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4 Aso o le Ta'amilosaga Volleyball Fa'avaomalo o le Moso'oi 2017 B1

Fa'afetaia Vui le faigamalo i galuega ua faia mo Tualauta Lali-7

In this scene from the film "Ever The Land," indigenous Maori in Aotearoa New Zealand express their cultural heritage. "Ever The Land" is one of two features included in this year's Deep Waters Film Festival, which takes place in the ASCC Lecture Hall tomorrow from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited. [courtesy photo]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017

\$1.00

ASTCA audit raises doubt about its ability as a 'going concern'

By Rhonda Annesley, editor

An Independent Auditor's Report of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority — Years Ended September 20, 2016 and 2015 — by Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP, reported on April 26, 2017, says it prepared the financial statements "assuming ASTCA will continue as a going concern."

A copy of the report, obtained by Samoa News, points to ASTCA having "incurred substantial losses from operations in both 2016 and 2015, has negative working capital, and negative cash flows from operations, which raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern at April 26, 2017.

"Management's plans regarding those matters are also described in Note 10," the report says, adding, "The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

"Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter," the auditor's report concludes. Aldrich is a US accounting, wealth and consulting firm providing tax, audit and employee benefit plans in Portland, San Diego, Salem, Carlsbad and Anchorage. The branch in Salem, Oregon performed the audit.

In Note 10, the auditors lay out their "uncertainty regarding ASTCA's ability to continue as a going concern."

It indicates the change in net position of the authority was a "decrease of \$4,683,188 for the year ended September 30, 2016 and a decrease of \$4,143,512 for the year ended September 30, 2015." "ASTCA's current liabilities exceed current assets by \$4,922,051 at September 30, 2016 (\$564,236 at September 30, 2015) and has lease obligations in excess of \$4,000,000 for the 2017 fiscal year.

"Further, cash flows from operations for the year ended September 30, 2016 were (\$2,090,001) and continue to be severely impacted by the ongoing deficit of payments received for services provided," Note 10 states.

It then points to the Inter-fund Account with ASG. "In 2015 ASTCA wrote off \$934,446 of uncollectible amounts of receivables from ASG for telecommunication services," and ASG is disputing their obligation to pay for E_RATE services provided by ASTCA prior to 2016.

It says, "when all the above factors are considered including non-compliance with RUS loan covenants, there is uncertainty regarding ASTCA's ability to continue as going concern."

The auditors do note, "management and the Board of Directors are developing a plan to secure funding to invest in undersea fiber that will provide a connection from ASTCA's facilities to a landing site in the United States mainland." It notes this will allow ASTCA to restructure existing transport agreements (broadband capacity), "thereby reducing operating expenses, and further provide for revenues by leasing excess capacity. In addition, the fiber connection will allow ASTCA to provide expanded service offerings to subscribers, including a robust mobile data network and video product."

The independent audit report note concludes, "ASTCA's continuation is dependent upon its ability to collect payments

(Continued on page 5)

Governor: LVPA case will go all the way to the "highest court in the land" if need be

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga says he plans to take the Territory of American Samoa's case — re fishing rights in the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) — all the way to the "highest court in the land" referring to the US Supreme Court.

Lolo mentioned the LVPA case as part of his remarks at yesterday's opening of the 171st Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting held at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium. LVPA is one of the issues on the Council's three-day agenda.

This past Monday, the US National Marine Fisheries Service appealed a Honolulu federal court decision that invalidates the 2016 rule, which reduced from 50 to 12 miles, the LVPA in American Samoa waters. The appeal is filed in the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

US District Court Judge Leslie Kobayashi reaffirmed in August this year, her March 2017 decision which concluded that the 2016 LVPA rule was invalid.

Plaintiff in the case is the Territory of American Samoa, through ASG. Among the defendants in the case are NMFS, and senior officials with the US Department of Commerce.

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director Va'amua Henry Sesepasara read the governor's prepared remarks. Va'amua said the governor showed up yesterday at 1p.m., the

scheduled time for the opening ceremony, but it didn't start until around 2p.m.

The governor, in his prepared remarks, stated that he wanted to "dispel the myth surrounding" ASG pursuing legal action in the LVPA. He said that after the court ruled in favor of American Samoa, the ASG Fisheries Task Force was instructed to reach out to include, as members of the task force, owners of large vessels to facilitate the development of policy guidelines to regulate fishing within the 50-mile zone by large vessels.

"Since an appeal has been filed, the development of these policies will be suspended until the court renders a ruling, which only prolongs the prohibition on fishing by large vessels in the 50-mile zone," he said.

"Notice is also hereby served that the Territory of American Samoa will take this issue to the highest court in the land should the appeal be upheld and the direct consequence of which is to further prolong fishing prohibition in the LVPA."

According to Lolo, the development of policy guidelines was to achieve the special interest of the people of American Samoa, which includes conservation and preservation of the fishing grounds for subsistence fishing and to ensure that large vessels fishing within the LVPA sell their fish to StarKist and potential new canneries in the future.

Meanwhile, the appellate court has given defendants up until Jan. 22, 2018 to file its

(Continued on page 5)



Seven Universal Technical Institute (UTI) graduates now work for the American Samoa Power Authority, and ASPA CEO Utu Abe Malae told Samoa News "They have excellent hands-on skills, and combined with the theoretical knowledge of the apprentices from New Zealand, ASPA benefits immensely."

Left Right: Robert Randall, Kotaro Umebayashi, Daniel Niusulu, Sioneupolu Faalogo, Mark Sagato. Missing from photo: Sisifo Jr Lauvao and Tasele Scanlan. Congratulations to ALL!

[Photo Credit: Katerina Lopa]



Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) of Pago Pago, American Samoa. The proposal is for the installation and operation of a 402-kilometer (250-mile) long submarine fiber optic branch cable and associated infrastructure to provide improved and more affordable broadband services to American Samoa. The "branch cable" would connect American Samoa to the Hawaiki Submarine Cable System "trunk" cable spanning approximately 14,988 kilometers (9,313 miles) from Pacific City, Oregon, USA to Coogee, Australia. The American Samoa Branch Cable consists of optical fibers and an electrical conductor designed to transmit voice and data communications at approximately 1.06 terabits/second. All impacts to land, water and cultural resources or to ambient noise levels or existing air quality from the project are expected to be less than significant with implementation of identified mitigation measures and best management practices (BMPs). ASTCA will submit an application to RUS for funding of the proposed project under the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Polacek, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1510, Rm 5135, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1510, 202-205-9805, Steve.Polacek@wdc.usda.gov.

Ted Leiato, Submarine Cable Project Manager, American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, P.O. Box M, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, 684-699-1121, ted.leiato@astca.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ASTCA proposes laying the American Samoa Branch Cable from Branch Unit 1 on the Hawaiki trunk cable, through the independent Samoa Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) passing between the islands of Samoa and American Samoa, into the American Samoa EEZ where it will make landfall at Fogagogo located on the southeast coast of the Island of Tutuila. Approximately 105 kilometers (65 miles) of the branch cable is proposed to be located in the American Samoa territorial waters and EEZ, with the remaining 297 kilometers (185 miles) in the Samoan EEZ. The cable will be laid using a specialized cable-laying vessel along a predetermined engineered route. The majority of the cable would occur in water depths between approximately 1,000 to 4,000 meters (3,300 to 13,000 feet). As the cable approaches the shoreline of Tutuila at Fogagogo, it will traverse a shallow reef surf-zone and land on a rocky shoreline near an existing telecommunications conduit currently used to house an existing fiber optic cable. The American Samoa Branch Cable would be installed into a new 102-millimeter (4-inch) steel conduit laid in a trench pipe in volcanic rock parallel to the existing fiber optic steel. The trench would run from the shoreline to an existing beach manhole ([BMH] a concrete chamber situated below ground and above high water) over a distance of approximately 49 m (160 ft). From the BMH, the branch cable would be installed in an existing underground conduit terminating at the existing Iliili Operations Center located on land leased by ASTCA on the Iliili Golf Course. The Center would house the submarine line terminal equipment and the branch cable monitoring system.

The cable laying ship would operate for approximately 5 days. Cable installation is currently scheduled to commence in early 2018, with the project scheduled to start delivering broadband services to American Samoa by the end of June 2018.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District has assumed the role of lead federal agency for the proposed project as the project requires a permit from USACE pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.). USACE will initiate consultation with NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office pursuant to Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as amended ((16 United States Code [USC] § 1536 [c])), and the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provision of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act (MSA) (16 USC §1855 (b) (2)). A Biological Assessment and EFH Assessment have been prepared to address potential project impacts to federally listed ESA species and EFH. Inclusive in these document are recommended best management practices, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries to mitigate impacts to ESA protected species and EFH. The outcome of the ESA consultation is expected to be a no effect determination, and the outcome of the EFH consultation is expected to be a no to minimal adverse effect to EFH determination. The USACE will also initiate consultation with the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 USC § 306108) and USACE Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (33 CFR 325 Appendix C) to determine if the project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. Based on desktop analyses in both the onshore and offshore environments, no cultural or historic resources were found. USACE consultations with NOAA Fisheries and ASHPO are intended to be comprehensive and satisfy the Section 7, EFH and Section 106 consultation obligations for both USACE and RUS.

The Draft EA, prepared by ASTCA's environmental consultant, Tetra Tech, Inc., provides a description of the project, the need for the project, alternatives to the project, an analysis of the affected environment and potential effects to the natural and human environments, mitigation measures, and supporting materials. In accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, this notice also serves to inform the public of proposed construction within the floodplain and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts. The EA also describes the public involvement process, including governments, organizations, and agencies consulted during the preparation of the EA. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the EA and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

A hardcopy of the EA will be available at ASTCA's Aleki Sene Sr. Telecommunications Center, P.O. Box M, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 and electronic copies of the EA are available upon request. Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided (email preferred). RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below. Dated: Monday, October 16, 2017

It's the blame game all over again for delayed ASG scholarship checks

FAIMEALELEI TELLS THE BOARD TO DO ITS JOB; FAI'VAE SAYS THE DELAY IS CAUSED BY TREASURY

by *Ausage Fausia*
Samoa News Reporter

The House Education & Scholarship Committee held a hearing yesterday morning with members of the ASG Scholarship Board, to discuss complaints from parents of students — government scholarship recipients — who claim that there are delays in the issuance of checks to pay for their tuition.

The second regular session of the Fono ended last Friday, but House committee members decided to carry on with the hearing yesterday morning. Faipule who were present included Reps. Vui Florence Saulo, Samuel Ioka Ale Mel-eisea, Kitara Vaiiau and Faimealelei Anthony Fu'e Allen.

Scholarship board members who showed up were chairman, Sen. Faiivae Iuli Godinet; vice chairwoman Donna Gurr; Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato who is also the ASCC president, and a member of the Scholarship office.

One of the main issues that was raised during the hearing is why students who are attending school off-island under the government scholarship, are not able to receive their checks on time.

Faimealelei informed board members that there have been a lot of parents who approached him about the issue, and some of them have had to deal with this problem for almost 4 years now, ever since their child started college.

He said that although the problem is not new; the current board needs to step up and do something to avoid this from continuing to happen.

Faimealelei wanted to know where exactly the problem lies: whether it is the scholarship office or it is the government, so the House committee can step up and do something to help the affected students, because they need to be in the school.

"The Fono understands the financial situation of our government," he said. "But we also need to know that our focus is for our students to be in school and complete their education."

He said the scholarship office needs to do its job. And that is, to make sure there is good communication with the student, to remind them that their transcripts must be submitted on time in order for them to receive their checks on time, "instead of you just sitting in the office waiting for parents to complain. Don't use your chair as a rocking chair, but use it to serve our students," Faimealelei said.

The Aua faipule said he doesn't believe it takes over 2 months for the Treasury Department to process checks for students when it only takes two days to process per diem checks for representatives.

Fai'ivae explained that the delay in processing checks for scholarship students is caused by Treasury, not the scholarship board.

He said once they receive the student's transcripts, which confirm that he/she is still attending school and their grades are stable, the Board signs all the necessary documents which are then forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval.

Afterwards, it is sent to Treasury so checks can be processed.

Faiivae said they have to follow-up with Treasury, and once the check is ready, they pick it up and send it straight to the school, not the student.

He told the house committee members the delay in the issuance of checks is not their fault, as they have to wait on Treasury to issue the checks.

He said during delays, there have been times when he has had to personally go to the Governor's Office to follow-up on the checks.

According to him, the problem could be solved if the funds that are allocated for scholarships is deposited in to a separate account; instead, the money goes straight to the government's general fund, and the treasurer has to wait until revenue is available before checks are issued.

When asked by Vesi if the delays are the fault of Treasury or the scholarship board, Faiivae said he doesn't want to point any fingers, but he believes the scholarship board is doing its best to ensure that students receive their checks on time.

According to information provided to the house committee members, a total of 131 students are under the scholarship program for 2017 — attending school off island and at ASCC — with a total funding amount of \$583,142.52

Gurr told the committee that one of the reasons why this old problem continues to linger, is because the student waits to come home during school break, before turning in their transcripts, which must be submitted in a timely manner.

She said some students wait until they return to school before sending their transcripts and by that time, school has already started.

No hikes in ASPA electric base rates since 2010, says board chairman

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The American Samoa Power Authority “takes seriously its customers ability to pay and has worked hard to reduce its costs to keep electric rates affordable,” wrote ASPA board chairman Fonoti Perelini Perelini in a letter to Gov. Lolo Mat-
alasi Moliga.

The governor had written to the Board late last month, questioning the cost of electricity — at 40 cents per kilowatt hour — after he received public complaints which were identical to those lodged with lawmakers.

Samoa News last week received three more complaints alleging hikes in electric rates, without any public notice, although Samoa News publishes on a monthly basis, a paid advertisement from ASPA, which shows the rates for the month.

In his letter, Fonoti pointed out that ASPA constantly strives to provide local residents with the lowest possible electricity rates. And compared to other utilities in the Pacific, “our rates are at or below the average”, he said, adding, “countries that best our rates have large sources of hydroelectric generating capacity, which is substantially cheaper than any generation method, including solar and diesel.”

Fonoti explained that the electric base rate has not been changed since 2010 and is \$0.0974, \$0.1065 and \$0.0896 per kWh for residential, small

general, and large general customers, respectively.

Additionally, the fuel surcharge format has not been changed since 2005 and is a pass through cost that varies from month-to-month depending on demand, fuel costs, engine efficiency, and line losses.

He said the installation of the new generators at the Satala Power Plant and stable fuel prices “has allowed us to keep this charge to under \$0.20 for the past fiscal year.”

Fonoti provided a summary of the monthly rate history for FY 2017.

“Clearly, the total rate for electricity for any rate class has NOT reached or come close to the 2013 threshold of \$0.40 per kWh, as being reported by a growing number of the public,” he wrote.

According to the board chairman, ASPA “prides itself on being transparent and considerate of the rule of law.” For example, bills sent to customers prominently display the “Electric System Rate” they are being charged.

He explained that “Current Charges” on the bill include a per meter service charge of \$6.00, \$5.00/\$10.00 and \$25.00 for residential, small general (single phase/three phase), and large general service. In the future, ASPA plans to break out the per meter service charge from the “Current Charges” for more clarity.

Another example of transparency, is that a monthly “Fuel

Surcharge Notification” is published in the Samoa News, as well as the ASPA website and Facebook page.

“Besides announcing the fuel surcharge, the notification also publishes a one-year rate history for residential customers,” he added.

Fonoti reminded the governor that like all ASG departments and authorities, ASPA must comply with local requirements, as mandated under local law — holding public hearings prior to amending or repealing any rule — before implementing new rates. He also cited in the letter provision of the law requiring public hearings.

ASPA executive director Utu Abe Malae told senators during a hearing on Oct. 4th that there is no rate increase and ASPA must hold public hearings before imposing any hikes.

(See Samoa News Oct. 5th edition for details.)

Fa'asilasilaga mo le Talanoaina Suafa SAGAPOLUTELE i le laoa i Ili'ili

O le a ta'oto ia fa'amaene o ia o le tai loloto i ou paia sausaugata mo ou mamalu le avea Samoa.

Ona ose fa'asilasilaga fa'aaloalo i o'u gafa tau Tupu ou te malu ai i le ao mamala o le atu Samoa.

Ona o ala o le tulafono, o le fono lona lua lea e tusa ai ma le fa'amoemoe. Ua ia te a'u le fa'aaloalo

ou te fa'atulou ma fa'apa'i atu ma le fa'aeteete i le mamalu o le tatou aiga SAGAPOLUTELE i le Afio'aga o Ili'ili ia i latou uma o e tau malae i lenei Suafa. Ua iai le fa'amoemoe afio maia se'i o tatou mulumulu aufoe se tasi na te tausia lo tatou aiga i le afio'aga ma le itumalo. **O le aso 28 o le masina o Oketopa 2017 i le 10:00 i le taeao lava.**

O lou le 'auai e le taofia ai le filifiliga a lo tatou aiga. Ia alofa le Atua tatou aulia manuia lenei aso ua atofaina.

I le ava ma le fa'aaloalo tele,

O suli uma o le suafa Sagapolutele o lo'o tausia ma nonofo i le aiga.

FA'ASALALAUGA

TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION (TOA)

Taoto ia fa'aseuga o tamali'i ou sa ma ou fita Samoa, aua o sa o le vavau e amata mai Saua seia ifo i Analega. E leai lava se vave na te toe autalaina ou sa ua mae'a tofofi. A'o auauna a le Atua i so'o se fale apitaga, ia outou laugaina pea le suafa manumalo o lesu aua Samoa mo a taeao. Fa'afetai tele lesu i lou agalelei mai i lenei sosaiete fa'atauva'a.

O le a le tuliloaina pe tulituli matagau le ufi a le tamaitai i fatia ua sola ae o le a fa'aaoga tatau lenei avanoa taua e faapea.

E matua momoli atu ai le fa'afetai tele i lau afioga a le Palemia ALOFA o Samoa, lau susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, ina ua e le fa'aailoga tagata e tusa ai o le savali a lenei sosaiete le taualoa pe a fua i le papa o lo'o e tu ai, ma le pulou o lo'o e pulou ai. Tulou, Tulou, Tulou, lava.

E matua fa'afetai tele fo'i i lau afioga a le Konesula o Samoa, lau afioga Ausuegaefa Va'asatia Poloma Komitee, e tusa ai o lou fa'atinoina o le finaglao matala o le Ali'i Palmera i le va ma le faiga malo o Amerika Samoa.

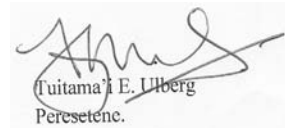
E matua fa'afetai tele fo'i i lau afioga a le Kovana a Tutuila ma Manu'a, lau Toga le to'oto'o Lolo Matalasi Moliga. Fa'afetai i lou talia aloaia o le finagalo o le Palmera ina ia fa'aaoga e le sosaiete a le TOA (TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION) le fanua o Samoa o lo'o i lalo o le puipuga malu o lau faigamalo.

Fa'afetai fo'i i Fa'atonu Sili ma Taiulu o so'o se matagaluega o le malo fa'apea fo'i le ofisa o le Loia Sili i ali'i ma tama'itai loaia i lo tou fitaituga i le fa'apepaina ma le fa'atinoina o so'o se auala tusitusia ina mafai ona o gatusa ma ala o le tulafono. E momoli atu fo'i le fa'afetai tele i Senatoa fa'apea Faipule ma so'o se tamali'i sa fesoasoani malos i le taumafaiga o lenei fa'amoemoe ua mafua ai ona matou taunu'u i se taunu'uga to'afimalie ma le filemu o Keriso.

Matou te taia le pula ma vaiafei i o outou fingingalo pe afai ua iai so matou aleu a'o tatou feagai ai. Matou te talitonu o le a natia i fatualavai pe fale i le fale o le amiotonu e magalo ai o matou tagata vaivai. Ua iai lo matou fa'amoemoe o le a tatalaina lenei tautua i le Aso Faraile 27 o Oketopa 2017 i le itula e 8:00 a.m. i le taeao i lona nofoaga autu i Petesa (tafatafa ane o le falema'i).

Fa'afeso'ota'i mai le telefoni 770-2844 po o le 770-7794 mo nisi fa'amatalaga.

Fa'afetai fa'afetai fa'afetai tele lava.



Tuitama E. Lilberg
Peresetene.

NOTICE

TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION (TOA)

On behalf of the board and trustees of Taxi Owners Association (TOA), I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank the Almighty God for paving the road of success to establishment of Taxi Owners Association (TOA).

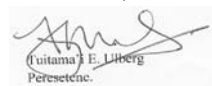
I acknowledge the kind assistance of the Prime Minister of Samoa, Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi for the approval of Samoa's land to be used for this purpose. I would echo the same spirit of gratitude to Samoa's voice in American Samoa, Honorable Consular Ausuegaefa Va'asatia Poloma Komiti for your continuous support over the years, in liaising with many government departments and agencies.

I sincerely thank Honorable Lolo Matalasi Moliga, Governor of American Samoa for consideration of our services as an association dedicated to serving our community. To all public servants of American Samoa Government in it relevant department and agencies, we appreciate your time and dedication put forward to achieving our objective. May God bless you all abundantly.

With that, I am proud to inform you all that Taxi Owners Association's place of operation will be open for public service on Friday, 27th of October 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at its current location in Petesa (next to Tafuna health clinic).

For further information, please contact 700-2844 or 770-7794

Thank You,



Tuitama E. Lilberg
Peresetene.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News Staff

REMINDER - NEXT TUESDAY SPECIAL ELECTION DIST.#5, SUA#1

Chief election officer, Uiagalelei Dr. Lealofi Uiagalelei issued a reminder yesterday to all registered electors of House of Representatives District# 5, Sua#1, that next week Tuesday, Oct. 24th is the Special Election, with polls open for 12 hours starting at 6a.m.

“Results thereafter of the election will be known immediately,” he said, adding that it will also be broadcast on state run-KVZK-TV that evening.

Certified candidates for the special election are: Fialupe Felila Fiaui Lutu; Ketesemane Meaole; Laloni P. Maloa; Tuialofi Faalae Lauatuaa Tunupopo; Tuifagalilo P. Vele; and Uele Fale S. Uele.

“Voters of the district are reminded to go out to the polls and exercise their right to elect their faipule. It's good for our democracy and our Samoan way of life,” he said, adding that the total number of registered voters stands at 635 and there are three polling stations.

For local absentee voters, or local residents who will not be able to go to the polls that day, only six have cast ballots so far.

Oct. 10th was the deadline to request off island absentee ballots - for those in the military or attending college or universities - but Uiagalelei said there are no requests for off island absentee ballots.

To ensure a smooth and peaceful special election, village pulenu'u will be working closely with election officials at the polling stations, as well as at the Election Office.

PROPOSED MUSEUM EXTENSION PROJECT WILL MOVE FORWARD

Once the plans for the proposed extension of the Jean P. Hayden Museum in Fagatogo are finalized, work will commence. Historic Preservation Officer David Herdrich told Samoa News yesterday that the plans for the extension are being drawn up by the Department of Public Works — who will also be carrying out the construction job — and once the governor gives the approval, work will

(Continued on page 4)



Letter to the Editor

“UNDOCUMENTED HARASSMENT CONTINUES...”

Dear Editor,

Despite the STOP ORDER that was initiated by the AG Chief Investigator Attorney Jed Bigelow, several months ago, Mrs. Faga Fualaau (Deputy- Immigration Office) informed the victim last week “the Immigration Board has decided for them to return to Upolu since there is NO CASE.”

Yet the victims have not once met with the Independent Prosecutor David Vargas since he was retained by the High Court. They have never been summoned to be informed with official documents of their status, and neither has their attorney or court been informed of the IP’s findings.

Mrs. Fualaau’s response when informed of the STOP ORDER was “the AG should have written and informed our office,” dismissing the victim and advocate.

This is the 3rd time the Immigration Office has turned away our attempts to have a sponsor application filed.

The senior Immigration officers still choose to ignore the fact that they were instructed by Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale to allow the victims to process and file the sponsorship application.

It is these types of undocumented harassment and giving out erroneous information that shows the public how fractured these services are.

It shows the Governor’s Immigration Office leaders’ lack of respect for the authority of the Governor’s Attorney General’s Office.

Meanwhile local people and victims are being dropped through gaping cracks and treated as ignorant human beings.

Far be it for me to criticize our government — but once again, this visible behavior is unacceptable and unbecoming of government leaders.

Ipu Avegalio Lefiti
Victim Advocate

ASTCA PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE:

**TO ALL ASTCA CUSTOMERS AND PATRONS,
ASTCA HAS IDENTIFIED SOME TECHNICAL ISSUES, WHICH ARE AFFECTING THE
QUALITY OF OUR INTERNET SERVICES SINCE 11:00AM THIS MORNING.
WE BELIEVE THE FAULT IS IN HAWAI’I AT THIS POINT, AND WE ARE WORKING
WITH OUR 03B ENGINEERS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE
WITH THE HAWAI’I GATEWAY TEAM.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED AND WE
KINDLY ASK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND CONTINUED SUPPORT AS WE
WORK TOWARDS RESOLVING THE OCCURRING ISSUE.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL OUR HELPDESK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
REGARDING THIS ISSUE.**



The life of the late Terry “Kanalu” Young, a UH Manoa Hawaiian Studies professor and indigenous rights activist, is profiled in the film “K Kanaka/ Stand Tall,” one of the two features included in this year’s Deep Waters Film Festival, which takes place in the ASCC Lecture Hall tomorrow from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

[Courtesy Photo]

Community briefs...

Continued from page 3

begin. In addition to a new two-story extension, Herdrich said the interior of the existing structure — which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places — will be refurbished.

The museum’s designation as a Historic Place means efforts are taken to preserve the exterior of the building; however, restoration of the interior is permitted. Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga met last week with officials from Public Works, the museum Board, and also the AS Historical Preservation Office to discuss the project, which has already started with the demolition of the old bathroom and storage rooms and leveling the site. The job will be paid for with ‘special projects’ funding, although ASHPO, the Department of Commerce and other agencies are looking for grant funding sources.

When asked for an evaluation of the museum, Herdrich said, “structurally, it’s fine, it’s in good shape,” adding that the outside needs to be spruced up — power washed and painted.

He said the windows on the interior are boarded up to create wall space for exhibits but once the renovation is complete, the windows will be opened up because additional exhibit space will be available.

“This will make the building look a lot nicer,” Herdrich added.

He said an inventory of the collection will be taken because things will be moved and temporarily stored elsewhere once the project commences.

“It’s great that the governor

is taking this on,” Herdrich said. “It’s long overdue.”

FIVE CRUISE SHIPS WILL CALL IN TO PORT FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2017

Last week, the territory’s population increased by over 5,000 — for two days, Oct. 10th and 11th — when two cruise ships, the Maasdam, and Noordam, called in to port.

There wasn’t a lot of money to be made, as tourists didn’t spend much to buy handicrafts and souvenirs. One business owner told Samoa News that it was ‘slow’ and the same reports were received from business owners at other islands where the cruise ships made stops before heading to Pago Pago.

This Sunday, Oct. 22nd, the Emerald Princess is set to arrive at 10 a.m. with a passenger/crew count of 4,872.

Businesses are not expected to be open, as Sunday is usually a day of rest for the territory’s people. Bus tours and visits to certain beaches are on the agenda.

The Norwegian Jewel, making its maiden voyage, was scheduled to arrive on Oct. 30th but the American Samoa Visitors Bureau has announced that the ship will be arriving a day later, on Halloween, Oct. 31st.

One cruise ship, the Regatta, is scheduled to dock at the Fagatogo wharf on Nov. 25th, bringing with her 803 passengers and 372 crew members.

Two cruise ships — the Amsterdam and Maasdam — are set to arrive in the territory on December 7th and 10th, respectively.

PIC Deep Waters Film Festival at ASCC this Thursday

by James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), a nationally funded organization based in Honolulu, strives to promote filmmaking as a storytelling medium among the indigenous populations of Hawaii and the US Pacific Territories. For the past several decades, PIC has presented a yearly showcase at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) that features recent films produced under its aegis. This ongoing showcase series has become known as the Deep Waters Film Festival, and this week it will take place on Thursday, October 19th from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the ASCC Lecture Hall. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

This year’s Deep Waters will showcase two recent documentaries, “Ever The Land” and “Ka Kanaka/Stand Tall”, along with introductions by PIC board of directors’ member Regina Meredith-Fitiao of the ASCC Fine Arts Department.

Set in Aotearoa New Zealand, “Ever The Land” explores the bond between people and their land through a landmark undertaking of design and construction by one of the country’s most passionately independent Maori tribes, Ngai Tahoe.

The second feature, “Ka Kanaka/Stand Tall,” examines the life of a former Hawaiian Studies instructor, Terry “Kanalu” Young, who many students from American Samoa may have personally encoun-

tered if they attended UH Manoa in the late ‘90s or early 2000s. Set in the forest region of Aotearoa New Zealand’s Te Urewera, “Ever The Land” reveals the Tahoe as an indigenous people fighting to rebuild and to claim their rights. For the past 150 years, the relationship between the Tahoe Maori tribe and the New Zealand government has been defined by longstanding grievances over severe colonization experiences such as illegal land confiscations and the devastating consequences of scorched-earth policies. “Ever The Land” captures a period of change and tremendous foresight: Tahoe are negotiating an apology and settlement from the Crown, and constructing an architectural gem of a community centre using radically sustainable methods. Tradition and environmentalism are brought together, and the film offers a stirring depiction of Indigenous pride.

“Ka Kanaka/Stand Tall” traces the life of Terry “Kanalu” Young, a professor, activist, and chanter who inspired Native Hawaiians to reclaim their sense of worth by the daily practice of Hawaiian language and culture. A childhood accident left Kanalu paralyzed from the neck down, with only limited use of his hands and arms. He nonetheless finished high school and college, competed as a wheelchair athlete, got arrested for the cause of Hawaiian sovereignty, graduated as a PhD in history, and was recognized as a pioneer professor in the emerging field

of Hawaiian Studies.

Kanalu (which means “the wave” in Hawaiian) learned from being disabled to value the life he lived rather than mourn the life he lost. He used that insight to offer hope to dispossessed Native Hawaiians. At the same time, he lived by the indigenous Hawaiian practice of kuleana, his responsibility to ask for help rather than go it alone as a rugged American individualist. In classrooms, on cable television and even from his hospital room, Kanalu inspired thousands. Even with his body eventually giving out, he continued to challenge his people to help each other as a way to revive Hawaiian culture and repair their sense of self-belief.

“Both of these features offer compelling stories of indigenous Pacific islanders struggling to maintain their culture and identity in today’s complex world,” reflected PIC Executive Director Leanne Ferrer. “They’re also prime examples of how the medium of filmmaking not only documents our past but can also help shape our future. I encourage anyone interested in not just these features but filmmaking in general to enjoy the Deep Waters festival and learn more about PIC.”

Information on PIC and its activities can be found online at www.piccom.org. For more information on this Thursday’s screening, contact the ASCC Fine Arts Department by calling the College at 699-9155, and asking for extension 362.

▶ Governor: LVPA...

Continued from page 1

opening brief and the plaintiff's reply 30-days later, according to electronic court records, which state that the appellate court has also offered its mediation program for both parties in order to resolve the case.

The appellate court has sent out a "mediation questionnaire" with responses due by Oct. 23, 2017.

An ASG official told Samoa News that the territorial government "will continue to vigorously defend its position relative to maintaining its authority and sovereignty over the 50-mile zone for direct derivation of benefits accruing to the people of American Samoa."

"The Court recognized the legitimacy of our Deeds of Cession therein contained the commitment by the United States Government to protect and preserve the resources of the Territory of American Samoa," according to the senior official,

who is familiar with the LVPA case.

The 2016 LVPA rule was based on a recommendation in 2015 by the Council to help the struggling US longline fleet based in American Samoa.

According to Kobayashi's ruling, NMFS failed to consider whether the proposed rule was consistent with the Deeds of Cession — referring to the 1900 Deed of Cession for Tutuila and Aunu'u; and the 1904 Deed of Cession for Manu'a.

However, the defendants argued that the Deeds do not expressly refer to cultural fishing practices or fishing resources.

The Council has made the same observation, and noted that the court's decision also does not define what "cultural fishing practices" are, or what is required to protect or preserve them.

▶ ASTCA audit...

Continued from page 1

for services provided and obtain additional sources of revenues as well as reduce its operating costs.

"In the event of ASTCA's inability to improve cash flow, it could have a material adverse effect on ASTCA's ability to continue as a going concern.

"The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary should ASTCA be unable to continue as a going concern," the report says.

Samoa News has reported that ASTCA is currently looking at an additional loan of \$10million from the American Samoa Government Employees Retirement Fund, which according to the ASGERF board has been granted. This is in addition to a \$4.2 million loan it is already paying on from ASGERF.

ASTCA is also applying for a \$30 million loan from the federal government, which was made public during a Senate Retirement Committee hearing last week. The Independent Auditor's Report of the American Samoa Telecommunica-

tions Authority — Years Ended September 20, 2016 and 2015 — was not mentioned during the hearing.

Samoa News understands that there is positive feedback concerning the ASTCA \$30 million application to the federal government — but was not told why 'positive'.

BACKGROUND

ASTCA's single highest Receivable, listed in the Auditor's Report, is money owed for E-RATE telecommunications services it provides to the American Samoa Department of Education. At Sept. 30, 2016, it is reported as owed \$2,530,897. According to the report, E-RATE is a federally funded universal service Schools and Libraries Program, which ASG terms of contracts obligates ASDOE to provide for 11% of the service costs with the balance (89%) federally funded and administered through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Amounts Receivable for E-RATE services at Sept 30, 2015 were \$1,748,007.



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FA'ASALALAUGA

TALANOAGA SUAFA TE'O, ALO O FANENE I VAILOA

Ae lei Malaga loa le fua i le malu o le tai taeao, e ao lava ona afea lape o upu aua e faigata vasa tetele o aiga, ae a sulii ma feoi o le aiga o Sa-Sa'umani, o futu na soifua e to'ala faaautama i le suafa, tulou. Ae le'i alofaiva foi le aliiseu i le toaga mafana ma le fuifui lea ua toto ifo i le fogatia, e ao ina aua nei seu taafilia le na'a ae ao lava ina seu matatoaga, aua paia faaufigata e pei o le tala i le Siisialafia ma lona aiga, tainane mamalu faaufigata e pei o le tala e fai i le alofisa ma le agatonu fesilafa'i o le atunu'u, tulou, tulou, tulouna lava.

Tulou le paia maua luga o taulaga soifua o lenei aiga, o lupe na fa'ia mai le fuifui, a'o o ni lupe foi o loo faalele i tafa e fia o le Talalelei. Faatulou atu foi i le malae ma le tupua i Asotau, i le afio o lau Afioga Satele, le alo o Salamasina, Afio Alo o Fanene, Susu le Sa'o ia Tuiasina ma le aiga Tuiasina, Ae puipui i le fetalaiga Falealii ma Faletolu. O paia lava ia o Vailoa ma Tuaulu. Faatulou foi i sulii ma feoi, e tau i le suafa Te'o, o Alo o Fanene, Tainane paolo ma gafa na sailimalo a'o ni mulivai fetafea'i matou te malu ai ia Samoa ma le atuvasa. Nuunuu la paia ia faatini o tausala i Tootoo ma Tama Matua, tainane foi le usuga a Tumua ma Pule, aua o lo latou gafa tausii vaatele lea i ai.

Ae o le a fagatonu le malama ma vilitonu le ifi a Maina, e logopuialii ai le mamalu o lo tatou aiga e uiga i lenei faasalalauga taua. O le a tatou fesilafa'i ma umufono talatala i le aso 4 o Novema i le maota i FALENU I VAILOA, i le itula e 9.00 i le taeao. O lenei fesilafaiga o le a tatou fale ai i se tasi e tausii lo tatou aiga, aua ua leva ona faalupe i le vao le suafa o lo tatou aiga. O le mea lea, faamolemole, ia tausisia mai le aso ua tuupoina mo lenei faamoemoe taua.

O le a avea lou le afio mai, e toe tolopo ai fuafuaga a aiga ua taoto i lagotonu. O la'u tatalo, ia molioo e le Atua mamana lo outou soifua manuia i lea aso atofaina.

Oute faatulou atu i le paia ma le mamalu o le Atunuu, ona o se faasalalauga sa faia i le aso 13 o Oketopa e Peni Sapini, o lana faasalalauga sa faia mo ia lava. E le o sana matafaiioi lea.

Ma lo'u faaaloalo lava e tatau ai

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All bid proposals must be received by the Purchasing Department in Atu'u no later than 4:00pm on Monday, Nov. 6, 2017. For further details, please contact the Purchasing Department at 622-2027/2005.



Members of the ASG scholarship board appeared before the House Education & Scholarship Committee yesterday morning to discuss the issue of delayed checks for students attending school off island. See story for details. [photo: AF]



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Fa'afetaia Vui le faigamalo i galuega ua faia mo Tualauta



O tagata ta lelei i le tāaloga Tapolo sa matua fiafia e ala usu i le aso Faraile i le tagapolo mo le Hope House. Le afioga le Matua Pulu Ae Ae Jr ma lana paga. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



tusia Ausage Fausia

I le fa'aleoina ai e le to'atele o afioga i Faipule o le agaga fa'afetai i le faigamalo a Lolo ma Lemanu, ona o galuega lelei ma atina'e o lo o fa'aaauu pea ona fa'agasolo i totonu o a latou afioga ma itumalo, o le vaiaso ua te'a na fa'aleoina ai fo'i e le afioga i le Tama'ita'i Faipuleia Vui Florence Saulo lea lava fo'i agaga fa'afetai, ona o galuega ua mafai ona fa'ataunu'uina mo lona itumalo o Tualauta.

E le gata na tula'i le afioga i le tama'ita'i faipule ma fa'aleo lona agaga fa'afetai i le faigamalo i luma o le maota, ae sa ia toe tusia fo'i se tusi ma tauaao atu i le afioga i le ali'i kovana ia Lolo M. Moliga e fa'aleo atili ai le agaga o le fa'afetai.

Na taua e Vui i lana tusi i le Kovana lona agaga fa'afetai, e tusa ai o le fa'ataunu'uina o ni isi o galuega i totonu o le Itumalo ua tele tausaga o pagatia ai le itumalo ma le atunu'u, e pei o le auala i Ottonville lea ua amataina i le taimi nei.

O isi vaega o le itumalo e mafuli i ai fa'aletonu i auala e aofia ai Fagaima, lea e matua lolovaia lava pe a oo ina tetele timuga ma tafega.

Na taua e Vui i lana tusi e fa'apea, e le mafai e le itumalo ma ona ta'ita'i ona galulue fa'atasi galuega mo le fa'aleleia o auala, pe ana leai le lagolagosua a le afioga i le Kovana ma le faigamalo.

I le vaega sa masani ona to'a ai le vai i luma o le malumalu o le Ekalesia Mamona i Ottonville, na taua ai e Vui le agaga fa'agaetia ina ua molimauina le aga'i atu ina tulaga lelei ma foai ai lenei fa'afitauli, pe afai ae mae'a aloaia galuega o lo

o galulue ai le Konekarate i le taimi nei.

“E le gata o le agaga fa'afetai e fia momoli atu i lau afioga a le Kovana ma le Faigamalo ona o galuega lelei mo Tualauta, ae faapitoa fo'i le agaga fa'afetai i le Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Galuega a le malo, susuga a Faleosina Voigt ma le aufaigaluega, i le tali mai pea i soo se taimi e mana'omia ai la latou fesoasoani. O la outou tautua ua mafua ai ona fa'atino tulaga lelei mo le itumalo,” o le saunoaga lea a Vui.

I tulaga mo le fa'aleleia o auala, na taua e le afioga i le ali'i faipule ia Kitara Vaiau lona talosagaina o se fesoasoani mo le fausiaina lea o se uafu lelei ma mautu mo Aunu'u, atoa ai ma se va'a e gafa ma le tautuaina o tagata o le itumalo.

Na taua e le afioga i le ali'i Faipule mai le itumalo o Saole e fa'apea, ua tele tausaga o fetaia'i pea Aunu'u ma lu'itau i le lei o se va'a lelei a le malo na te tautuaina tagata o le motu. Ona o lea tulaga, ua fa'alagolago ai le tautuaina o tagata Aunu'u i va'a alia a tagata o lo o alala i totonu o le motu.

“O popolega o lo'u sui, ina ne'i i ai lava se taimi e tula'i mai ai se fa'aletonu i femalagaaiga i luga o va'a alia nei i le lumana'i, ma ma'imau ai soifua o ni isi se to'atele, ona sili ai loa lea ona tulaga pagatia lenei mataupu,” o le saunoaga lea a Kitara, ma ia talosagaina ai i le vaiaso ua te'a le tatau lea ona silasila toto'a le faigaalo i le fa'atinoina o ni auala e fesoasoani ai mo tagata o lo o nonofo i totonu o Aunu'u, ina ia mautinoa e lelei uafu latou te fa'aaogaina, toe lelei fo'i se va'a e tautuaina i latou.

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NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the TUUGA Family and to all whom these present may come!
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VA MAAGAOLU of TAPUTIMU has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land LE VAEA, allegedly belonging to TUUGA FAMILY of the village of TAPUTIMU. Said land LE VAEA, is situated in or near the village of TAPUTIMU in the County of TUALATAI, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 thru OCTOBER 25, 2017
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA'AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa TUUGA ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina lenei fa'aaliga!
O le fa'aaliga lenei ona o VA MAAGAOLU o le nu'u o TAPUTIMU ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i lenei ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'ailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/pe o le a, fa'atuina i luga o le fanua o LE VAEA, e fa'asino i le aiga sa TUUGA, o le nu'u o TAPUTIMU. O lenei fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o TAPUTIMU, itumalo o TUALATAI, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.
O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i lenei mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amaui o lenei feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa'atu'ese tusitusia. O fa'atu'iesega uma lava e ao ona fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauina mai i le aso na fa'ailoa ai lenei fa'aaliga.
Afai ole a leai se fa'atu'iesega e fa'aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a fa'amaui loa lenei feagaiga e taualoaina ma a'afia ai tagata uma.
10/04 & 10/18/17



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost TU'UMALO GALUMALE- MANA SATELE - TRIPLER MEDICAL CENTER

Ua tu'ua le Malo e se tasi o tama iloga o le atunu'u, Galumalemana William G. Satele, e afua i lana tautua e ala i pisinisi ma fa'ato'aga, lana tautua i le Malo tele ma Amerika Samoa e ala i lona avefa ma Fitafta a le USAir Force ma i ai lona taimi na tau ai i le Taua i Vietnam, ae maise o se tasi o sui mamalu o le Fono Faitulafono i ona nofoa'iga e tolu i le Maota o Sui na tula'i ai o le Faipule mo le Itumalo o Tualatai. E tele Komiti Fa'afaoe a le Maota o Sui sa tofia e galue ai.

Ua lauiloa o ia i lona fa'atula'ia o le Faleopisinisi o le Samoa Sports i Fagatogo, atoa ai ma le tele o lana fa'ato'aga o Moa e foaina fuamoa mo le fofoga taumafa o le atunu'u.
I ona toe taimi sa i ai pea le

tina o le aiga, Nancy Satele ma se tasi o le fanau i ona autafa. Na tu'umalo o ia i le tusa o le itula e 6:00 i le afiafi aso Faraile 13 Oketopa, 2017 i Hawaii. Ua atoa le 74 tausaga o le soifua.

Ao talavou Galumalemana, e naunau i ta'aloga, ua iloga lea i lona maota e mautu ai le malae tenisi. O lana pisinisi fo'i e fa'apitoa mo oloa tau ta'aloga e ala i la'ei ma mea ta'alo o so'o se ta'aloga ae maise ai le tenisi, volleyball, basketball, ma le fagota. O mea e fiafia tele i ai o ia.

Sa avefa o ia ma totino o le Kalapu o le Liona i Pago Pago, ma se tasi sa fa'amautu i ai le Asosi Tenisi a Amerika Samoa mai lona amataga, ae o le tama tuai fo'i o le Asosi Tapolo a Amerika Samoa. O nei mea e fa'aaogaina i nei ta'aloga, e afua ai ona ia fa'atula'ia lana pisinisi o le Faleoloa o so'o se Ta'aloga.

O se faipisinisi ma sa avefa o

ia ma Taitaifono a le Chamber of Commerce, Komiti Fa'afaoe a le Au Faipisinisi i Amerika Samoa. O ia o se tasi o ta'ita'i na lalamua i le aumaiga o le Hawaiian Air ma fa'atula'ia le ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank i le atunu'u.

I lana pisinisi faufale, sa ia fa'atula'ia ai nisi o atugafale e iloga i le atunu'u e aofia ai le Fale o fa'atautaia ai le Ofisa o le Lesitala i le taulaga, le Fale Fa'amasino i Fagatogo, ma le Ofisa o Feso'otaiga fo'i i le taulaga.

E agaga o ia i lona aiga, e pele na'ua ia te ia lona tina, Salamasina Satele, le sa avefa ma sa'o tama'ita'i o lona aiga i Vailoatai. O le fua o lona naunau i lona aiga, ona sa toe talii mai i le tausaga 1966 ma amata ona toe galuea'ina lana fa'ato'aga fa'i tele i Vailoa ma Taputimu, ma o lana faleoloa o Oloa Tau Ta'aloga i Fagatogo, o le faleoloa muamua lea o lona ituaiga na fa'atuina i le vaitausaga 1960, ma o lo'o tutula'i ma fa'atautaia pea.

E ui i lona faivaalofilima i lona aiga, ae sa tofia o ia e Kovana Coleman e fa'auluulu i ai galuega a le Tax Office, Budget Office, ali'i Ofisa o le Historic Preservation ma se tasi fo'i na avefa ma so'oupu i le Fono Faitulafono i le va ma le Faigamalo. Peita'i sa o'o lava ina avefa ma Fa'atonu o Paka ma Malae Ta'alo.

I lenei faigamalo, sa tofia ai e Kovana Lolo Moliga i le Komiti Fa'afaoe o le Shipyard Services, peita'i sa ia toe fa'amavae aloa'ia mai lea tofiga ae le'i mae'a lona taimi atofa.

O le amataga o lona soifua a'oa'oina sa amata lava mai le St Theresa's i Leone, soso'o ma le Marist Brothers i Atuu a'o le'i malaga i Colorado ma fa'aauu ai ana a'oa'oga i a'oga maualuluga. Ina ua mae'a ona ulufale ai lea i le US Airforce a le Malo tele ma tautua ai mo le fa'atautaia.

O lo'o soifua pea lenei tama i lona faletua o Nancy Satele ma le fanau e to'avalu ma fanau a lana fanau e to'a 12. O le a toe fa'asalalauina fa'alaua'itele se polokalama o ona toe sauniga mo le silafia a le pa'ia o aiga ma le mamalu o le atunu'u.

\$70,000 TUPE MAMA SAILIGA A LE HOPE HOUSE

O se tala fiafia ma le agaga fa'afetai na fa'auia mai e le Taitaifono ma le Komiti Fa'afaoe a le Hope House i Fatuaiga, ae maise o le afoaga Epikopo Peter Brown, o le fa'auluuluga o le Puleaga Samoa Pago Pago, ona o le foa'i a le mamalu a le atunu'u i mea uma sa fa'atino e fa'aailoga ai le 30 tausaga o le Hope House.

"O le aofaiga o le seleni sa tu'ufa'atasia e silia ma le \$90,000 peita'i, ina ua mae'a togotia tupe ma le pa'ia o mea sa fa'aalu mo le fa'amoemoe i

(Fa'aaauu itulau 10)



LOCAL COMMUNITIES LOOKING FORWARD TO PALOLO RISING THIS MONTH



October and November is the period of the annual rising/swarming of the *palolo* worm. As usual, local communities are expecting a harvest and an event for celebration. During the rising, many residents make their way to the reef early in the morning to await the spawning of *palolo* worms. Although it may vary, *palolo* rising usually occurs around the third-quarter moon in October and/or November or seven days after the full moon. This would put the *palolo* rising around Oct. 12 and Nov. 11.

The *palolo* worm is considered a seafood delicacy in the Samoan culture, and during the rising people come together to harvest and feast. During this period, the worms usually back up from their burrows and release their reproductive segments or 'epitoke' that contain their gametes into the water column. The epitoke is what actually is referred to as *palolo*. The epitoke upon release from the worms twirls upward to the water surface like a dancing noodle. It 'swims' upwards as it is attracted to light through its own sensor. As it rises to the water surface, it is collected in buckets and baskets using hand nets by the local communities. Blue-green epitoke indicates female and brown epitoke signifies male. As day breaks, the epitoke disintegrates and it releases the male and the female gametes. It is advised that people go out to the reef two to three nights before peak harvest dates (Oct. 12th and Nov. 11th) to check for early signs of *palolo* spawning.

The *palolo* rising is a classic example of synchronous (same time) mass spawning of a marine organism. The timing of the rising/swarming varies and suggests that other factors are involved than the lunar cycle. Other factors that may play a role in spawning include sea water temperature, tides, and wind. It is not known whether the quality or integrity of the coral reef habitat affects *palolo* rising. During the *palolo* rising, assigned staff of the Department of Marine and Wildlife will be conducting surveys and interviews on weight of catch per person to track annual trends in the amount of *palolo* released.

We kindly ask the public to please call Maria Vaofanua
(mariavaofanua@hotmail.com) at 633-4465 ext. 241 to
report any sightings of *palolo*.

Onosa'i I Mea Tiga

Tusia: Akenese Ilalio Zec

VAEGA: 138

Alo maia, o le a toe fa'aauau atu la tatou tala. Ua feagai nei Lilomaiava ma ona tiute fa'aFaipule e tautua ai i lona itumalo, fai mai, e alu alu lava tala a le toeaina i totonu o le Maota Fono fa'alogo atu isi Faipule ua alu ai ma tala malie a le toeaina. "Ia e fa'apenei, afai e fiafia isi itumalo e 'ai le steak, ia e fa'apena foi ona fiafia si o'u itumalo e 'ai le steak, tatou galulue fa'atasi, ma ia tutusa le faiga o mea uma, ona malilie lava lea o le atunu'u ma toa'aga e susu'e le vao, ma fagota le sami mo le fofoga taumafa,

"Ae a fai o lo'o manuia na o nisi itumalo, ae valiano uma le to'atele, o le a le nonofo lelei fo'i tagata nu'u o le na itumalo, aua e fia a'ai steak fo'i nai na tagata, o si o'u itumalo, e 'ese le fiafia o tagata e taugasami i le fuamo ma le egg, ia o fua ia o galuega o lo'o galulue ai si o'u itumalo,

"A fiafia e taugasami i le fuamo and egg, ia toa'aga fo'i e fai lafu manu e ola ai le aiga ma fai ai mea fa'alelotu fa'apea ma fa'alavelave."

Fai mai, ua alu le talie a isi Faipule i tala a Lilomaiava,

"Lau afioga i le Fofoga Featalai, o la'u folasaga le na ua taoto atu i lumamea, o le agaga lava, ia mautu ma ia lelei le fa'asoasoaina o tupe, ia laugatasia ai tagata uma, ae le na o se itumalo e tasi pe lua, ia fa'asalafa le alofa, ma tu'u atu le fesoasoani i nai o tatou tagata, aua le lumana'i manuia, o aiga, nu'u ma Ekalesia."

O fonotaga uma nei ua alo i ai le Maota Fono, o lo'o fa'asalalau i luga o leitio, ae a ma'ea ona tusitusia fo'i lea i luga o nusipepa, aua le silafia e le atunu'u, o taualumaga a le Fono.

Fai mai, e le mafai ona tapeina la'au fa'alogologo a le itumalo o lo'o galue malosai ai le afioga i a Lilomaiava, ina ia fa'amautu mea uma. Fai mai, o se fiafiaga tele i le faletua i a Loleta, ae maise o tuafafine o Lilo, le fa'alogologo i taualumaga a le Fono, ae maise ai, o se manatu e folasia

e si o la tuagane mo le lelei o le itumalo.

A manava ane la galuega a Lilo, fai mai, e lolofi ane i ai ona tuafafine o Luisa ma Filipina i lo la fia iloa ma talatalanoa i nisi mataupu e ao ona folasia e Lilo i luma o le Fono Faitulafono. Fai mai le tala, e va'ai atu loa Loleta ua alu atu le solo fa'aniutu a lo'omatutua, musumusu ane loa i lona to'alua, "Lilo, va'ai atu fo'i oe, ai fo'i o le a o mai e momoli mai ni o la manatu, sa sili ai pe ana o e fa'aFaipule ae e malolo."

Fai mai, e 'ata Lilo ma tilotilo atu i le solo a lo'omatutua ua alu ane i lo la fale, e iloa mamao mai lava e Lilomaiava, le alu o gutu o lo'o matutua, ma le lima lava o le isi, toetiti tau i le isu o le isi.

Ua iloa lelei e Lilo, ua tia'i fo'i e Filipina i si toeaina o Roger ma si teine o Samalaulu le faleoloa ae sola ane le lo'omatua i lo la fale, e faitatala ai.

O le taimi lea, ua amata ona pisi solo Loleta e fai le vaiinu mo le solo lea e alu ane nei, fai mai, ua masani Loleta i le teuteuina o le mea atoa, pe a malotia lo la fale.

O le mea ua fiafia ai nei Loleta, i le solo lea e alu ane nei, e maua ai ma lana pauna 'ata i le va lea, aua fai mai, a o'o nei i na ta le faleaitu a Filipina i si ona tuagane, na o le 'ata o Lilo, ma fa'asolosolo ona mafauauga, "E leai se 'ese'esega o le lo'omatua leni ma si o matou tina, ma'imau e, pe ana fa'apea o lea e soifua mai Malia, se i va'ai i nei mea ua maua, ae maise ai o leni tofi ua ou pale ai, i le alofa o le Atua ma Ana fa'amanuiaga i totonu o si o'u aiga."

O tulaga ia a tau loa i ai mafauauga o le afioga i a Lilomaiava, ona maligi ifo lea o ona loimata. Ua susu'e le fa'amalamala ma va'ava'ai atu i si ona nu'u e pele i lona loto, fa'atasi ai ma lona loto fa'afetai, ina ua to mai le pule a lona itumalo, lea ua pale ai i le tofi Faipule.

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O nisi o sui o le Ekalesia Katoliko e le mapu le sapaapaia o mea uma ae maise fo'i o le ta'amilosaga tapolo sa faia i le aso Faraiile ma le aso To'ona'i e saili tupe ai mo le fa'atupega o le Hope House. Uia-galalei Lealofi, Sesilia Solofa ma Mrs Parker.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

AMERICAN SAMOA LEGAL AID, INC.

Letialua Building, Second Floor
P.O. Box 5984

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME ASLA STAFF ATTORNEY

The American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc. ("ASLA") is seeking to employ one full-time attorney or part-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.
- Comply with ASLA U.S. Department of Justice Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking program grant guidelines.
- 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.
- 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 \$48,000 per year for full-time attorney plus generous leave benefits or \$24,000 per year for part-time attorney (20 hours per week) plus leave benefits.

Applicants: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **Deadline for applications is Wednesday 10/25/17 at 4pm.** 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.

ASLA is an equal opportunity employer.

Tala i vaifanua...

Mai itulau 10

le vaiaso atoa na fa'ailoga ai le 30 Tausaga o le Hope House, ona maua lea o le tupe mama e \$70,000+. Fa'afetai atu ai i le foa'i ma le agalelei o tagata uma ae maise o Fa'alapotopota, Ekalesia ma Pisinisi mo le fa'amoemoe," o se saunoaga lea a se tasi o sui o le Komiti Fa'afaoe o le Hope House, Larry Sanitua. O le tele o leni seleni, sa amata aoina lava i le taimi a'o loma le fa'amoemoe, sa foa'i ai so'o se tasi, pisinisi, fa'alapotopota ma ekalesia. O i latou fo'i sa vala'aulia ina ia fa'afiafia, o le isi lea fo'i ala sa foa'i atu ai isi, ae o le taimi fo'i o Ta'amilosaga Tapolo mo le fa'amoemoe o le Hope House.

AMATA TAUTUA TOA TAXI STAND - OKETOPA 27

Ona ua talia ma le atoatoa e le Komiti Fa'afaoe a le PNRS le talosaga a le TOA Taxi Stand e fa'atautaia ai le latou tautua mai le Eleele sa toina mo Samoa Tuto'atasi i Tafuna, o lea ua aloa'ia ai le aso 27 Oketopa,

2017 e amata ai ona fa'aaoga e i latou lea eleele.

Ua fa'ailoa mai e le pulega a le TOA Taxi Stand, o le aso lea e leai se sauniga fa'apitoa e fa'atautaia ai, ua na'o na amatalia ai o le latou galuega. Peita'i o le agaga o le fa'afetai ua latou fa'auia mai mo le Komiti Fa'afaoe a le PNRS ma le Malo o Amerika Samoa ona o le talosaga ua talia fa'afatuelele.

O lo ua fa'afetaia fo'i e i latou ma le sao o le Konesula o Samoa i Amerika Samoa, Auseugaefa Va'asatia Poloma Komiti, ona o le fesoasoani sa ia gapatia ai ina ua fa'auia mai le mataupu e le afioga le Palemia o Samoa, Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, na te va'aia toto'a le matou talosaga ma pasia lelei ai.

Ua mae'a taoto i le PNRS le tusi a le Palemia, fa'apea ma le fa'atagaga a le afioga ia Auseugaefa ina ia fa'aaogaina ai lea eleele ma le fale o tu ai, mo le TOA Taxi Stand.

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Judge halts newest Trump travel ban, saying it has same woes

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal judge in Hawaii blocked most of President Donald Trump's latest travel ban Tuesday, just hours before it was set to take effect, saying the revised order "suffers from precisely the same maladies as its predecessor."

It was the third set of travel restrictions issued by the president to be thwarted, in whole or in part, by the courts.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson issued the ruling after the ban on a set of mostly Muslim countries was challenged by the state of Hawaii, which warned that the restrictions would separate families and undermine the recruiting of diverse college students.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the ruling "dangerously flawed" and said it "undercuts the president's efforts to keep the American people safe." The Justice Department said it will quickly appeal.

At issue was a ban, announced in September and set to go into effect early Wednesday, on travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

The Trump administration said the ban was based on an assessment of each country's security situation and willingness to share information with the U.S.

Watson, appointed to the bench by President Barack Obama, said the new restrictions ignore a federal appeals court ruling against Trump's previous ban.

The latest version "plainly discriminates based on nationality in the manner that the 9th Circuit has found antithetical to ... the founding principles of this nation," Watson wrote.

The judge's ruling applies only to the six Muslim-majority countries on the list. It does not affect the restrictions against North Korea or Venezuela, because Hawaii did not ask for that.

"This is the third time Hawaii has gone to court to stop President Trump from issuing a travel ban that discriminates against people based on their nation of origin or religion," Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin said in a statement. "Today is another victory for the rule of law."

Hawaii argued the updated ban was a continuation of Trump's campaign call for a ban on Muslims, despite the addition of two countries without a Muslim majority.

Watson noted that Hawaii had argued Trump did not back down from that call, listing in the ruling a series of June tweets "in which (Trump) complained about how the Justice Department had submitted a 'watered

down, politically correct version' to the Supreme Court."

Other courts that weighed the travel ban have cited Trump's comments about banning Muslims, including the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia and a federal judge in Maryland. Watson also referred to a Trump campaign statement in his previous ruling.

His Tuesday ruling said the new ban, like its predecessor, fails to show that nationality alone makes a person a greater security risk to the U.S.

"The categorical restrictions on entire populations of men, women and children, based upon nationality, are a poor fit for the issues regarding the sharing of 'public-safety and terrorism-related information' that the president identifies," Watson wrote.

He said the ban is inconsistent in the way some countries are included or left out. For

example, Iraq failed to meet the security benchmark but was omitted from the ban. Somalia met the information-sharing benchmark but was included.

"Judge Watson's ruling makes clear that we are a nation of laws, no matter what this administration may try to do," Hawaii's U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz said in a statement. "There is a place here for peaceful immigrants from every corner of the world: Spain, Syria, Sudan, or Singapore. There is no place here for discrimination or xenophobia."

Watson found fault with what sorts of visitors are barred. For instance, all tourists and business travelers from Libya are excluded from the U.S., but student visitors were allowed.

The judge said he would set an expedited hearing to determine whether the temporary restraining order blocking the ban should be extended.

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PROBATE NO. 25-2017

In Re: The Estate of

TEMUKISA FAIAI,
Deceased

BY: **USOALII FAIAI AND SOSENE FAIAI**
Co-Administrators

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Usoalii Faiai and Sosene Faiai have been duly qualified to act as the Co-Administrators for the Estate of Temukisa Faiai.

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of Temukisa Faiai are required to submit their claims to the Co-Administrators of the Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to: Estate of Usoalii Faiai % Matailupevao Leupolu, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 5007, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Dated: September 15, 2017

MATAILUPEVAO LEUPOLU JR.
Attorney for Estate
USOALII FAIAI/ Co-Administrator
SOSENE FAIAI/Co-Administrator

Published: 10/18 & 10/25/2017

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PROBATE NO. 21-2017

In Re: The Estate of

USOALII FAIAI,
Deceased

BY: **USOALII FAIAI AND SOSENE FAIAI**
Co-Administrators

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Usoalii Faiai and Sosene Faiai have been duly qualified to act as the Co-Administrators for the Estate of Usoalii Faiai.

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of Usoalii Faiai are required to submit their claims to the Co-Administrators of the Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to: Estate of Usoalii Faiai % Matailupevao Leupolu, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 5007, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Dated: September 15, 2017

MATAILUPEVAO LEUPOLU JR.
Attorney for Estate
USOALII FAIAI/ Co-Administrator
SOSENE FAIAI/Co-Administrator

Published: 10/18 & 10/25/2017



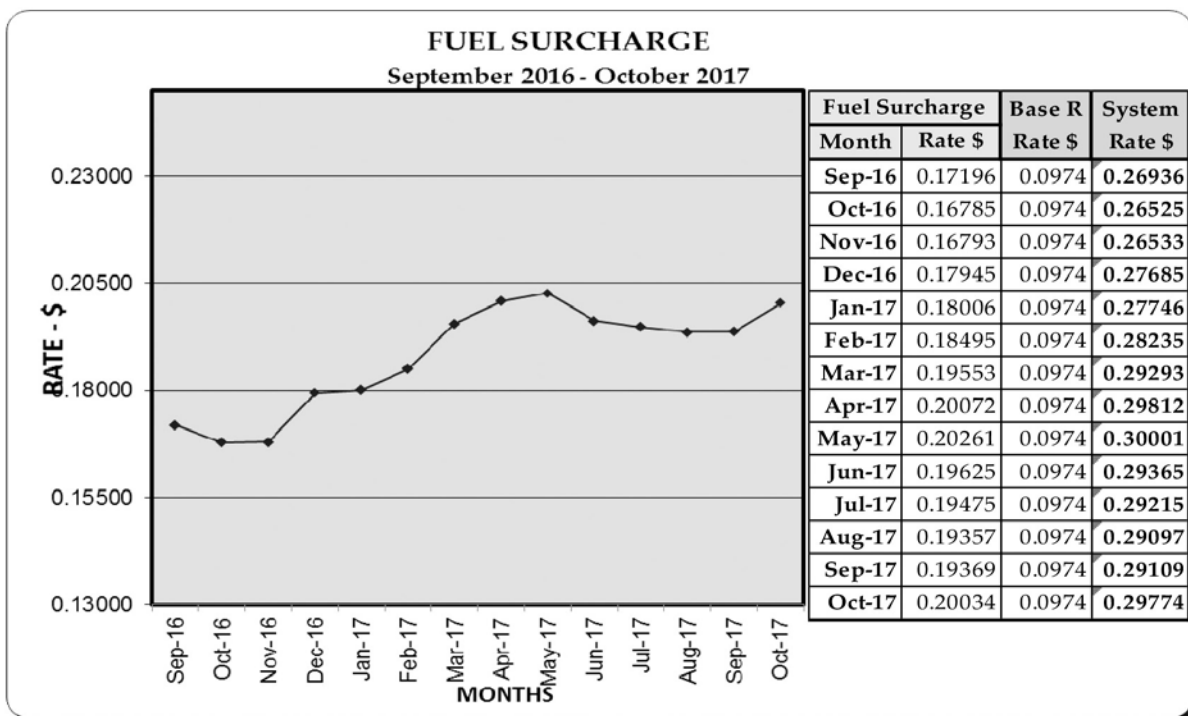
American Samoa Power Authority

October 12, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the "base rate" and the "fuel surcharge rate."

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA's operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.



The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.

The fuel surcharge rate also includes the "Renewable Reduction" from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the "Renewable

Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.20939	0.20939	0.20939
Renewable Reduction	-0.00905	-0.00905	-0.00905
Fuel Surcharge	0.20034	0.20034	0.20034
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29774	0.30684	0.28994

Reduction" savings. There are seven active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA's renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.



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A short-term health deal by senators with Trump's blessing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican and Democratic senators joined in announcing a plan Tuesday aimed at stabilizing America's health insurance markets in the wake of President Donald Trump's order to terminate "Obamacare" subsidies. Trump himself spoke approvingly of the deal, but some conservatives denounced it as an insurance company bailout, making its future uncertain.

The agreement followed weeks of negotiations between Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington that sought to address health insurance markets that have been in limbo following GOP failures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The talks took on added urgency when Trump announced last week that he would end monthly "cost sharing reduction" payments the government makes to help insurance companies reduce costs for lower-income people.

Without that money, premiums for some people buying individual health plans would spike, and some insurers would flee the markets, industry officials warn. The Alexander-Murray deal would continue the insurer payments for two years, while establishing new flexibility for states under former President Barack Obama's law.

"This would allow the Senate to continue its debate about the long term of health care, but over the next two years I think Americans won't have to worry about the possibility of being able to buy insurance in counties where they live," Alexander said in announcing the deal after a closed-door lunch where he presented it to GOP senators.

"This agreement avoids chaos. I don't know a Republican or Democrat who benefits from chaos," he said.

Alexander said the president had encouraged his efforts in phone calls over the past two weeks. And at the White House, Trump responded positively, expressing optimism that Republicans would ultimately succeed in repealing Obamacare, but until then, "For one year, two years, we're going to have a very good solution."

Trump's position may seem contradictory in that he himself ordered an end to the payments, calling them a bailout, but is now encouraging legislation to reinstitute them. Indeed White House officials had said they would want more in exchange than the additional state flexibility offered in the Alexander-Murray agreement.

Just minutes before Alexander announced the deal, White House legislative director Marc Short emerged from the Senate

lunch saying that "a starting point" in exchange for restoring the cost-sharing payments "is eliminating the individual mandate and employer mandate" — the central pillars of Obamacare.

That suggested some disagreement within the administration on the issue. If so, it does not bode well for ultimate passage of Alexander-Murray, since the president's full support will be crucial in persuading Republicans to get on board.

Initially as president, Trump continued making the payments though resisting, but he declared last week he would pull the plug. The payments, which cost around \$7 billion this year, lower expenses like co-payments and deductibles for more than 6 million people. But discontinuing them would actually cost the government more money under Obamacare's complicated structure, because some people facing higher premiums would end up getting bigger tax subsidies to help pay for them.

The Alexander-Murray deal does include a host of provisions allowing states faster and easier access to waivers that would allow them to shape their own marketplace plans under Obamacare. It also would provide for a new low-cost catastrophic coverage insurance option for all consumers.

Reaction from the GOP was decidedly mixed. For many conservatives it's practically unthinkable to sign off on federal payments that would arguably prop up a law they've been vowing for seven years to destroy.

Rep. Mark Walker of North Carolina, chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee in the House, quickly denounced the deal over Twitter: "The GOP should focus on repealing & replacing Obamacare, not trying to save it. This bailout is unacceptable."

Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows, who's been at work on a proposal of his own, was slightly more positive, calling the Alexander-Murray bill "a good start" but saying much more work needed to be done.

GOP leaders in the House and Senate have also been cool to the Alexander-Murray negotiations, the more so since after their failures on Obamacare they are eager to turn their full attention to tax overhaul legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was noncommittal, telling reporters, "We haven't had a chance to think about the way forward yet." Aides to House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not provide a statement from him.

