



Nedly Mata'utia (center front) and her Primary CTR Class wishing everyone in their church, families and American Samoa a HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. [courtesy photo]

Aumua Amata and House colleagues arrive Sunday
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A letter to senators raises concerns on gov's DHSS choice

SENATE PRESIDENT: THE WORK OF THE SENATE IS NOT BASED ON LETTERS AND OTHER WRITINGS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

An uncle of Simeonica Tuiteleapaga has raised with Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie concerns over statements in a tape recording made by then Department of Human and Social Services Director Taeaofua Dr. Meki Solomon during a staff meeting the day after the 2016 general election.

In his letter, Nikolao Iuli Pula Jr., who also just happens to be a US Interior Department official, revealed that the same concerns were discussed with Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, after the governor re-appointed Taeaofua to the same directorship post for the next four years of the Lolo Administration.

Tuiteleapaga, a transgender woman who has worked for many years at DHSS, has filed a sex discrimination complaint against ASG with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

During Taeaofua's confirmation hearing yesterday in the Senate, the letter, which was distributed by an unknown person to senators over the weekend and also yesterday was mentioned by

some senators, including Gaoteote who informed his colleagues that the work of the Senate is not based on letters and other writings, and a senator's decision should be based on the qualification and experience of a director-nominee.

During yesterday's Senate session, senators confirmed Taeaofua in a 15-3 vote while the House gave its endorsement early last week. He is now fully confirmed by the Fono. (See separate story for Senate hearing.)

Pula made clear in his letter that he was writing "as a citizen of the territory and a concerned U.S. National who was born and raised in the Islands." Additionally, he has worked in the federal government for the past 30 plus years "and has carried the responsibility for making decisions that have had a direct impact on the affairs of American Samoa."

Pula didn't identify the federal government agency he has worked for or is currently working in. He informed Gaoteote that he was surprised with Taeaofua being nominated again as DHSS director, adding that the decision concerns him because of a tape recording he heard regarding the Nov. 9, 2016 meeting at the DHSS office where

(Continued on page 5)



Pvt Sunia, Amos Ila's IET Dinner and Graduation of the Bravo Troop Calvary Scout (CAV) at Fort Benning, Georgia, February 8, Georgia. Now he is on his way to his duty station at Fort Irwin, he sends his love to his mother Fesili Maui Foifua and all his best of friends and families in Tauese, Nu'uuli as well as his father Aitofele Sunia.

"My sisters and brothers, the struggle is real, I am so glad I can make it! I love you all! Ieova i lo tatou va." He is with his friend Pvt Faimalo during their IET graduation Feb 7, 2016, Fort Benning Georgia. [Courtesy Photo]

DHSS director nominee fully confirmed

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Taeaofua Dr. Meki Solomon's confirmation hearing yesterday before the Senate as Director for the Department of Human and Social Service was dominated with statements over the controversy surrounding an incident where Taeaofua berated DHSS employee Simeonica Tuiteleapaga last November, as well as a letter from Tuiteleapaga's uncle voicing concerns about the incident.

The letter was from Nikolao Iuli Pula

Jr., to Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie regarding the Nov. 9th meeting in which Taeaofua made statements towards Tuiteleapaga, who is a transgender, that are now the subject of a sex discrimination complaint that she has brought against Taeaofua and the American Samoa Government. The meeting was tape recorded and posted on social media. (See separate story on the letter)

The Senate during yesterday's session confirmed Taeaofua in a 15-3 vote, while the House confirmed him

early last week. He is now fully confirmed as DHSS director for the next four years of the Lolo Administration.

Prior to the Senate vote, Taeaofua appeared earlier in the day before the Senate Human Social Services Committee for his confirmation hearing, where he said the DHSS is doing well, serving some 4,000 recipients in the food stamp program and nearly 6,000 under the Women, Infant and Children program.

Sen. Alo Fa'auuga was the first to question Taeaofua about the alleged

sexual discrimination incident, saying that he had heard media reports about an incident that happened at DHSS and then last Saturday he received a letter, which was probably also received by his colleagues regarding this incident.

While Alo didn't elaborate on the incident or the letter, he asked if there is a court case on this issue to which Taeaofua said he hasn't received such information and pointed out that there are always two sides to a story.

(Continued on page 12)



Aumua Amata and House colleagues arrive Sunday

Washington, D.C. – U.S. House of Representatives. Monday, Congresswoman Aumua Amata, and colleagues from the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, which has oversight over the U.S. territories, will arrive in Pago Pago Sunday on the first leg of a fact finding trip to the U.S. Pacific territories. They will overnight Sunday and Monday before departing for Saipan in the Western Pacific.

“For years I have had the goal of seeing American Samoa be a destination, not a simply a refueling stop for congressional delegations,” said Amata, who is beginning her third year in the

Led by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), the Congressional Delegation (CODEL) will see first-hand how federal funds, which must be authorized by their committee, are being spent and become familiar with the territory’s need for continued federal assistance, “as we strive to achieve self-sufficiency.”

In addition to territories, Bishop’s committee has legislative jurisdiction over national parks and maritime issues, and in that regard, will spend time in American Samoa’s national

park as well as visit the Star-Kist cannery, where they will be briefed on the problems facing American Samoa’s fishing industry.

“The Natural Resources Committee is the single most important congressional committee for American Samoa,” said Aumua, who serves on the committee’s Insular Affairs and Investigative panels. “I know Members will come away from here with a new appreciation for the challenges we face, and we will gain new allies as we move our legislative initiatives through the House,” continued Amata.

In the limited time they have, Aumua wants the group’s main focus to be on the hospital, schools, and the cannery, which is the largest private employer on the island. “These are the areas in which we specifically need federal aid,” said Amata.

“Although I succeeded last year in convincing Congress to change the funding formula for elementary & secondary education in the territories, which will increase funding for American Samoa by 67%, we need the help of this committee to authorize funding to upgrade LBJ, maintain and upgrade our schools and improve our infrastructure,” continued the Congresswoman.

While on island, the CODEL also will meet with members of the local U.S. Army Reserve unit and their families to show their appreciation for their dedication and service to the Nation. American Samoa provides more members to the Armed Forces per capita than any other state or territory.

“I want to thank Chairman Bishop and the committee staff for their effort in arranging this important visit to American Samoa. I know that my colleagues will learn a great deal about the islands we call home, and I look forward to working with them when we return to Washington to advance our agenda with the federal government,” said the Congresswoman.

“It’s important that we increase our efforts to address the inequities in the quality of life between the territory and the states that continue to exist and I believe that this trip will be a huge step in that direction,” concluded Amata.

The CODEL leaves for the Western Pacific on Tuesday when they will visit Guam and the Northern Marianas before returning to Washington February 25.

(Source: Congresswoman Amata’s Office – Washington D.C.)WW

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Sen. Nuanuaolefeagaiga says he was selected "in accordance with Samoan custom"

AND THE SENATE, NOT THE COURT HAS JURISDICTION OVER THIS ISSUE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Through his attorney, Sen. Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua has argued that among other things, the Constitution gives the Senate, not the court, jurisdiction over the determination for the qualifications of its own members.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga, represented by local attorney Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde, made the argument in court documents filed last Tuesday in the Trial Division of the High Court in response to a Dec. 30 complaint by Ta'u County traditional leaders Lefiti Atiulagi Pese, Maui Aloali'i and Tauese Va'aomala K. Sunia for themselves and on behalf of the Ta'u County Council. Also listed in the complaint, as "Party of Interest" in this case is Faleasao County matai Vaitautolu Liugalua.

The complaint asked the court to declared Nuanuaolefeagaiga's selection to the Senate to be null and void, as it is not in accordance with constitutional requirements. (See yesterday's edition for details.)

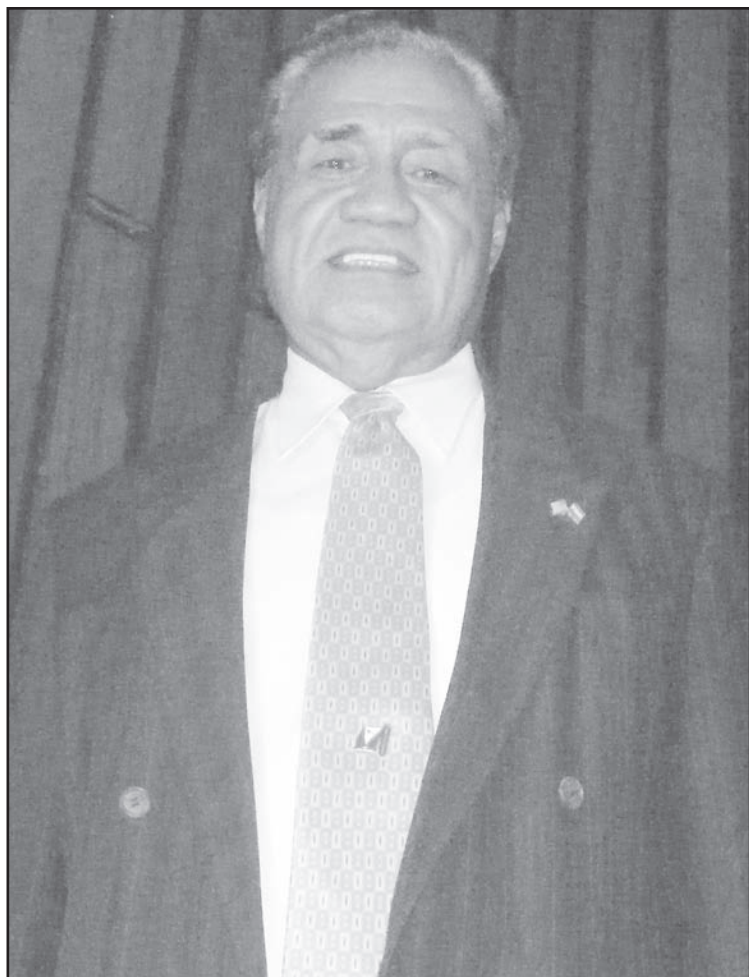
As part of the defendant's response, which seeks to dismiss the complaint, is Nuanuaolefeagaiga's affidavit, which states that Ta'u traditional leader Fa'amausili Pomele, called the Ta'u County Council meeting for Nov. 23 for traditional leaders of Luma and Si'ufaga — sub villages of the Tau County — to select their nominee for the senatorial seat to be presented at the Nov. 24 meeting of the Ta'u, Faleasao and Fitiuta counties where the two senators for Manu'a District No. 1 would be confirmed.

The affidavit alleges that on Nov. 23, the Si'ufaga council selected Nuanuaolefeagaiga, while the Luma council picked chief Tuialu'ulu'u Vaimili. Later on the same date, the two councils met in Luma for the Ta'u County Council and it was agreed that Nuanuaolefeagaiga is the Ta'u county's selection as senator and the decision was presented the next day, when the Ta'u, Faleasao and Fitiuta counties met.

The affidavit further alleges that Lefiti was present during the Si'ufaga council meeting, but refused to attend the joint meeting between Si'ufaga and Luma sub-village councils. Furthermore, the county chief (or fa'alupega) of Ta'u County wasn't able to attend the Nov. 23 meeting because he was not well enough to travel.

According to the affidavit, the county chiefs of both Fitiuta and Faleasao currently reside off-island.

At the Nov. 24 meeting of all three counties, Fitiuta nomi-



Sen. Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua, one of the two senators for Manu'a District No. 1, yesterday inside the Fono building. He is currently fighting a complaint regarding the legality of his selection as a sitting senator. [photo: FS]

nated Galeai, Faleasao chose Vaitautolu while Ta'u selected Nuanuaolefeagaiga. "After much deliberation" Galeai and Nuanuaolefeagaiga "were selected", according to the affidavit, which also says that then Manu'a District Governor Misaalefua J. Hudson was present at the meeting.

Upon returning to Tutuila, Nuanuaolefeagaiga claims that he made "numerous unsuccessful attempts" to have Maui, the Ta'u County chief, certify the results of the Nov. 24 meeting.

In the end Misaalefua signed the certification on Dec. 6, according to the affidavit.

DECLARATORY RELIEF

In its complaint, the plaintiffs sought declaratory relief asking the court to declare that Nuanuaolefeagaiga's selection was null and void as well as the certification by Misaalefua.

To bring a declaratory relief action, the defense argued that there "must be a justifiable issue based on alleged facts showing, under all circumstances, that a substantial controversy exists between the parties having adverse legal interests of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant issuance of a declaratory judgment."

In the immediate case, the defense argued that "there is no substantial controversy" between plaintiffs and Nuanuaolefeagaiga, who are all members of Ta'u county. The defense claims that "there exists only a difference of opinion — most

notably — how Ta'u County Council meetings are called and convened."

Further, the "resolution of the strife within Ta'u County Council makes no difference in this case" because Nuanuaolefeagaiga was accepted at the Nov. 24 meeting at Malaetele, Ta'u.

(Continued on page 4)



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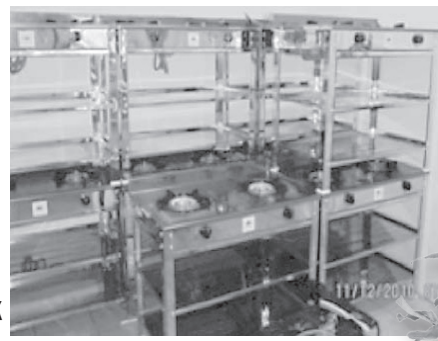
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► Sen. Nuanuaolefeagaiga ...

Continued from page 3

Even in light of Faleasao's nomination of Vaitautolu, the councils represented and chiefs who were present — including Vaitautolu — resolved that Nuanuaolefeagaiga would serve as one of the two senators for District No. 1.

Even if a justifiable issue exists, the defense argued that declaratory relief is unnecessary or improper at this time, because the defendant was sworn in as a senator on Jan. 3 and for over a month, Nuanuaolefeagaiga has "made substantive decisions as a member of the Senate," specifically in connection with the approval of the governor's cabinet appointments.

Nuanuaolefeagaiga has chaired some of the confirmation hearings for director-appointees, who appeared before the Rules Committee — of which he is chairman — and the Government Operations Committee, of which he is vice chair.

If the court voids Nuanuaolefeagaiga's certification at this juncture, "all of his decisions as a sitting member of the Senate since January may also be called into question," the defense argued. "Accordingly, even if a case or controversy exists, declaratory relief is improper at this time."

JURISDICTION

The defense also argued that it's the Senate, not the court that has jurisdiction over the determination of the qualifications of its own members, citing provisions of the constitution, which expressly reserves to each House of the Legislature, the right to judge the elections and qualifications of its "members".

"This constitutional provision is rooted in the constitutional separation of powers doctrine, which maintains that each branch of government is separate and independent of the other," the defense further argued.

Furthermore, the court "has consistently recognized the Fono's authority to judge the qualifications of its members," according to the defense, which cited six similar court rulings over the years including a 1973 Trial Division decision, finding that declaratory relief over the election and qualification of a Senate member would be "a clear usurpation of the Legislature's constitutional right."

Another Trial Division decision cited was a 1997 case, which states that "only the Senate... can judge the results of the election."

In the present case, the

defense argued, the Senate has already made a determination that Nuanuaolefeagaiga is qualified as one of the two senators for Manu'a District No. 1.

Therefore, any judicial declaration to the contrary would be "a clear usurpation of the Legislature's constitutional right" under the constitution's "separation of powers doctrine."

Even if the court exercised jurisdiction, the defense contends that Nuanuaolefeagaiga's selection was made in accordance with the provision of the constitution, which provides that "Senators shall be elected in accordance with Samoan custom by the county councils of the counties they are to represent."

According to the defense, an almost identical situation occurred some 20 years when the late chief Lefiti (not the current Lefiti title holder) of Si'ufaga was selected at a joint meeting of the councils of Fitiuta, Faleasao and Ta'u. Despite Lefiti's selection, the Ta'u county council objected and nominated another Ta'u chief.

The court at the time rejected the proposition that the Ta'u county council has a "customary" right to one of two senatorial seats and has greater weight to the selection of Lefiti by the county councils of Fitiuta, Faleasao and Ta'u.

In the present case, the defense said it's undisputed that the Ta'u County Council met on Nov. 23 and agreed to Nuanuaolefeagaiga. "More importantly," the defense said, the three county councils met on Nov. 24 and after much deliberation selected Nuanuaolefeagaiga and Galeai.

As to Maui's alleged refusal to certify Nuanuaolefeagaiga's selection, the defense cited a Trial Division ruling from 1973, involving another contested senate seat, which states in part, "The County chief (fa'alupega) has no discretion whatever in certifying the decisions of the members of the county council. His is purely a ministerial duty."

Even if the court finds jurisdiction is appropriate in this case, it should be determined that Nuanuaolefeagaiga's selection was made at a joint meeting of the councils of Fitiuta, Faleasao and Ta'u on Nov. 24 "in accordance with Samoan custom."

Furthermore, Maui should be directed to certify the results in accordance with provisions of the constitution.

Letter to the Editor

"THERE MUST BE CONSEQUENCES"

Dear Honorable Senators,

I write this letter with the greatest appreciation for the hard work that you do for our island home. I write this letter with honest intentions, but a heavy heart. I write this letter to let express my sadness in the appointment of Dr. Taeaofua Meki Solomona as the Director of the Department of Human and Social Services.

Last year, after the gubernatorial elections, Dr. Solomona called a meeting for all DHSS employees. During this meeting, Dr. Solomona singled out one of my family members — Simeonica Tuiteleleapaga — and degraded her in front of the entire DHSS workforce. Simeonica Tuiteleleapaga was ridiculed for being a fa'afafine — and made to feel less than human. Dr. Solomona questioned Simeonica's integrity and insisted that Simeonica take off her clothes in front of everyone to prove whether she was a man or woman.

This is highly unacceptable. How can we as Samoans — people who profess to place hospitality and decorum above all else — treat one of our own people this way? We all have fa'afafine in our family. Some of us have a fa'afafine child, some of us have a fa'afafine sibling, and others have a fa'afafine cousin or aunt or uncle. To ask a fa'afafine to take off her clothes to prove her sex is wrong, but to ask an employee to do so in front of a public audience is unbelievable. How would you feel if someone told your fa'afafine child to do that in front of their co-workers? We should never accept this sort of tyrannical behavior.

As disgusting as Dr. Solomona's comments were to Simeonica about her sex. Dr. Solomona did not stop there. He went on to say "o ai sou aiga lou maile" to Simeonica, when she responded to Dr. Solomona's questions.

Here is the answer that Simeonica was unable to give because she was chased out of the office:

On her paternal side, Simeonica is the proud daughter to my brother Pula Teofilo Nikolao of the village of Utulei. Simeonica is the proud grandchild of Oloalilo Ta'a Nikolao of Utulei, Fagatogo and Pago Pago (from the Lutu, Asuega, Pulu and Fuga families) and Pula Nikolao Tuiteleleapaga Iuli of Leone, American Samoa (from the Iuli, Tuiteleleapaga, and Ilaoa families).

To answer Dr. Solomona, Simeonica is not a maile, and neither are her families.

We are God-fearing people. We practice the fa'aSamoa by participating in family faalavelave and traditions of our respective nu'u. We are hurt and enraged that someone that professes to be intelligent, God-fearing and a supposed orator of the fa'aSamoa could be so callous as to demean not just an individual, but also entire FAMILIES and LINEAGES, in one careless sentence. But at the end of the day — that is what Dr. Solomona is — he is careless and callous.

Dr. Solomona never apologized to our family. He never took the pains to talk to any of the leaders of the families that he berated and demeaned when he said "o ai sou aiga lou maile" to Simeonica. We are her families. We are here and we are hurt. We are waiting upon le tofa mamao of the Senators to make the right decision and not confirm Dr. Solomona for this position.

Confirming Dr. Solomona is confirming that is OK to for people in power to speak to our children the way Dr. Solomona has spoken to Simeonica. We are allowing people in positions of power to treat our children like animals in the

workplace and attack our children because of their sexuality.

We are saying it is OK for anyone in power to say to our children "o ai sou aiga lou maile!!" Confirming Dr. Solomona is telling our children that people can speak to them however they like, and there will not be any consequences.

This is about doing what is right. This is about setting the tone for how people in power can talk to their employees. It doesn't have to be Director or Deputy; it can be a supervisor that can abuse their power and make our children feel unsafe in the work place. Today it is about a fa'afafine. Tomorrow, we may have a male supervisor telling our daughters to remove their clothes. But it doesn't have to be that way.

You can stop it, by not confirming Dr. Solomona and sending a message to people in positions of power that they cannot degrade our children in the workplace or treat them like animals.

Thank you,

Agnes Nikolao Pula-Letuligasenoa

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This open letter to the Senators was distributed in the Senate yesterday, prior to the confirmation hearing of Dr. Taeaofua Meki Solomona for Director of the Department of Human and Social Services.

Mrs. Agnes Nikolao Pula-Letuligasenoa is Simeonica Tuiteleleapaga's aunt, and in her letter she expresses her deep disappointment with the re-appointment of Taeaofua due to the statements he made concerning her niece's sexual orientation, as well as her family affiliations, during a DHSS staff meeting last year. These remarks were recorded, and the recording has been available on social sites, since November last year.

Mrs. Pula-Letuligasenoa told Samoa News that she tried to get the senators to listen to the recording on the floor, yesterday, but it was not allowed; and last week, during the House confirmation hearing, she tried to deliver her letter, but the House refused to accept it.

A similar letter, written by Simeonica's uncle, Nikolao Iuli Pula Jr., was distributed to the Senate over the weekend, and was the subject of discussion during Taeaofua's confirmation hearing.

However during the confirmation hearing, Senate President, Gaoteote Tofau Palaie told his colleagues that the work of the Senate is not based on letters and other writings, and a senator's decision should be based on the qualification and experience of a director-nominee. (See stories in today's issue on the confirmation and Pulu's letter to the senate president)

Taeaofua was fully confirmed yesterday, in a 15-3 vote Senate vote, while the House gave its endorsement early last week.

Samoa News notes that Tuiteleleapaga, a transgender woman who has worked for many years at DHSS, has filed a sex discrimination complaint against ASG and Taeaofua with the US Labor Department — Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. ASG asked the US EEOC to dismiss the complaint, and let it be resolved locally, however the federal agency refused, saying Ms. Tuiteleleapaga has chosen to go forward with her complaint, and the federal agency notified the local government that an investigation has been launched into the incident.

It should also be noted that the DHSS is fully funded by federal grants, and the consequences — if any — of Taeaofua taking its helm while under a federal Labor department sex discrimination investigation is unknown at this time. ra)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Status of US national children born of foreign parents in the territory raised in Fono

AG SAYS MORE RESEARCH NEEDED, IT INVOLVES FEDERAL LAW, NOT LOCAL LAW

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale says more research is needed on the issue of a child born in American Samoa to a foreigner residing in the territory, taking the nationality of the child's parents, and not that of a US national.

Federal law considers persons born in American Samoa as US Nationals and with the influx of foreigners to the territory, especially Asians, lawmakers over the last two decades have raised the issue with government officials.

They have argued that children born here to parents from foreign countries, would in the future control American Samoa's land, take seats in the Fono, and even the governorship post, as they would be US nationals.

And during a recent Senate committee hearing, senators shared with the Attorney General that some countries have laws in place where a child born to a foreign parent is considered a citizen of the parents' country and not the country in which the child was born.

Sen. Tuiagamoia Tavai brought

up the issue with the AG, to which Talauega said he has thought about the same issue because it can also prevent the influx of foreigners to American Samoa.

However, he said this issue needs thorough research and noted that the Fono now has one of the best legal counsels - referring to former deputy attorney general Mitzie Jessop-Ta'ase, who is assigned to the Senate, who can conduct the research work for the Fono.

Talauega said Jessop-Ta'ase is a hard working legal counsel and very familiar with these types of issues and a bill to make such changes could start from the Senate. However, the 49-year-old AG reminded senators that the only difficulty in this matter is that it involves federal law.

Senators pointed to the many Asians, especially Chinese, in the territory operating businesses, with Sen. Fai'ivae A. Godinet saying that Samoans are sweeping the floor in these businesses while Asians are giving orders and operating the businesses.

Sen. Tualaolo Manaia Fruean said he witnessed on a KVZK-

TV program that there are so many Chinese on island, during a celebration of the Chinese New Year in the territory. He asked as to why there are so many Chinese and other Asians here.

Talauega responded that the influx of foreigners to the territory didn't happen yesterday or in the first four years of the Lolo Administration. He said the problem goes back years and it's American Samoans who brought Asians here to set up stores and

other businesses.

He said the law is clear on the number of Chinese allowed into the territory per quota, which is 5 a year, but over the years, the law was not followed and it will take time to address this issue.

With the influx of Chinese and other Asians to the territory, and their children born in the territory, Tualaolo says that he is concerned with the future of American Samoa and that the Senate would end up having a "Senator

Ho or a Senator Hin" occupying senatorial seats reserved for local Samoan traditional leaders.

"Fix this problem," said Tualaolo, to which Talauega called on all American Samoans to work together in order to address this long-standing issue.

And this issue of influx of Asians to the territory and operating local businesses is expected to come up again in the Fono during the next four-years of the Lolo Administration.

Concerns over Taeaofua's...

Continued from page 1

Taeaofua "singled out a few employees; including Simeonica Tuiteleapaga... in front of approximately 200 supervisors and staff and told her to "get out," and that [she] was fired."

He pointed to a Letter to the Editor titled "Inalienable Rights" published in the Nov. 17 Samoa News edition, that partially describes the incident. Additionally, those who have listened to it have posted the recording of what transpired at the Nov. 9 meeting."

Pula asked Senate members to listen to that recording to better understand why he is bringing this matter to their attention.

"It begs the question as to whether or not such a nominee should be rewarded for his actions by being nominated again for a high-level cabinet position or whether he should be held accountable for his actions?" he asked.

He also made clear that he was "not directing the Senate on how they should vote nor am I asking them to not confirm [Taeaofua]."

"In a scripture we read that where much is given, much is required," Pula wrote. "As a leader and a manager, I expected more from the DHSS director, than the hostile idiosyncratic visceral venting that I heard on the tape."

Pula also informed Gaoteote that this is an important issue on many fronts — "sufficiently so to me that I spoke to the governor's special assistant about it soon after the nomination announcement, and eventually with the governor himself last week."

He said he expressed to the governor his concerns, including his disappointment regarding the decision to nominate Taeaofua again. He shared the following questions he raised with the governor:

- What message does the ASG leadership want to send to our citizenry, our youth and the public on this matter?
- Is it permissible for a department director or supervisor in the ASG to verbally abuse, demean and embarrass an employee and not be held accountable?
- Is he allowed to violate an employee's civil rights or attempt to dehumanize an individual because of gender preference?

"Regardless of one's relation to this staff, government employees — our people — should never be subjected to this type of treatment or behavior," Pula said. "This is an important issue to address because it affects all levels of our community."

"It touches on our basic respect and civility for individuals, family and plain common sense in the way we should govern," he concluded.

The Governor's Office press officer didn't immediately respond to Samoa News requests for confirmation that Pula spoke with the governor and about the governor's reaction to Pula's concerns.

Let Samoa News know what you think about this confirmation. Go to samoa-news.com and cast your vote in our latest poll.



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On Saturday, February 11, the local Auxiliary flotilla teamed up with friends and neighbors at Coconut Point and collected trash and debris from the mangrove swamp bordering Pala Lagoon. About a half a ton of trash was collected between noon and 3p.m. by a dozen volunteers. [Courtesy photo]

Local Auxiliary contributes to Island Wide Cleanup

On Saturday, February 11, the local Auxiliary flotilla teamed up with friends and neighbors at Coconut Point and collected trash and debris from the mangrove swamp bordering Pala Lagoon. About a half a ton of trash was collected between noon and 3p.m. by a dozen volunteers. It was hot and muddy but very rewarding to be a part of the island wide cleanup effort. The Pala Lagoon is a local treasure that should be cleaned and kept polished.

According to Louis Solaita, the flotilla commander, this is the first in a series of attacks on the lagoon litter problem. The overall mission is to clean up the whole peninsula. When combined with ongoing efforts by ASPA and NPS, this could clean up the whole perimeter of the lagoon.

One of the volunteers commented that they wish they could get useful metal to last as long as some of the junk found buried in the mud. The rope pictured above offered a

couple of the guys a real tug of war contest – which had to be ended with a saw!

Saturday's effort was part of the flotilla's coast watch program. One Saturday a month is designated as coast watch day and members of the auxiliary survey a section of Tutuila's coastline and report any environmental or navigation issues.

The Auxiliary is focused on boating safety but also participates in vessel inspection and pollution detection efforts by the USCG. Membership inquiries should be directed to the Human Resources Officer Josie Lealasola at malepeai@gmail.com.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all its service missions. Congress created the Auxiliary in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

(Source: United States Coast Guard Auxiliary)

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Session 3: 12:30PM - 2:30PM go to <http://bit.ly/freecpr3>

Session 4: 2:30PM - 4:30PM go to <http://bit.ly/freecpr4>

Special thanks to the Department of Commerce, and the Community Development Block Grant for partnering with us to help make these sessions possible.

If you want to learn how you can help with this effort, please call Louisa at 258-4888.





Dylan Moye rides his bike past Donald Trump protesters gathered in downtown West Palm Beach, Fla., as the president and his wife, Melania, attend the 60th annual Red Cross Ball at Mar-a-Lago on Saturday Feb. 4, 2017. (Michael Ares/The Palm Beach Post via AP)

Trump's south Florida estate raises ethics questions

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump's south Florida estate is no longer just the place where he goes to escape.

He has described the sprawling Mar-a-Lago property as the Winter White House and has spent two weekends there so far this month. But it's also become a magnet for anti-Trump protesters and the subject of an ethics debate over his invitation to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to join him this weekend — with Trump pledging to pay for the accommodations.

Demonstrators chose the estate site as a venue for protesting Trump's decision approving construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The North Dakota project, opposed by a Native American tribe fearful of water contamination from potential oil leaks, had stalled in Democrat Barack Obama's administration. Trump's executive order cleared the way for the developer to start building the final stretch of pipeline.

During Trump's other weekend in Florida, several thousand people marched near the property to protest his temporary ban on travel to the United States by refugees as well as citizens of seven mostly Muslim countries. A federal appeals court has upheld a lower court's decision that temporarily blocks the ban's enforcement.

Trump's election is also putting charitable organizations, such as the American Red Cross, in an awkward position for choosing Mar-a-Lago for events booked months in advance. The Red Cross held its annual fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago, as it has done for many years, on Feb. 4, about a week after Trump enacted the travel ban. Trump and his wife, Melania, attended.

"What an honor, what a great honor it is. And let's go to Florida," Trump told Abe on Friday at a White House news conference shortly before

they boarded Air Force One for the trip.

The two world leaders and their wives headed straight to Mar-a-Lago, where they enjoyed a late dinner at the crowded patio restaurant. Joining them under a white-and-yellow striped canopy were Robert Kraft, the owner of the Super Bowl-winning New England Patriots, and several interpreters. Paying members and their guests took in the scene and mingled with Trump and Abe into the night.

On Saturday, Trump and Abe paid visits to two of Trump's golf courses in nearby Jupiter and West Palm Beach, before a more formal delegation dinner at Mar-a-Lago.

World leaders typically exchange gifts, and Trump and Abe did so when Abe rushed to New York City in November to become the first foreign leader to meet with Trump after the election. Abe gave Trump a pricey, gold-colored Honma golf driver; Trump reciprocated with a golf shirt and other golf accessories.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said that Abe's free-of-charge stay at Mar-a-Lago is Trump's gift to Abe this time around. But the gesture wasn't sitting well with government watchdog groups.

Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, said Trump and Abe don't need to meet at Trump's commercial property, where the membership fee recently was doubled to \$200,000.

"Hosting a foreign leader at the president's business resort creates impossible sets of conflicts," Weissman said. "If the president hadn't offered to pay, the U.S. government would be paying Donald Trump's business for the purpose of hosting the Japanese leader." Typically, the U.S. government would pick up the costs associated with such a visit.

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Polynesia	483	TBA	03/09	03/11	03/21	03/27	03/28	03/28
Cap Taputapu	028	TBA	02/25	02/27	03/07	---	03/12	03/12
Polynesia	484	TBA	04/10	04/12	04/22	04/27	04/29	04/29

		SOUTHBOUND ARRIVAL				
VESSEL	VOY	PPT	N/ALOFA	APIA	PAGO	
Polynesia	482	02/18	02/23	02/24	02/24	
Cap Taputapu	027	03/06	---	03/11	03/11	
Polynesia	483	03/21	03/27	03/28	03/28	
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On Saturday, February 11, the local Auxiliary flotilla teamed up with friends and neighbors at Coconut Point and collected trash and debris from the mangrove swamp bordering Pala Lagoon. Part of the effort included a real tug of war contest - which had to be ended with a saw!
 [Courtesy photo]

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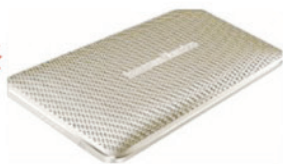
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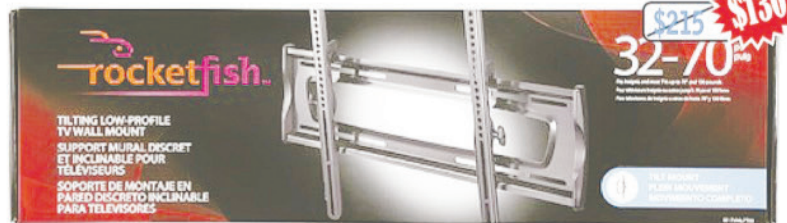
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2:00pm *Church Service*
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"There will be NO FA'ASAMOA, Fa'afetai"



Pacific Horizons High School is now a JROTC Magnet School to Kanana Fou High School



Last week's JROTC promotion ceremony at Kanana Fou, where LTC (Ret) Mapu Jamais announced that Pacific Horizons High School is now officially a JROTC magnet school to Kanana Fou High School's JROTC program. [Courtesy photo]

THE FIRST MAGNET SCHOOL FOR A JROTC PROGRAM IN THE TERRITORY

(PRESS RELEASE) — Kanana Fou High School and Pacific Horizons High School are proud to announce that Pacific Horizons High School is now officially a JROTC magnet school to Kanana Fou High School's JROTC program.

Director of Army Instruction LTC (Ret) Mapu Jamais announced this agreement at last week's promotion ceremony.

Jamais explained that magnet ROTC programs are common on the US Mainland between larger and smaller universities and that he was happy to support this same type of arrangement for JROTC here in American Samoa. This is the first time a magnet school has been established for a JROTC program here in the territory.

Jamias described the agreement as logical given the proximity of the schools and as a win-win agreement for both neighboring schools.

Principal Tuiolosega would like to formally thank LTC Jamais, Senior Army Instructor SFC (Ret) Ala, Army Instructor SFC (Ret) Time, and Kanana Fou High School's Principal Tufele.

"Since our first outreach to Kanana Fou, we have been received warmly. I thank Principal Tufele for her cooperative spirit and for SFC Ala and SFC Time for working through the details with Pacific Horizons to make this agreement a reality. Thank you, Kanana Fou, for opening your doors to our students in the effort to help them grow as citizens."

(Source: Press Release from Pacific Horizons High School)



Senior Army Instructor SFC (Ret) Ala and Principal Tuiolosega of Pacific Horizons School after the JROTC promotion ceremony at Kanana Fou, where LTC (Ret) Mapu Jamais announced that Pacific Horizons High School is now officially a JROTC magnet school to Kanana Fou High School's JROTC program. [Courtesy photo]



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Department of EDUCATION



Embattled national security adviser's fate uncertain

WASHINGTON (AP) — Embattled national security adviser Michael Flynn's fate as one of President Donald Trump's senior aides is uncertain following reports that he discussed U.S. sanctions with a Russian envoy before Trump's inauguration.

A top White House official sidestepped repeated chances Sunday to publicly defend him. The president, who spent the weekend at his private club in Florida, has yet to comment on Flynn's status. Nor has Vice President Mike Pence, who previously denied that Flynn had discussed sanctions with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Pence and Flynn spoke twice on Friday, according to an administration official.

Trump has told associates he is troubled by the situation, but he has not said whether he plans to ask Flynn to step down, according to a person who spoke with him recently. Flynn was a loyal Trump supporter during the campaign, but he is viewed skeptically by some in the administration's national security circles, in part because of his ties to Russia.

The administration official and both people with ties to Trump spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Stephen Miller, Trump's top policy adviser, skirted the issue on several Sunday news shows, saying it was not his place to weigh in on the "sensitive matter" or to say whether the president retains confidence in Flynn.

Several other White House officials did not respond Sunday to questions about whether Trump had confidence in his national security adviser. Their silence appeared to reflect some uncertainty about the views of the president, who is known to quickly change his mind.

On Friday, The Washington Post reported that Flynn addressed sanctions against

Russia in a call with Kislyak. The report contradicted repeated denials from Trump officials, including Pence, who vouched for Flynn in a televised interview.

Flynn has since told administration officials that sanctions may have come up in the calls, which coincided with the Obama administration slapping penalties on Russia for election-related hacking.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who led Trump's transition planning before the election, said Flynn would have to explain his conflicting statements about his conversations with Kislyak to Trump and Pence.

"Gen. Flynn has said up to this point that he had not said anything like that to the Russian ambassador. I think now he's saying that he doesn't remember whether he did or not," Christie said on CNN. "So, that's a conversation he is going to need to have with the president and the vice president to clear that up, so that the White House can make sure that they are completely accurate about what went on."

The controversy surrounding Flynn comes as the young administration grapples with a series of national security challenges, including North Korea's reported ballistic missile launch. The president, who was joined at his Mar-a-Lago estate by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over the weekend, voiced solidarity with Japan.

Trump meets Monday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and later in the week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The White House is also dealing with fallout from the rocky rollout of Trump's immigration executive order, which has been blocked by the courts. The order was intended to suspend the nation's refugee program and bar citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S.



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Due Date and Time: February 24, 2017

Date of Issuance: January 30, 2017

No Later than 2:00p.m. Local Time

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) and funded under Title III College Accelerated Preparatory Program (CAPP) issues an Invitation for Bids (IFB) from qualified and licensed firms to provide the following:

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 Attn: Jessie Su'esu'e, Procurement Officer

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

DOCUMENTS:

The IFB complete package detailing requirements is available at the ASCC Procurement Office, Mapusaga Campus during normal working hours and may also be obtained by emailing j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

RIGHT OF REJECTION:

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bid proposals that are not in the best interest of the college or the public.

Approved for Issuance by;
Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato
 President, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)



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DHSS Dir ...

Continued from page 1

Alo said he heard that there would be a court case in Honolulu between Taeaofua and the individual involved in the incident. He recommended to Taeaofua to show his love to all employees as well as the community and government.

During the 90-minute confirmation hearing, the Senate gallery was packed with DHSS employees, friends and family members of Taeaofua, who along with several family members remained in the gallery throughout the Senate session. Several people even sat on the stairways and on the floor during the confirmation hearing because all chairs were taken.

Sen. Tualo Manaia Fruean noted that since day one of Senate confirmation hearings and up to yesterday, the gallery is packed with supporters of director-nominees. He pointed to Taeaofua's opening statement, that he along with other directors-appointees, who come before the Senate, are sons and daughters of American Samoa.

As of last Friday, said Tualo, the Senate has yet to reject any cabinet appointment because this shows the love of a father — and the Senate is the chamber of the fathers of the territory. And if the Senate rejects those who appear before senators, that means, "we are rejecting" sons and daughters of American Samoa, who were trusted by the governor to serve the government.

Tualo reminded the committee that no one is right all the time and people make mistakes. As to the incident mentioned in the hearing, Tualo said to leave the issue aside



Following his confirmation hearing at the Senate, Department of Human and Social Service director Taeaofua Dr. Meki Solomona (right) is seen shaking hands with Sen. Magalei Logovi'i, yesterday, on the Senate floor. [photo: FS]

and for the Senate to move forward in making its decision.

Sen. Tuiagamoia Tavai appeared to lay the blame on the DHSS employee, for the cause of the incident, which prompted the letter and the media reports. He publicly accused the employee of showing no respect towards Taeaofua.

He claimed that the letter, given to senators, is trying to prevent Taeaofua from getting confirmed as director. He said the letter was delivered by a woman, who he scolded and was told that if he (Tuiagamoia) was the director, he would have made the decision long time ago to fire the employee (Tuiteleleapaga) — who showed disrespect towards the director.

What is very bad about this issue, it appears that the information is coming from only one side, he said, adding that he believes that this was a set up so that Taeaofua would get a negative mark on his job.

He said it appears that the tape recording only recorded Taeaofua's comments, but nothing about

what the employee said to the DHSS director. He again claimed it was planned, a set up.

Tuiagamoia said he feels sorry for Taeaofua that during the Nov. 9th meeting full of staff and when Taeaofua spoke, the employee talked back (gutu oso). He again said that the employee showed disrespect by responding back, and talking back, to Taeaofua who is the director, not another employee.

With the employee talking back, a director would be ashamed in a room full of employees, Tuiagamoia said, and again accused the employee — who is from Leone village — for being very disrespectful — "le mafaufau" — the Samoan phrase Tuiagamoia used at least four times in describing the employee.

He told Taeaofua that he is the director (o le pule) and as the boss, makes the decisions. "It's absolutely upon your discretion to make final decision," Tuiagamoia said and again called the employee "le mafaufau" for talking-back to the director, who is the boss.

Tuiagamoia went on to claim that the employee had tried to shame Taeaofua in front of the DHSS staff and he feels for Taeaofua.

He claims that there is no difference between this incident and the Fa'aSamoa, in which when the matai meets with the extended family and the matai speaks and a family member talks back, the matai would be very unhappy. Tuiagamoia thanked Taeaofua for his patience.

As to Taeaofua's comments that were recorded and reported by the media, Tuiagamoia believes such statements were made out of anger and displeasure over the employee in question.

And this is the nature of human beings, when they are angry, things are said that the person didn't think about saying, according to Tuiagamoia, who claimed that Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga knows about this incident but re-appointed Taeaofua for the same post, because of the governor's trust in the director-nominee.

Tuiagamoia said that Taeaofua

didn't quickly act "to terminate" or transfer the employee to another department, for the betterment of the government. He said that if these types of incidents were accepted, it would happen again in the future — that is when the director says something, employees respond or talk back.

In his nearly 8-minute statement, Tuiagamoia again used the Fa'aSamoa, which he says is respect, fa'aaloalo, and employees should show respect to the boss, the director. Most of the senators who spoke during the hearing all acknowledged that they had received the letter in question and noted that they will ignore it.

Gaoteote says there are rules in place to conduct business in the Senate and senators who have received the letter can read it, but not to base their decision on such writings. However, when it comes to the work of the Senate such writings — referring to the letter — cannot be presented before the chamber, without authorization from the Senate leadership or the committee chair. He encouraged senators to ask questions to the director-nominee.

Sen. Taua'a Saunoua Vaouli said he has known Taeaofua for a long time and he was surprised with what was reported on what the director-appointee allegedly stated at the Nov. 9th meeting. He asked if there is audio recordings so that senators would all have a chance to hear it, noting that according to Taeaofua there's two sides of a story.

With no specific reaction from any of the senators, Gaoteote advised senators, "Today is not a judgment day" to hand down sentencing, but instead it's the day to question the nominee's qualification and experience, and his work in the past four years.



AMERICAN SAMOA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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LUNCH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Grain Meat Fruit /Veggie Milk Extra Condiments	+Hot Dog Wrap Mixed Fruit Steamed Broccoli 1% Low Fat Milk	Homemade Pizza Pepperoni Slice Ripe Banana Cucumber Salad 1% Low Fat Milk Chocolate Chip Cookies	Brown & White Rice Fish Nuggets Papaya Green Beans 1% Low Fat Milk Tartar Sauce	Mashed Potato Chicken Veg Stir Fry Ripe Banana Green Banana 1% Low Fat Milk	Brown & White Rice Boneless Slice Ham w/ Gravy Papaya Sweet Potato 1% Low Fat Milk



President Donald Trump speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017. The Trump administration imposed sanctions on 13 people and a dozen companies in response to Iran's recent ballistic missile test, increasing the pressure on Tehran without directly undercutting a landmark nuclear deal with the country. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Trump yet to call UN atomic chief on Iran deal

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The head of the United Nations' atomic agency said Tuesday the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has yet to be in touch with him or others about their criticism of the Iran nuclear deal.

Yukiya Amano, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press that his organization was "in constant touch" with the U.S., but had yet to hear from the new administration on their concerns.

"I'm expecting to have direct contact with the new administration very soon," Amano said.

Trump has signaled he wants to take a harder line on Iran than his predecessor Barack Obama, for whom the deal reached between Iran and world powers was a major foreign policy achievement.

Trump included Iran in his travel ban affecting seven Muslim-majority countries. During his campaign, Trump said he wanted to renegotiate the Iran deal, without elaborating.

The White House could not be immediately reached for comment.

Amano said the Iranian government also had yet to reach out on Trump's comments, though it remained in touch with U.N. atomic officials. He mentioned his trip in December to Tehran, in which he met President Hassan Rouhani and others.

"Why not meet again in the near future?" he added.

In response to the U.S. Congress extending some sanctions on Iran, the country announced in December it would draw up plans to build nuclear-powered ships. The nuclear deal allows Iran to conduct peaceful atomic research.

Iran's mission to the U.N. did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

The accord limits Iran's ability to enrich uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Western powers struck the deal in order to deny Iran the ability to quickly develop nuclear weapons. Iran insists it has never sought nuclear arms.

Amano, in Dubai as part of the annual World Government Summit, said Iran had yet to be in touch with him or any of his officials about their own concerns over the posture of Trump's administration.

Amano said the deal has held up despite a "number of events," like Iran slightly exceeding its heavy water allotment. "We have been monitoring," Amano said. "When there's a certain indication, we can detect it immediately."

Heavy water is a concern because it is used to cool reactors that can produce substantial amounts of plutonium, which can be used in the core of nuclear warheads.

In November, the AP obtained a confidential U.N. report showing Iran had slightly exceeded its heavy water allotment of 130 metric tons (143.3 tons) by 100 kilograms (220 pounds). Iran later transferred some of its excess heavy water in a sale to Oman, the sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula that has served as a go-between for Iran and the U.S.

On Tuesday, Amano stressed that Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium remained below the level required of the nuclear accord.

"The IAEA is functioning as the eyes and ears of the international community," Amano said.



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Department of Health Early Intervention Program "Helping Hands" would like to inform the public that the Annual State Application under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 is available for public comment for a period of 60 days.

A copy of the document is available to review at the DOH Helping Hands Office in Fagaima and is also available for review on the Helping Hands Early Intervention Program website www.helpinghands-as.org.

Please call the DOH Helping Hands office at 699-4990 if you have any questions regarding this public notice.

Signed,

Ruth Te'o, DOH Part C Coordinator



AMERICAN SAMOA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (One Year Contract with Benefits)

General Description:

The Health Communications Research Assistant position offers an excellent opportunity for a college graduate interested in working closely with a professional Social Science researcher and filmmaker to gain valuable experience contributing to the design, implementation and scientific evaluation of evidence-based, theory-informed, and culturally appropriate health communication media based interventions for American Samoa that will contribute to making a healthier community. The position reports directly to the Health Communications and Media Research (HCRM) Program Researcher. The successful applicant will assist the HCRM Researcher in implementing, managing and analyzing two HCRM health communication and research projects over a nine month period. One project, a partnership with LBJ hospital and several university-based researchers, involves the production, showing and evaluation of a video in the prenatal clinic to increase knowledge among pregnant women about gestational diabetes and the need to get properly screened. The second project, which is in partnership with the AS-WIC program, will test the effectiveness of a special health promotion placemat and film on "at risk" 2-5 year olds to increase healthier behaviors.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Work closely on a daily basis the HCRM Researcher with HCRM partners through all phases of project design, implementation and evaluation.
- Assist on pre-production, production and post-production tasks of the video production, from scripting to editing.
- Assist in the preparation of survey instrument questionnaires, including translations and other related items.
- Under the supervision of the supervisor, manage the conducting of surveys and interviews at intervention sites, and the collection, management and entering, checking and preparation of data.
- Perform other relevant duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in communications or a media-related field, public health, or social science related field.
- Two (2) years of experience in community-based research working with human subjects, and/or one year working in community-based social science research and one (1) year working in media production (film, newspaper, radio, social marketing or social media).
- Strongly prefer Samoan-English fluency (both oral and written), and translation abilities.
- Valid American Samoa driver's license

Salary: Salary will be commensurate with degree and experience.

Application Deadline: February 17, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Lipena Samuolu at l.samuolu@amsamoa.edu, Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Report any landslides, flooding or other emergencies that need assistance to the EOC at 699-3800 or call 911.

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Message from ASDHS – TEMCO
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www.facebook.com/pages/American-Samoa-Department-of-Homeland-Security



In this Friday, Feb. 3, 2017 photo, a supporter of India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), his head shaved in the lotus symbol of the party, holds a mace and stands in support of a candidate filing his nominations for state elections, in Allahabad, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. In 2014, the BJP had won an overwhelming 71 out of 80 parliamentary seats in Uttar Pradesh, or 15 percent of all national legislators in the powerful lower house, ensuring that it emerged as the single largest party in Parliament. But prime minister Narendra Modi now faces a tough fight in Uttar Pradesh (UP), with the state's current top official, Akhilesh Yadav, in a political alliance with the Congress Party led by Rahul Gandhi, scion of the Nehru-Gandhi family that ruled India for decades. While elections in five states, including UP, will not decide whether Modi remains in office, a loss would be seen as a serious blow to his political image. (AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh)

Graft conviction keeps south Indian politician out of office

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's top court on Tuesday upheld the corruption conviction of the head of the ruling party in Tamil Nadu state, ending her chances of becoming the southern state's next chief minister.

The Supreme Court set aside a lower court order that had cleared Sasikala Natarajan of corruption charges.

India's politics are often dominated by outsized personalities and their friends and relatives, creating an environment where corruption is endemic.

Sasikala was the personal assistant to Jayaram Jayalalitha, a former movie star who became Tamil Nadu's top politician, or chief minister. Jayalalitha died in office in December triggering a succession battle within her AIADMK party.

Jayalalitha inspired intense loyalty among her political supporters who called her "Mother." Some of that charisma rubbed off on Sasikala, who was hailed as "Little Mother."

The corruption case, filed in 1996, accused Jayalalitha, Sasikala and two of Sasikala's kin of possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. It was moved to neighboring Karnataka state due to fairness concerns, and the defendants were found guilty in 2014, but nine months later, were acquitted by the Karnataka high court following an appeal. That decision was challenged in the Supreme Court.

Jayalalitha died before the top court could give its decision, but on Tuesday, the judges ordered Sasikala and the two remaining co-defendants to complete their four-year jail terms.

The conviction means Sasikala is barred from contesting an election for six years after completing her jail sentence, thus removing her from the political scene for the next 10 years.

The ruling ends one more scene in the high drama that has engulfed Tamil Nadu since Jayalalitha's death, with Sasikala and the acting chief minister O. Paneerselvam jockeying for the top job.

Although Sasikala had no administrative experience, she wielded enormous power due to her proximity to Jayalalitha. Last week, the AIADMK party announced that she would be the next chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Sasikala tried to influence the battle for the top job by isolating nearly 120 lawmakers in a beach resort about 80 kilometers (50 miles) away from the state capital, Chennai.

Paneerselvam, who had resigned as acting chief minister, told the media that he had been forced to resign under duress. He appealed to lawmakers in Sasikala's custody to join him to carry forward the ideals of Jayalalitha, whose death had thrown the party and the state into a political crisis.

In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS

FDA/JG No. 17-16

IN RE: A CHILD.

NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: Ms. Merita Tuavale
Iliili Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondent that a petition has been filed before the High court of American Samoa to appoint a Legal Guardian for your male child born on November 29, 2008, at LBJ Medical Center, Fagaalu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the court may enter an order appointing a Guardian for your child. If you have any objection, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA ATU ia te oe o loo ta'ua lou suafa i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Faamasinoga Maua luga o Amerika Samoa, ina ia tofia aloaia mai se tasi e vaavaaia, fa'aaoga ma faia sou alo na faapea sa fanau i le aso 29 o Novela, 2008 i le Falemai i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. Afai e te tete'e i lenei talosaga, e tatau ona e failaina se talosaga tete'e i le Fa'amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulua'i faaslalaua o lenei mataupu.

DATE/ASO: November 16, 2016

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 02/14 & 03/16



JUDICIAL BRANCH DISTRICT COURT OF AMERICAN SAMOA

ANNOUNCEMENT POSITION VACANCIES

The Judicial Branch of the American Samoa Government announces the following vacancies in the High Court and District Court of American Samoa.

COURT TRANSLATOR/DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER (1 Vacancy)

Act as an assistant or deputy to the Chief Translator/Probation Officer in all work relating to providing language translation services of English and Samoan. Candidate must demonstrate verbal and written proficiency in both English and Samoan languages. Candidate must demonstrate a knowledge of the judicial system and court proceedings/practices. Probation Officer duties include being able to take an oath of office to enforce the orders of the court and those as described by American Samoa statute or regulation. Applicant must have a Bachelor's Degree in social work from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years work experience in probation work or a related field may be used to off-set the academic requirements. Must have a valid's driver's license. Salary range beings at \$22,700 and may be adjusted based on qualifications.

DEPUTY MARSHALL/PROCESS SERVER (1 Vacancy)

Assists the Marshal of the Court to execute, serve and return all writs, warrants, summonses, orders and other processes and notices directed by the courts; act as bailiff in courtrooms, act as security officer for employees and all property of the Judicial Branch. Perform any other functions of the Judiciary Branch. Applicants must have a minimum AA degree, but a Bachelors Degree is preferred, in the related criminal justice field, plus four years of work experience. Documented proof of progressive advancement and increasing responsibilities in work experience may count toward offsetting academic requirements. Must have a valid driver's license. Salary range begins at \$16,000 and may be adjusted based on qualifications.

Applications for this position vacancy are available at the Clerk's Window at the High Court of American Samoa. All applications must be returned to the Administrator at the High Court building by no later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2017. Contact Enele Seumanutafa at 633-1261 or 633-1150 for more information.

SA'AFIAFIGA MO LE

AFIOGA LUALEMAGA E. FAOA

TAMA AITU MA TAGATA

Aso Soifua: Oketopa 05, 1946

Aso Maliu: Fepuali 07, 2017



“Auē, ua maliliu Toa, ua maumau ai aupega o le taua.”

Taoto ia i puega ou paia matofa Samoa. O ou vavau e le liua, e le toe suia fō'i se alafua. E afua mai i le Matasaua i le vai lu'ulu'u o le Tupu, se ia paia le oneone sisina o Nafanua.

Tulouna le la'au na amotasi e Samoa. Afioa i Fa'atui ma le fetalaiga i To'oTo'o ma upu i le Manu'atele. Sua ma Vaifanua, Fofō ma Aitulagi, Saole ma le Launiusaelua, ma le Afioa i Ma'opu. Lufilufi ma Leulumoega, Tuisamau, ma Auimatagi, Aiga i le tai ma le va'a o Fonoti ma pule ono i Salafai.

Fa'ausu ia le manu nai le tia, lele fō'i le manu i le va teatea, ae ifo le manu i le tupua ma le la'oai. E le alofi taute o le aiga Sa Lualemagā ua tapati o le a fa'asoa. Talofa ua le nofoia le nofoa o le 'Toa, ua vala'au le Atua, ua malaga i le lagi.

Ua mapu le anava o taua sa i ona aao, le suafa o le Lualemaga sa fa'apale ai e lona aiga, Ua to nei le Tuiga ia Lualemaga Etuati Faoa, ua malaga i le lagi, ua maliu. Talofa e.

Ua motu le uria a Tautaiali'i, ua lagia "Tupapa", ua gase le uluselegapepei, Fuesina o Aiga, Fuesina o Nu'u, Fuesina o Itumalo, Fuesina o Ekalesia, upu i le malae o vavau ua ifo le tagi ma le uiō.

Ua ooloo ia tagutugutu o la'au, ua popolooa le masina, le tamā o le Itūmalo, Aitulagi ma Leasina, sa tua i ai i lana tofā. Lea la ua tutulu ai nei le la i lagi mauga, talofa Lualemaga ua e manu'a.

O le Kovana o le Falelima i Sisifo, le fa'aaloalo maualuga sa fa'ae'e i ai e lona Falelima e se'i ai. Talofa e, ua talai ofu tau, ona o le fa'amata'u ma le fa'avavau o le tu'ugamau.

Sina e, inā pese ia i le Taiulu, se'i to'amalie ai le tai o aiga loto mafatia, loto fa'anoanoa.

Aiga e - Paolo ma Gafa, Uō ma e Masani, tatou malilie ia, O le finagalo lava o le Atua.

POLOKALAMA

Aso Sa - Fepuali 19, 2017

2:00pm - Sauniga a le Aiga i le Fale Laumei

Aso Lulu - Fepuali 22, 2017

9:00am - Tu'ua le maota gasegase momoli atu lona tino i le Ekalesia Ierusalem Fou i A'asu mo lona Sauniga.

Aso Tofi - Fepuali 23, 2017

10:00am - O ona toe Sauniga i le Maota I Tupapa

Faafetai,

Manefaiga Faoa, Tausiali'i Jessie Lualemaga Faoa, Ma le Aiga.

