pk
- HOFFY SAUSAGE LS - 5LB \$5.95/pk
- CHUCK WAGON - 16OZ \$1.20/pk

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- HUNTS KETCHUP - 24OZ \$1.85/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 44.5OZ \$2.99/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 7LB \$5.10/pc
- KIKKOMAN - 10OZ \$1.70/pc
- KIKKOMAN - 15OZ \$2.35/pc
- KIKKOMAN - 20OZ \$2.95/pc
- KIKKOMAN - 2QT \$6.10/pc
- BF MAYO - 8OZ \$1.75/pc
- BF MAYO - 15OZ \$2.70/pc
- BF MAYO - 30OZ \$4.65/pc
- BF MAYO - 48OZ \$6.60/pc
- BF MAYO - 64OZ \$8.10/pc
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- SUGAR - 2KG \$2.35/pk
- SUGAR - 4KG \$4.70/pk
- FLOUR - 2LB \$1.20/pk
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**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP-001-2018
Issuance Date: October 4, 2017

Date & Time Due: October 12, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:

“Removal of Sunken Vessel Adjacent to New Service Ward at Fagatogo”

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP: Removal of Sunken Vessel Adjacent to New Service Wharf at Fagatogo.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until **2:00 p.m. (local time), October 12, 2017:**

Office of Procurement
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

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



▶ ASTCA...

Continued from page 1

of October 2017 and plans to install the American Samoa spur, which is already manufactured and loaded onto the cable ship, in the first quarter of 2018.

The cable system is expected to be in commercial service in June 2018. “This project is exciting for our territory, as it will help to bridge the digital divide and allow American Samoa to truly participate in the digital economy, as well as taking advantage of e-health and e-education initiatives to improve opportunities for our people,” said Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga at today’s signing.

Mr. Pule Tufele, Executive Director of ASTCA, said: “This will allow us to fulfill the intentions and original plans of the BLAST project, which was to provide an Internet experience for American Samoa residents that is comparable to that which is in the US mainland.

We have a target speed of 25 Megabits per second to each home, which we are confident

we will achieve. We will not raise the price for internet to our customers, but we will look to add better value and additional service plans for our customers when the time is right.

Remi Galasso, CEO of Hawaiki said, “Hawaiki is the only submarine cable system under construction to propose to Pacific islands countries and territories direct connectivity to mainland United States.

We support ASTCA’s strategy to become a hub for the Polynesian region and are extremely pleased to bring Hawaiki Cable and its associated benefits to the territory of American Samoa. It is a real pleasure to sign this amendment today and to pursue the close working relationship we have with ASTCA.

We are grateful to ASTCA and especially to the Governor of American Samoa for his vision and persistence in pushing this project forward.”

(Source: ASTCA)

▶ Veto override issue...

Continued from page 3

he knows are the problems in government.

After Pulu left the chamber, the committee moved to debate the measure, with some senators voicing their disappointment with Pulu’s statements regarding alleged problems in government, without any proof.

If the Fono approves the measure, there will be time before the November 2018 election to conduct public awareness activities to explain to the community the importance of the Fono’s override veto authority, according to the committee.

Turtle & Shark South Seas Gift Shop

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Terror risks make tight security routine for world's hotels

In many parts of the world, the constant fear of extremist attacks has led to tighter security measures at hotels and resorts, but that is less so in the United States, where hotels are reluctant to intrude on the privacy of guests.

Security experts say the shooting attack that left at least 59 people dead in Las Vegas could lead to more cameras and more training for hotel staff.

More aggressive measures such as metal detectors or X-ray screening of guests and luggage — standard for airline travel — are less likely to gain footing in the U.S. because of cost and privacy concerns.

Although they are private property, hotels are notably public spaces in most of the world. In many places, luxury hotels have entrances from shopping malls, and their lobbies serve as a refuge from noisy, chaotic streets.

Hotel operators in other countries are increasingly deploying armed guards, vehicle barricades, X-ray machines and other measures to reduce the risk of attack.

The King David Hotel in Jerusalem, where President Donald Trump and other foreign leaders have stayed, reportedly uses infrared cameras carried by balloons and robots in sewers to search for bombs. Windows on higher floors can withstand gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, and the air conditioning system is designed to block attacks using poison gas.

The Resorts World Manila casino in the Philippines said it hired a security contractor, Blackpanda, and established new security protocols after a man with a gambling addiction carried out an arson attack in June that left 37 dead, the latest major incident in Asia.

Even before the attack, visitors to Resorts World — like many other hotels, office buildings and shopping malls in Manila — were required to pass through metal detectors and have their bags X-rayed. Somehow the attacker got past hotel security with an ammunition vest and assault rifle.

That was a trifling arsenal compared with the 23 guns and prodigious ammunition stockpile that 64-year-old Stephen Paddock hoarded in his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel casino overlooking the Las Vegas Strip and a packed country music festival.

Attention is certain to focus on how Paddock was able to carefully prepare and stage his deadly attack on Sunday night.

“My guess is we will see more security cameras at many hotels and more monitoring of people who bring many large packages to a hotel room,” said

Bjorn Hanson, a professor of hospitality and tourism at New York University. “But I don’t think one event will lead to more intrusive measures” in the U.S. such as metal detectors or X-raying guests’ bags.

Hanson also believes that hotels, perhaps pressured by their insurance carriers, will increase training of staff to spot suspicious behavior or materials left in rooms. There is a model for that in training to help staff spot human trafficking, he said.

Jeffrey Price, a security expert at Metropolitan State University of Denver, said employees who clean rooms should report it to a supervisor if they see weapons, but that screening guests’ bags would be difficult in a place like Las Vegas, where people having a lot of luggage is not all that unusual.

“It would be a logistical nightmare to screen everybody going into and out of the hotel room, not to mention costing billions of dollars,” Price said. “That also gets into all sorts of privacy-rights issues.”

Hanson and Price said people who attend major public events should take their own precautions including knowing where the exits are, having an escape route in mind and a place to meet with companions if they get separated.

The American Hotel and Lodging Association said that hotels in Las Vegas were working closely with local law enforcement after the shooting.

“Hotels have safety and security procedures in place that are regularly reviewed, tested and updated as are their emergency response procedures,” the group’s president, Katherine Lugar, said in a statement. “As we better understand the facts in the coming days, we will continue to work with law enforcement to evaluate these measures.”

Hotels already employ security measures such as asking guests to show their room key in the lobby, and limiting access to some floors to those who have a keycard. But because the U.S. hasn’t had the same experience — in frequency or ferocity — of hotel attacks in countries where security is tougher, that could make stringent measures seem less worthy when applied against a cost-benefit ratio.

Other regions can’t afford or aren’t willing to take the risk. For instance, Africa saw two attacks on hotels within months of each other in 2015 — 38 died in Tunisia and 18 in Mali.

Tunisia depends on tourism and seen arrivals plummet since a spate of attacks. Since 2015, hotels have beefed up police presence and brought in metal detectors.

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Trades & Technical Department

Apprenticeship & Workforce Development Training Program

Related Technical In-Classroom Instruction

Oct 16 – Dec 21, 2017 (10 Week Fall Session)

Registration:

Date: Oct 02 – Oct 13, 2017

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration Locations:

Apprenticeship: TTD Office or Participant Sponsor (Employer)

Workforce Development: TTD Office (Non-Traditional Students)

Cost

Registration Fee: \$40.00 (Non-refundable)

Course (5 CEU): \$45.00 per CEU (\$225.00 per course)

Total: \$265.00

Placement Test (English & Math):

Location: Adult Education Literacy and Extended Learning

Date: TBA

Enrollment Requirement:

Apprentice: Must be employed in the respective area

Workforce Development: Must be a high school graduate or equivalent

Required English & Math Courses:

A participant may be placed in a required English & Math Course pending Placement Test results. English & Math Courses are FREE courtesy of the AELEL Division (Adult Education), ASCC.

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	DAYS	TIME	INSTRUCTOR
ADT 860	Advanced AutoCAD (Architectural Drafting/Construction)	5.0	W/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	A. Esera
AST 800	Introduction to Automotive Technology (Auto Technician)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	J. Pouesi
CON 801	Plans, Building Codes and Specifications (Construction)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	D. Faumui
ETP 860	Electrical Installation, Commercial (Electrician/Construction)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	T. Leiato
ICT 830	Computer Networking COMP TIA A+ (IT Specialist)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	J. Martinez
WLD 810	Oxy/Acetylene Welding (Automotive/Welder/Construction)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	O. Futi
WLD 840	Advanced Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Automotive/Welder/Construction)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	O. Futi

For more information please contact 699-9155 Ext. 353 or Ext. 369.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



AMERICAN SAMOA
DRUG CONTROL
LAUNCH WEEK

“American Samoa Be Wise, Prevention Saves Lives”
October 1-6th, 2017

PROCLAMATION

UNVEILING OF THE TERRITORY’S DRUG, OPIODS, ALCOHOL PREVENTION, INTERDICTION, CONTROL, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol use in the territory of American Samoa poses a significant threat to the future of our children, our people and our territory; and
 WHEREAS, the percentage of students reporting to have used drugs for the first time before the age of 13 increased to 9% in 2015 from 4.7% in 1993; and
 WHEREAS, the percentage of students reported to have used methamphetamines (ICE) increased to 11.2% in 2015 from 5.7% in 2007; and
 WHEREAS, the percentage of students reported to have ever used any form of cocaine increased to 11.2% in 2015 from 3.9% in 1993; and
 WHEREAS, thirty-three (33) out of every hundred (100) students reported that they were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property; and
 WHEREAS, Many of our children and our people are risking their health and future because of drug and alcohol use; and
 WHEREAS, the effects of drug and alcohol use are reflected in the increasing reports of drug and alcohol related crimes and the upsurge of other social ills; and
 WHEREAS, less obvious and yet pervasive are the personal tragedies which destroy a person, family or community and which may cause the loss of a job, disruption of schooling and the loss of our territory’s productive capacity; and
 WHEREAS, every day there are positive examples proving that recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders is possible; and
 WHEREAS, simultaneously many are struggling with and are vulnerable to the disease of alcohol and drug addiction; and
 WHEREAS, when these effected and powerless individuals who are family members, friends, neighbors are unable to get help our families, our villages, our churches, our government and our territory are not as strong as they can be; and
 WHEREAS, the burden is on all of us to help our loved ones seek life-saving services when needed and steer and encourage them to access services to move them toward recovery; and
 WHEREAS, Drug use and substance disorder is a disease of the brain and the many misconceptions surrounding this illness create harmful stigmas that discourage individuals from seeking the treatment they need; and
 WHEREAS, by treating drug and substance use disorders as seriously as other medical disorders, with an emphasis on prevention and treatment, people can recover; and
 WHEREAS, family support is vital in our fight to deter the spread of this crippling disease and is a significant element in the pathway to recovery; and
 WHEREAS, this disease can touch any individual indiscriminate of age, gender, religion, social standing, economic or financial status, or nationality thus necessitating that a priority be placed on the development of effective strategies to combat its propagation; and
 WHEREAS, we are promoting evidence-based health and safety initiatives that aim to prevent drug use, increase opportunities for early intervention and integrated treatment in health care, and support recovery; and
 WHEREAS, in response to the growing opioid overdose epidemic, we must identify and highlight tools that can help reduce drug use and overdose, such as evidence-based prevention programs, prescription drug take back events, medication-assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorders, and the overdose reversal drug naloxone; and
 WHEREAS, we have demonstrated our commitment and our resolve by investing one million dollars (\$1 million) to support programs that help with interdiction, prevention, rehabilitation and restoring productive life for those afflicted with this disease; and
 WHEREAS, substance abuse disrupts our families, schools, and communities and limits the success of young people across our territory along with destruction of relationships and stands in the way of academic achievement; and
 WHEREAS, every day, hundreds of young people try drugs or alcohol for the first time, and for many, this decision will have a profound impact on their health and well-being; and
 WHEREAS, preventing substance use before it begins is the most effective way to eliminate the damage caused by drugs and the abuse of alcohol; and
 WHEREAS, substance use impacts everyone, and each of us can play a part in helping the next generation make choices that support physical, mental, behavioral, and emotional health; and
 WHEREAS, parents, mentors, and community members can model a healthy lifestyle and should talk with kids early and often about the dangers of drug and alcohol use as an integral element of our territorial drug control strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as the start of the **Territory’s Comprehensive Drug Control Initiative** aimed to deter, prevent, and control substance and alcohol abuse which shall be administered and managed by the American Samoa Drug Control Commission with a membership comprised of Religious Leaders Government Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Business, Community Organizations and all relevant stakeholders.

I call upon all residents of American Samoa to engage in appropriate programs and activities orchestrated by the American Samoa Drug Control Commission to promote comprehensive substance abuse prevention efforts within our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, fully recognizing and taking combative action against the disease that can touch any individual in any community and robs our children of their future and severely weakens the capacity of our Territory.

Lo M. Moliga
LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa