

Average ASG payroll every two weeks is about \$4Mil

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Don't expect big spending by Seahawks on offensive line

Sports

Fesiligia Sunia le taofia o tagata toese e aunoa ma ni moliaga e faila

Le Lali

Samoana HS wide receiver Ralph Manuma Taufaaasau (second from right) with his parents Jane and Wally, brother Edward, and sisters Genesis, Esther, and Megan. Ralph is the next hot thing in college football recruiting, with coaches from UH and WSU expressing strong interest in the Pago Pago native. See story below for details.

[Courtesy photo]



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# UH and WSU express strong interest in Samoana HS wide receiver Taufaaasau

by Blue Chen-Fruean  
Samoa News Correspondent

This month will be a busy one for 17-year-old Ralph Manuma Taufaaasau. Having recently returned to the territory this past Monday night after representing American Samoa in the JPS Classic in the Aloha State, the Samoana High School senior will be heading out to the University of Hawaii (UH) this Friday to take a tour of the campus, before flying out to the Pacific Northwest to peep the scene at Washington State University (WSU).

Whether he will be a Rainbow Warrior or a Cougar — is yet to be decided.

“He’s just a very humble kid,” said Ralph’s father Wallace Taufaaasau yesterday in response to Samoa News inquiries. “Very shy and timid.”

Those who know that 6-foot-4 gentle giant from Pago Pago describe him as a kind-hearted person that does what he is told.

Ever since he was six years old and attending Uifaatali Peter Coleman Elementary School in Pago Pago, Ralph has always had a love for football.

And why shouldn’t he? After all, he comes from a long line of football players and avid fans of the game.

His father Wally played for the Marist Crusaders back in the late 1980s. Every year during that time, there was always a new player sporting a Taufaaasau jersey for the blue and yellow.

Wally and all his brothers were part of the Crusaders squad, back when the Catholic school was an all-boys institution based in Malaeloa, and when they were actually a force to be reckoned with on the football field.

The Taufaaasau brothers — Milton, Vincent, Wally, Ronald, and Ralph — all attended and graduated from Marist High School, where they all played football, and excelled at it.

(Continued on page 2)

# Shooting incident in Vaitogi over the weekend

by Joyetter Feagaimaali’i-Luamanu  
Samoa News Reporter

The Department of Public Safety is tight lipped about a shooting incident that allegedly occurred in Vaitogi over the weekend, where more than 30 police officers were called in to work from Sunday night all the way until Monday afternoon.

According to police officers, who did not wish to be named for fear of repercussions, there was an incident Saturday evening between the women in the Siaumau family, which allegedly escalated and the men of the family got involved. The police were called Sat-

urday night by the neighbors and two parties were taken into the police station. It’s alleged that the matter was then “settled” and the parties were all released, according to the police officers.

However on Sunday afternoon around 5p.m. gunshots were allegedly heard being fired. According to the police officers, two men from one of the Siaumau households went to their other family home and shot at the house. It’s alleged that several shots were fired at the house and the police were contacted again for assistance by the neighbors.

According to the officers when the call came to the police station about the shooting, all the police officers (on duty/

off duty) from the Criminal Investigation Division, Traffic, Leone and Central were called in to the Tafuna Police Station to respond to this call. Police arrived at the scene and found bullet holes on the house, but they were unsuccessful in their hunt for the weapon or weapons used.

Samoa News was told that police officers were not armed, nor did they wear bulletproof vests — as none were issued.

Samoa News understands the officers went looking for the alleged guns where they suspected they were tossed in an area in Ili’ili, however they did not find anything.

(Continued on page 3)



ASCC Business Department chairperson Mrs. Faofua Faatoafe (left) and College Accelerated Preparatory Program (CAPP) English chairperson Mrs. Elisapeta Faalafi-Jones are seen here with their awards received during the College’s Faculty Achievement Awards Ceremony last week. (See story and more photos inside.)

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



# Tautai o Samoa says alia association made false statements in federal affidavit

WRITES TO GOVERNOR LOLO TO "CLARIFY AND CORRECT FALSE STATEMENTS"

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Tautai o Samoa Longline and Fishing Association president Christinna S. Lutu-Sanchez has written to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga to "clarify and correct false statements" made by local Alia Fisherman Association president Taloloa Howard Dunham in an affidavit filed last month at the federal court in Honolulu.

Dunham's affidavit was included in filings by the Territory of American Samoa, through ASG, in its lawsuit against several US government defendants over the reduction of the Large Vessel Protected Area in waters of American Samoa from 50 to 12 miles.

The affidavit alleges, among other things, that longliner fishing within the 50 miles boundary "creates more com-

petition for our alia fleet." Dunham also claims "we must compete for space to fish." (See Samoa News edition Jan. 5, 2017 for story).

Lutu-Sanchez also included in her four-page letter to the governor the affidavit, which she claims "makes false claims against us" and therefore it's "necessary for us to point out the facts once again."

Lutu-Sanchez, who is one of American Samoa's three members on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, points out that 75% of the longline vessels currently operating, are owned by native American Samoans/ US citizens, while the rest of the vessels are owned by US citizens and residents of American Samoa.

She explained that the US longline fleet operating in the US/ American Samoa exclusive economic zone (EEZ) targets South Pacific albacore, which is a pelagic, highly migratory fish stock and is the sole source of longline-caught US albacore supply, which is required by federal contracts such as tuna for the US Armed Forces and fish for the US school lunch program — both contracts require US fish.

Moreover, the local US longline albacore fleet depends on the local canneries, which have been receiving most if not all of the albacore produced by the longline fleet, and "continues to invest in and support our fleet."

At present, she said, StarKist has provided full funding to complete required independent assessments for the longline fleet to obtain Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, which is "awarded only

to those fishing vessels/fleet(s) that can meet and maintain their high standards of sustainable fishing."

She stressed that Tautai members are boat owners with American Samoa Longline Limited Entry (ASLLE) Permits and with US longliners operating out of American Samoa. Therefore US vessels with ASLLE permits must adhere to all rules and regulations promulgated by the federal government through its many agencies such as the US National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Coast Guard.

Lutu-Sanchez also outlined for the governor some of the regulations the longline fleet have to abide by. For example, vessel-monitoring systems "VMS" which utilizes satellite-based tracking and monitors vessels at all times, whether in point, on fishing grounds or during vessel transit.

Another regulation is NMFS Observer coverage — where an independent observer monitors a vessel's fishing trip and the observer reports on details such as catch, interactions with marine mammals if any, compliance with gear requirements such as length of line etc.

There is also the Marine Mammal Certification Process requirement to certify operators that are trained and educated on all regulations in place to provide protection to identified marine mammals.

In his affidavit, Dunham claims that the alia fleet "must compete at the market with the longliners" and points out that when longliners bring in their catch, all of their "by-catch" floods the market. For example, local restaurants and stores will

buy their catch because it costs less.

"Longliners are able to charge less because they catch much more," he claims. "This competition discourages fisherman by making conditions more difficult and expensive."

However, Lutu-Sanchez informed the governor that more than 95% of the catch delivered by the large longliners goes to the canneries — mainly StarKist Samoa and the balance of the catch is either given to families, villages or friends for consumption or cultural and traditional events. "A tiny percentage of the catch, if any, is sold to local restaurants at premium costs when requested by restaurants due to the unavailability of fresh or frozen fish supply on island," she said.

She also says the notion that there are crowded fishing areas and conflicts between small boats — alia — versus large boats — longliners — "is completely inaccurate and unjustified."

According to Lutu-Sanchez, Tautai members "are in support of all fishermen and we fully support all efforts to develop and promote fishing whether it is for commercial purposes, recreational or subsistence."

Additionally, Tautai members have participated voluntarily in numerous community efforts and panels to promote awareness in environmentally responsible and sustainable fishing practices and to encourage participation by locals in this fishery.

Samoa News will report later this week on other issues covered in Lutu-Sanchez's letter.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MALIA TAVAI of LEONE 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 LEU, allegedly belonging to FAI'IVAE FAMILY of the village of LEONE. Said land LEU is situated in or near the village of LEONE in the County of FOFO, 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: DECEMBER 21, 2016 thru JANUARY 19, 2017  
SIGNED: Taio S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

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

I tagata o le aiga sa FAI'IVAE, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni faaaliga!  
O le faaaliga leni ona o MALIA TAVAI o le nu'u o LEONE ua ia faaulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e faailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, faatuuina i luga o le fanua o LEU e faasino i le aiga sa FAI'IVAE, o le nu'u o LEONE. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o LEONE, itumalo o FOFO, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le faaaliga fo'i e faapea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona faatu'iese ile faamauiina o leni feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana faatu'ese tusitusia. O faatu'iesega uma lava e ao ona faaulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauna mai i le aso na faaalia ai leni faaaliga.

Afa'i ole a leai se faatu'iesega e faaulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a faamauiina loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'aafia ai tagata uma. 01/04 & 01/18/17

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## UH & WSU...

*Continued from page 1*

Now here comes the second generation of Tafaasau kids and things aren't any different. Apparently, Ralph isn't the only one who inherited the football bug.

His older brother Edward also played for the Samoana Sharks and departed the territory after graduation to attend New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) where he graduated this past summer with an associate's degree. Edward has since transferred to Dixie College in Utah where he will continue to play football and pursue his education.

This past week, a newspaper in Hawaii'i reported that Ralph has committed to the University of Hawaii's Rainbow Warriors, but according to Wally, "it's just a verbal commitment."

As with the rest of aspiring football players across the

country, Ralph has until February 1st to make a decision.

National Signing Day is usually the first Wednesday in February, the first day that a high school senior can sign a binding Letter of Intent for college football with a school that is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The event is widely followed by sports fans and the media and Samoa News will be waiting — and watching.

This Friday, Ralph will fly out to Hawaii'i to check out the campus of UH. He returns Monday night and then flies out again next Friday, accompanied by his father, to scope out the WSU campus. Busy weekends and a lot of traveling will be a part of Ralph's schedule for the next two weeks.

It's a whirlwind of activities for the high school senior who is tackling midterm finals this week.

Ralph caught the eye of football coaches after his remark-

able performance in last week's JPS (Jr. Prep Sports) Classic in Honolulu, HI where he was part of Team American Samoa. Although the team lost both games, the exposure for players like Ralph was exactly what the local coaching staff and parents were hoping for: A chance to get our local youth out there to show off their talent and skills on a stage where they can be seen and appreciated.

Ralph's parents are proud of their son's accomplishments but stand firm in keeping him grounded, staying humble, and praying that everything works out.

Ralph is the third child of Wally and Jane Manuma Tafaasau. He has one brother, Edward, and three sisters: Genesis, Esther and Megan.

Samoa News and the rest of the territory wishes Ralph the best of luck in whatever he decides to do.

Good luck Ralph! O ou mama na.

# Average ASG payroll every two weeks is about \$4Mil

by Samoa News staff

American Samoa Government's average payroll expenditure every two weeks is about \$4 million, according to the ASG Treasury Department Accomplishment Report for 2013-2016, which also shows a large percentage of local revenue going to pay for personnel costs.

The report, which was submitted late last month to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, made clear that outside of normal ASG day-to-day obligations, the largest one is payroll or personnel expenses. And over the last five years, the data shows the alarming concern of the "dispersion" between local and grant funded personnel costs.

"The burden of payroll has steadily been moved to local funds from grants," the report says and noted that there may be various reasons why these grants are no longer available or awarded, however, the burden should not be placed on local funds.

Treasury says the average payroll between FY 2012 and FY 2016 ranged from \$100 million to \$103 million, with the highest one in FY 2015 at \$104.8 million — with \$65.9 million funded by local revenue and \$38.5 million through grants.

In FY 2016, total payroll was at \$103.1 million - with \$64.6 million in local revenue (or 63%) and \$38.5 million (37%) in grants, according to data in the Treasury report.

(FY 2016: ASG payroll is every 2 weeks, for 26 pay periods per year, for an

average of \$4Mil per pay period.)

The report shows that in FY 2012, the split from the two funding sources was almost the same: total payroll was \$102.6 million with \$56.4 million (55%) from local revenue and \$46.1 million (or 45%) from grants.

However, by fiscal years 2013- 2016, Treasury data shows a drop in federal grants with local revenues paying a large majority of personnel expenses.

According to Treasury, the "obligation has not changed or decreased, it has been [instead] transferred to local funds."

(Samoa News should point out that this has been an ongoing concern in the government, with grants ending, yet personnel, who were hired to work in these grants, continue to be employed — only they are now paid with local funds, not grant funds, as the grant is over.)

Treasury also says that 60% to 75% of all local revenue collected funds personnel costs.

For example, preliminary FY 2016 numbers show \$104.45 million collected in local revenue, of which \$64.61 million went to payroll. Treasury says that leaves less than \$40 million in local revenues to fund all other obligations of the government, including operations — subsidies, utilities and all other fixed costs.

On average pay period, every two weeks, Treasury says it must ensure that revenues collected meet the required disbursement of nearly \$4 million for payroll costs. From 2012 to 2016, the data shows a slight fluctuation but will within the same range.

tuation but will within the same range.

Preliminary numbers of FY 2016 show that the average payroll every two weeks was \$3.96 million — with \$2.48 million from local funds and \$1.48 million in federal grants. The highest average payroll was \$4.03 million in FY 2015.

Treasury again points out that the "alarming concern is the dispersion" between local and federal funds.

"The burden now falls onto the local and not grants with 63% of personnel being funded by local with only 37% funded with grants," Treasury said. "In most programs, local [funds] must front costs and will be reimbursed at a later time, which further negatively impacts our cash flow."

Treasury went on to point out that over the last 4 years (FY 2011 to FY 2015), the collection in taxes has increased from 18% to 26% and it also validates the decreased inflow of funds from grants from 66% in 2011 to 62% in 2015.

"It is imperative that grant funded programs in American Samoa ensure continuity of their respective programs and more importantly reimbursements to the general fund that front costs for expenses are completed in a timely manner in both personnel and payables," Treasury says. "The impact on cash flow and the general fund must be minimal throughout the year."

See yesterday's edition, where tax revenues are cited in the report and other issues. Samoa News notes that the payroll division is under the Human Resources Department, with checks cut by Treasury.

## ► Shooting ...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News reached out to Acting Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson for a comment given the grave concerns from members of the public in the Vaitogi area, but he declined to comment, noting "I can't comment as there is an on going investigation at the moment."

Samoa News has been told by sources inside the police, that on the same evening of the alleged shooting incident, the Police arrested Solomona Fata and Vise Gauta, who made their initial appearance in the District Court yesterday. (Fata is also known as Solomona Siaumau and Gauta is his son-in-law, according to family members.)

Fata was released, as the police were not ready with an affidavit to charge him, while Gauta was remanded into the custody of police. He's facing charges of public peace disturbance however the attorney general's office intends to file additional charges in this case.

During his appearance in court yesterday, it was announced in court that the probation officer tested the defendant and the ingredient of methamphetamine was found in his system. It's unclear if Gauta is on probation or not, as efforts to get confirmation from the probation office were unsuccessful.



## DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

### 2017 (First Quarter)

## COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF TRAINING AND EVENTS

| DATE  | PROJECT/ACTIVITY  | DATE  | PROJECT/ACTIVITY  |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 23 - April 13                                       | Culinary Training<br>9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1)<br>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MWF<br>Instructor: Malia Lui   | January 23 to March 31  | Walk and Talk Program<br>3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (M/W/F)   |
| January 23 - April 13                                       | Flower Arrangement Training<br>9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1)<br>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) T/TH<br>Instructor: Malia Lui  | January 23 to March 31 (Tutuila)<br>January 23 to March 31 (Manu'a) | Wrestling Program<br>3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)<br>3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)   |
| January 23 - April 13                                       | Elei/Hand Print Training<br>9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1)<br>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MTWTH<br>Instructor: Tou Collins  | January 23 to March 31  | Gymnastics Program<br>Kinder gym - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (M-F)  |
| January 23 - August 25 (Tutuila)                            | Sewing Training<br>8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 1) M/W<br>8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 2) T/TH<br>12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 3) M/W<br>12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 4) T/TH | January 23 to March 31  | Health and Fitness Program<br>5:30 am to 6:30 am (M-F) Morning Session<br>5:00 pm to 6:00 pm (T/TH) - Afternoon Session |
| September 5 - December 7 (Manu'a - Fitiuta, Ta'u, Faleasao) | Every Day<br>Instructor: Johanna Samana   | January 23 to March 31  | Weightlifting/Powerlifting training<br>3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)  |
| January 23 - March 8  | Basic Computing/Resume Preparation/Job Application/Interview Preparation<br>Session 1 - M/W/F, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  | January 23 to March 31  | Volleyball training<br>6:30 am to 7:30 am (M-TH)  |
| January 23 - April 13                                       | Basic Samoan Oratory Language and Cultural Training<br>4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (M/W)   | January 25 to March 29  | College Prep for Student Athletes<br>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (W)   |
|   |   | January 23 to March 31  | National Football Training<br>3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (F)  |
|   |   | February 6 - 10   | Coaches National Level 1 Certification Course<br>5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (M-F)<br>Instructor: Ethan Lake                     |
|   |   | February 7 - April 6  | Teen Mothers and Parenting Training Session 1<br>10 am to 12 pm (T/TH)  |
|   |   | March 14  | Service Providers Fair - Mulugaveve   |

Call 644-2835/644-2836 to register for any of the programs/courses at the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs Office in Pago Pago. Deadline for registration is Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 4p.m. Fa'afeso'ota'i mai le matou ofisa ile 644-2835/644-2836 auā le resitara mo polokalama o lo'o fa'apea ona faailo atu i le kalena. E tapunia le resitara o vasega ile Aso Tofi, Ianuari 19, 2017 ile 4p.m

Orientation for all programs/courses is scheduled for Friday, January 20th, 2017 at 9a.m-10a.m & 3p.m - 4p.m

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## NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the TELA Family and to all whom these present may come!  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that FAILAFUA, PEATO & KATERINA TUISEA of AFONO 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 SIUFAGA, allegedly belonging to TELA FAMILY of the village of AFONO. Said land SIUFAGA is situated in or near the village of AFONO in the County of SUA, 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: DECEMBER 21, 2016 thru JANUARY 19, 2017  
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

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

I tagata o le aiga sa TELA, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni fa'aaliga!  
O le fa'aaliga leni ona o FAILAFUA, PEATO & KATERINA TUISEA o le nu'u o AFONO ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'ailoa ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa'atuuina i luga o le fanua o SIUFAGA e fa'asino i le aiga sa TELA, o le nu'u o AFONO. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o AFONO, itumalo o SUA, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.  
O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amauna o leni 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 faitauna mai i le aso na fa'aaalia ai leni 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'amauna loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'a'afia ai tagata uma.  
01/04 & 01/18/17



ASCC Science Department chairman Dr. Randel De Wees displays the award he received during the College's Faculty Achievement Awards Ceremony held last week. [Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

# US Justice Department withdraws opposition to returning Fletcher's property

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

The US Justice Department has withdrawn its opposition to returning cash and other belongings of an American man, Dean Jay Fletcher, wanted in Tonga for the murder of his wife. American Samoa officials turned over the property to federal agents in November 2016.

Evidence submitted by the USDOJ two weeks ago, shows an American Samoa Department of Public Safety property report, dated Oct. 3, 2016, itemizing a cash count of US, as well as New Zealand, Australia, Canadian, Tongan currency, two credit cards, a US passport and other documents.

Fletcher is alleged to have escaped from custody in Tonga and arrived in American Samoa on Oct. 3 and was arrested for entering the territory without proper authorization. When his local case was dismissed, Fletcher was turned over on Nov. 22, 2016 to the US Marshals Service agents, who escorted him back to Honolulu for his extradition hearing.

Based on federal court documents, American Samoa officials turned over to US Marshals agents all of Fletcher's property, and the federal government seized all of the cash and credit cards, while the other items were returned to Fletcher.

Fletcher's attorney, Melinda K. Yamaga with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Honolulu, filed a motion last month for the return of the property, which she argued were illegally retained by the government.

According to the defense, the government claims its authority for both seizing and retaining the aforementioned items under a provision of the Extradition Treaty.

"This claim is unfounded," Yamaga argued, adding that both the American Samoa officials and the U.S. government have returned some of Fletcher's possessions to him. "The only distinction between the items retained as opposed to returned appears to be in their value," she said.

The USDOJ was strongly opposed to returning the property in question and filed with the federal court Tonga's money laundering law as evidence for seizing the cash.

Assistant US Attorney, Larry Butrick, told The Associated Press late last month that the US government sized the cash in accordance with the extradition treaty between the United States and Tonga.

However, court records show that during a status hearing on Jan. 11, the US government informed the court that the Tongan government will not take issue on the seized property and therefore the federal government withdraws its opposition on the defense motion to return of property.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the court said that turning over all of the currency and two credit cards from the USDOJ shall be held in abeyance pending the resolution of making the appropriate arrangements for the return of property. Additionally, Yamaga and USDOJ were to work on a stipulation to be submitted to the court for returning Fletcher's property.

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

By Samoa News staff

## HLA UNIVERSAL CREW CONTRACT CANNOT BE ENFORCED BY FEDS

In response to the AP story on Sept. 8, 2016, of the employment of foreign crews on Hawai'i longline vessels, the Hawai'i Longline Association (HLA) imposed a universal crew contract for all foreign crews, last year, according to the Pacific Islands Fishery News (Fall 2016).

For example, HLA said, "Foreign crews are allowed off the boats but must remain in the port area because they do not hold visas to enter the country. Passports of the crew are held by the vessel owners/ captains, not as an indicator of forced labor, as the AP story implied, but because that is required by" the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

In November, the newsletter reported, the vice president of Indonesia, where many of the foreign fishermen originate, visited Honolulu, and said while he is satisfied with the welfare of Indonesian crews, his only concern "was the lack of visas to allow the crew to fly into Honolulu."

The AP's story had reported, "a typical route could go from Indonesia to Australia to Fiji to Western Samoa to American Samoa. Some pass through Amsterdam. Others end up in Mexico or Panama. They're then picked up by American captains for the 10- to 20-day sail to Honolulu."

However, according to a US News report (October 2016), federal officials cannot enforce the universal crew contract imposed by the HLA. It will have to be enforced by the industry itself.

According to the report, "U.S. Custom and Border Protection 'does not review contracts, we just make sure that these fishermen ... are employed on the vessel,' said Ferdinand Jose, Custom and Border Protection supervisory officer. 'Whatever you negotiate ... is between you folks, not us.'"

Of the 167 fishing vessels in the fleet, 143 of them employ a total of about 620 foreign men, US News reports.

At the heart of the universal contract is the exemption of the fleet in Hawai'i from a federal law that requires that U.S. citizens make up 75 percent of the crew on most commercial fishing vessels in America. The exemption has created a loophole that has led to allegations of human slavery, forced labor and other abuses of foreign crewmembers.

Pacific Islands Fishery News also reported that HLA calls the

AP article "inaccurate and full of omissions."

Samoa News should point out that this AP article the HLA is pointing to — Hawaiian seafood caught by foreign crews confined on boats — is part of the AP's ongoing global look at labor abuses in the fishing industry, stretching from Southeast Asia to America's own waters. In 2016, the AP won a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its "Seafood from Slaves" series, which includes this AP article.

## AMATA KEEPS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, January 17, 2017 — House Small Business Committee Chairman Steve Chabot (OH), released the names of the Subcommittee Chairmen for the 115th Congress, including Congresswoman Amata, who will continue to serve as the Chairman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Health & Technology.

Along with the announcement, Chairman Chabot commented, "I'm so glad Aumua Amata is returning as chair of our Health and Technology Subcommittee. We need her unique and thoughtful perspective as we look for solutions for the 28 million small businesses across America, and I'm looking forward to working with her as we get down to business as soon as possible."

Joining Amata are Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO) as Vice-Chair of the Committee, Rob Blum (IA) as Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade Chairman, Dave Brat (VA) as Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access Chairman, Trent Kelly (MS) as Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulation Chairman, and Steve Knight (CA) as Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce Chairman.

Following the announcement, Amata said, "I could not be more pleased to continue to serve as the Chairman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Health and Technology, and look forward to working with Chairman Chabot, and my other colleagues on committee to ensure that the nearly 30 million small businesses in the United States can thrive.

"Particularly, I look forward to bringing the territories to the forefront of committee business, as so many of our businesses qualify as a small business, and need special considerations when it comes to the laws that affect them," she concluded.

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## AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT "Pesticide Applicator Training"

ASCC Land Grant Program will be conducting a Pesticide Applicator Safety training for those who handle farm chemicals. If you are using farm pesticides or you are planning to use chemicals in the near future, this is a good opportunity for you to attend this important training. The training schedule is as follows:

Date: January 23 - January 27, 2017  
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Place: ASCC Land Grant Training Room

Registration is FREE. To confirm your participation for this training, please call Joyce or Helen at 699-1575/2019.

Thank You.

### FAAALIGA FA'ALAU'ITELE

#### "A'oa'oga mo i latou o lo'o fa'aaogaina vaila'au o'ona"

O le a faia se a'oa'oga mo i latou o lo'o fa'aaogaina vaila'au o'ona i fa'ato'aga. Afai o lo'o e fa'aaogaina vaila'au o'ona po'o e fa'amoemoe fo'i e te fa'aaogaina i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te 'auai ai i lenei a'oa'oga taua. O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega.

Aso: Ianuari 23 - Ianuari 27, 2017  
Taimi: 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi  
Nofoga e fai ai: Potu mo A'oa'oga a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina'e a le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi ma Alaalafaga o Amerika Samoa.

"E leai se totogi o le resitala. Afai e te fia 'auai i lenei a'oa'oga, fa'amolemole ia fa'afeso'ota'i mai Joyce po'o Helen i le telefoni 699-1575/2019

Fa'afetai.

**In The High Court  
of American Samoa  
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL  
COURT DIVISIONS**  
FDA/JG No. 27-16  
**IN RE: A CHILD.**  
**NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

TO: **Mr. Johnelson F. Felipe &  
Ms. Mary Anne Reyes**  
Pavaiai Village  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named respondents that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to appoint a Legal Guardian for your male child born on July 23, 2009, 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 TUUINA ATU ia te oulua o loo ta'ua lua suafa i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Faamasinoga Mauluga o Amerika Samoa, ina ia tofia aloaia mai se tasi e vaavaaia, faa'oga ma faia se lua alo tama faapea sa fanau o ia ile aso 23 o Iulai, 2009, i le Falema'i i Fagaalu, Amerika Samoa. Afai e te lua tete'e i lenei talosaga, e tatau ona oulua failaina se talosaga tete'e i le Fa'amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulula'i faasalalauga o lenei mataupu.

DATE/ASO: **January 04, 2017**

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 01/18 & 02/17



C M  
Y K

# WIN A VALENTINE'S TRIP TO APIA

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Roundtrip tickets for 2  
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**CSM Tobin speaks at US Sergeants Major Academy**

Command Sergeant Major Charles Tobin spoke at the United States Sergeants Major Academy on Tuesday, 7 Jan 2017 at El Paso, Texas. "It was an honor and privilege to speak to an audience of 563 future Command Sergeants Major and Sergeants Major to include 52 International partners. I was proud to have our Samoan students, Fijian and Tongan in attendance," CSM Tobin told Samoa News.

Master Sergeant Tuiolomotu who attended the academy told Tobin he would always remember the 3 A's he addressed — be Approachable, Accessible and Available to your people. Furthermore, understand the millennial generation. They are different and require a special approach.

Tobin also emphasized the importance of Leadership saying, "A leader is unafraid to lead and make decisions." On a personal note he told Samoa News, "But more important, one of them in the audience will be my son's command sergeant major. As a father, I ask that they take care of our sons and daughters. That's what we expect from them."

CSM Tobin is from the villages of Lotopa, Samoa and Pago Pago, American Samoa and first joined the U.S. Army in 1983. He is the son of the late Michael and Barbara Tobin of Lotopa.

[courtesy photo]

C M  
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# In Loving Memory of **ALISA TUPOLO WELCH**



**EARTHLY VOYAGE:**  
*February 16, 1948*



**HEAVENLY VOYAGE:**  
*January 21, 2017*

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*  
(2 Timothy 4:7)

*God saw you getting tired  
and a cure was not to be  
so He put His loving arms around you  
and whispered,  
"Come to Me".*

*With tearful eyes we watched you suffer  
and saw you slowly pass away  
and although we loved you dearly  
we could not make you stay.*

*A Golden Heart stop beating  
hard working hands at rest  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.*



**Family Service**

**Date:** Friday, January 20, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Place:** Leilua Roy Willis' Residence

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

**Date:** Saturday, January 21, 2017

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Place:** LDS Ottovile Chapel

**Respecting Our Mothers Wish,  
there will be "No Faa-Samoa"**



## NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the PULOTU Family and to all whom these present may come!  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that PULOTU MAPU TOLO of PAGO PAGO 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 ULUTUGA, allegedly belonging to PULOTU FAMILY of the village of PAGO PAGO. Said land ULUTUGA is situated in or near the village of PAGO PAGO in the County of MAOPUTASI, 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: DECEMBER 27, 2016 thru JANUARY 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 PULOTU, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni fa'aaliga!  
 O le fa'aaliga leni ona o PULOTU MAPU TOLO o le nu'u o PAGO PAGO ua ia fa'aulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa'aaliga ai se mana'oga fia tu'u'eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa'atua i luga o le fanua o ULUTUGA e fa'asino i le aiga sa PULOTU, o le nu'u o PAGO PAGO. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o PAGO PAGO, itumalo o MAOPUTASI, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.  
 O le fa'aaliga fo'i e fa'apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona fa'atu'i'iese ile fa'amauna o leni 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 faita'ina mai i le aso na fa'aaalia ai leni 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'amauna loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'a'afia ai tagata uma. 01/04 & 01/18/17



ASCC Language & Literature chairperson Mrs. Mele Fiaui is seen here with the award presented to her department during the College's Faculty Achievement Awards Ceremony last week.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



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**P O Box 1386**

**Utulei, Centennial Building**

**Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799**

Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted

**Tender closes at 4pm on January 18th, 2017**

For any further details please contact Elena Talitiga-Felise.

**Phone#: 633-4266 or 699-1267**

# ASCC recognizes outstanding faculty and staff achievements

By **James Kneubuhl**,  
 ASCC Press Officer

As part of its faculty orientation held at the beginning of every spring and fall semester, the American Samoa Com-

munity College (ASCC) held its 3rd Annual Faculty Recognition Awards Ceremony last week to highlight the achievements of both individuals and departments over the last twelve months.

Fresh from a morning of orientation activities that included a detailed tour of the Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)/Land Grant facilities, the ASCC faculty were welcomed to the lunchtime ceremony by ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, whose opening remarks included the analogy of a teaching career being like an electrical battery, or in other words, something that needs to be kept properly charged.

Dean of Academic Affairs Mrs. Letupu Moananu led off the first round of recognitions by welcoming the new ASCC faculty for the spring 2017 semester. They are Mrs. Meagan Curtis of the Marine Science Department; 1st Sgt. Kitzingen Moliga of ROTC; and three new Trades and Technology instructors, Mr. Reupena Lesa, Mr. Jericho Martinez, and Ms. Valentine Talamoni.

Director of Curriculum & Assessment Mrs. Evelyn Gibbs-Fruean next announced the recipients of the Individual Special Awards for Student Centeredness, celebrating the efforts of faculty who orga-

nize extracurricular activities to enhance the learning experience for ASCC students and/or their fellow instructors.

These awards were presented to Dr. Faofua Faatoafe, advisor for the Business Ambassadors of ASCC (BAOA); Mrs. Rosie Ah Chee Toeava, advisor for the Law Justice Club; Mrs. Elisapeta Faalafi-Jones, Christian Club advisor; Mr. Poe Mageo, chairman of the Faculty Senate; Mr. Kuki Tuiasosopo, Phi Theta Kappa honor society advisor; Mrs. Regina Meredith-Fitiaio, leader of many art projects involving students; Dr. Daniel Chang, EXITO Club advisor; Mr. Derek Helsham, Psychology Club advisor; Ms. Lele Ah Mu, AHEC HOSA Club advisor; Mr. Evile Feleti, Student Association for Fa'aSamoa advisor; Dr. Randel De Wees, LSAMP and Marine Science advisor; and Mrs. Feleni Petelo Alainuuese, Lumana'i Teachers Club advisor.

The next set of awards for Outstanding Student and Community Activities were given to seven academic departments within the College that organized activities involving students, which also benefited the general public.

Called to accept these awards were the chairpersons of ACNR/Land Grant; Business; Criminal Justice; Fine Arts;

(Continued on page 12)



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A.S.C.A. Title 25 Chapter 22



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Littering is placing, throwing, or dropping litter on public, communal, or private real property, or in any waters of the Territory.



## LITTERING IS ILLEGAL

**For more information, please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304**

Seven government agencies (AS-EPA, ASPA, DOH, DMWR, DPR, DPS, and OSA) are authorized to enforce this new law. Violators will be prosecuted. Fines range from \$50 to \$1,000.





**AMERICAN SAMOA  
POWER AUTHORITY**  
Materials Management Office

Po Box PPB, Pago Pago  
American Samoa 96799  
Phone No.: (684) 699-3057  
Fax No.: (684) 699-4129  
bids@aspower.com

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.016.WW  
Issuance Date: January 4, 2017

Closing Date & Time: January 25, 2017  
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues this Request For Proposals (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

### “Utulei and Fogagogo Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Outfall Diffuser Modification Project”

#### Submission

An Original and one PDF of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP No. ASPA17.016.WW Utulei and Fogagogo WWTP Outfall Diffuser Modification Project.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, January 25, 2017:**

Materials Management Office  
American Samoa Power Authority  
P.O. Box PPB  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Attn: Procurement Manager

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

#### Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at The Materials Management Office at ASPA s Tafuna Compound and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

#### Right of Rejection

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

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae**, Executive Director



**American Samoa Government  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB 025-2017

Issuance Date: January 11, 2017

Closing Date: January 25, 2017  
No later than 2:00 p.m. (local time)

#### 1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from Department of Agriculture Certified Farmers to provide “Supply of Local Produce” for the Department of Education, School Lunch Program.

#### 2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), January 25, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

#### 3. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A Pre-Bid Meeting for all Department of Agriculture certified farmers will be held on January 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Agriculture Conference Room.

#### 4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours free of charge.

#### 5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.

#### 6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of American Samoa Government.

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

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

# Bill would let women sue doctors who perform their abortions

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow a woman who gets an abortion to sue the doctor who performed the procedure if she experiences emotional distress later.

If approved, it would be the first law of its kind in the U.S.

The proposal, which was endorsed Tuesday by a GOP-led three-member panel of lawmakers, would permit the woman to file a lawsuit at any point in her life, something that goes against typical statute of limitation rules. It could also make the state vulnerable to costly court challenges.

“What we’re asking for is that individuals, doctors and clinics that make money off of women by giving them abortions are simply held accountable,” said Sen. Mark Chelgren, the Republican who introduced the bill. “That’s all this does. It protects women from people who would normally be trying to sell them something in a time when they are under the most stress that is kind of imaginable.”

The bill goes next to another committee. It’s unclear how much GOP support the idea has in the Iowa Legislature, though the state’s incoming Republican governor did not dismiss it.

Regardless of whether the proposal advances to the full Legislature, it highlights how much abortion will dominate Iowa politics this year. The governor has already proposed a plan to end state funding for Planned Parenthood by passing up millions of federal Medicaid dollars. Instead, he would tap into a fund that currently helps at-risk youth stay out of the welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Meanwhile, dozens of newly filed bills related to education, labor and taxes are still waiting to be scheduled for discussion. And lawmakers have yet to formally consider any legislation to plug a roughly \$110 million shortfall in Iowa’s current budget.

Erin Davison-Rippey, a representative for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, said the bill would encourage similar action in other Republican-majority statehouses despite a “Pandora’s box” of legal issues.

“It shows that people who are in control are willing to allow incredibly extreme bills

to advance in this new leadership,” she said. “All Iowans should be concerned about that.”

Chelgren drafted a similar measure that was briefly discussed in 2013 and 2014. It was stopped in large part by Democrats who controlled the state Senate. After the November election, Republicans took control of both chambers and the governor’s office. Other abortion-restriction bills are expected.

If approved, Chelgren’s proposal would be the first such law in the country, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. The Guttmacher Institute did note a handful of states have laws on legal action related to abortion, but they vary and many are specific to counseling provisions.

However, the measure could be challenged immediately on the grounds that it violates the Constitution, according to Mark Kende of the Constitutional Law Center at Drake University, a private school in Des Moines.

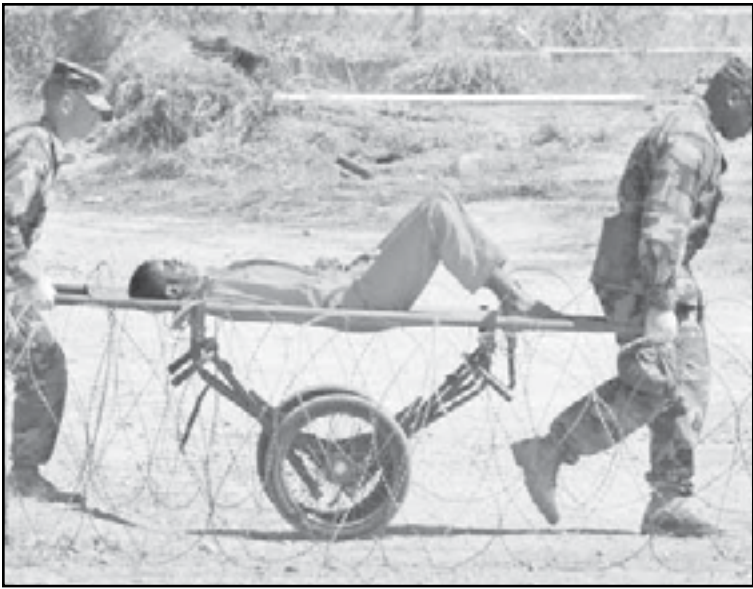
Opponents could argue it would create an undue burden on women by reducing opportunities for them to access a legal medical procedure if doctors avoid offering abortions because of the constant threat of legal action.

“When you look at it more carefully, it’s a threat to the woman because it creates deterrents for doctors to do this,” he said. Chelgren said federal law requires the state to protect a woman’s mental health.

Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, who will succeed Gov. Terry Branstad, who has been nominated to be ambassador to China, did not offer support for the bill at a news conference Tuesday. But she also did not dismiss it. Reynolds said she would wait to see the proposal in its final form.

Daniel Zeno, a legislative liaison for the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, said the measure unfairly singles out abortion among many medical procedures.

“The bill’s intent is clear: To demonize abortion providers, set up an adversarial relationship between provider and patient, shame women and block access to reproductive health care,” he said in a statement.



FILE - In this Feb. 2, 2002 file photo, a detainee from Afghanistan is carried on a stretcher before being interrogated by military officials at the detention facility Camp X-Ray on Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base in Cuba. The White House said Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 that the detention center will still be open when President Barack Obama leaves office, conceding that a core campaign promise will go unfulfilled. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File)

# White House concedes it won't close Guantanamo after all

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Tuesday that the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba will still be open when President Barack Obama leaves office, conceding that a core campaign promise will go unfulfilled.

Administration officials had long insisted that the president was continuing to work toward closing the facility even when it became obvious that it would no longer be possible for practical reasons before President-elect Donald Trump takes office Friday.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters that the administration determined it wouldn't happen when they realized they did not have enough time left to comply with the 30-day deadline for notifying Congress in advance of a detainee transfer.

"At this time, I don't anticipate that we will succeed in that goal of closing the prison," Earnest said. "But it's not for a lack of trying, I assure you."

Over the weekend, the U.S. transferred 10 low-level detainees from Guantanamo to Oman. Eight were from Yemen and two from Afghanistan, including an insurgent, Abdul Zahir, who was accused of possessing a white substance suspected to be a chemical or biological weapon but that turned out to be salt and sugar, according to his lawyer, Air Force Lt. Col. Sterling Thomas. All were deemed eligible for release after authorities determined they no longer posed a threat.

Their release lowered the number of detainees to 45, with a few more releases expected in the administration's final days.

Trump said during the campaign that he not only wants to keep Guantanamo open but "load it up with some bad dudes." Earlier this month, he said there should be no fur-

ther releases of men he called "extremely dangerous people."

The U.S. began using its military base on southeast Cuba's isolated, rocky coast to hold prisoners captured after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack and at the start of the war in Afghanistan. At its peak, the facility held nearly 680 detainees. It was down to 242 when Obama took office in 2009, pledging to close what had become a source of international criticism over the treatment of detainees and the notion of holding people indefinitely, most without charge.

Congress thwarted Obama's effort to close the detention center with restrictions on transfers, including the requirement of a 30-day notice, and a ban on moving detainees to the U.S. for any reason, including trial. The administration launched a case-by-case review process to winnow down the population, moving 193 prisoners to 42 countries for repatriation, resettlement or prosecution.

Earnest blamed politics for failing to close the detention center, which he called a waste of money and "recruiting tool" for terrorists. "Members of Congress in both parties, frankly, played with this issue," he said.

Human rights groups and others who have called for the closure of the detention center have criticized Obama for not acting forcefully enough to shutter it at the start of his administration.

Tom Wilner, a Washington lawyer who helped secure the right of detainees to challenge their detention, hopes Trump will take a fresh look at the situation.

"I think if he looks at the facts objectively he will really see that Guantanamo really is a bad deal for America," Wilner said. "There's no benefit to it, it's grossly expensive and it hurts our reputation."



## PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The Secretary of American Samoa wishes to inform the residents interested in obtaining a notary public commission, or in renewing a commission, that the next course on notary law and ethics will be offered on January 31st, February 1st, and 2nd, 2017 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, at the ASCC. As is required by the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended, anyone who wishes to obtain a Notary Public Commission must undergo and successfully complete a course on Notary law, procedure and ethics.

Please contact Melesete Haleck or Sally Faumuina at the Office of the Governor at 633-4116 to register and for more information, or visit the website [www.americansamoa.gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov), and click on the "Secretary of American Samoa" hyperlink to find out more.

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Ms. Cherylmoanamarie Ripley (left), an ASCC employee of more than 30 years, is seen here with ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato (center) and Samoan Studies Institute Director Mrs. Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila during last weeks Faculty Achievement Awards Ceremony.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

## Outstanding...

Continued from page 8

Health and Human Services; Language and Literature; and the Samoan Studies department. Third in the awards category was recognition of the departments with the best record for monthly meets, and these were presented to Criminal Justice; the English-College Accelerated Preparatory Program; and Language and Literature.

Samoan Studies Institute (SSI) Director Mrs. Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila next took center stage to recognize and present awards to her three current full-time instructors, all of whom take on responsibilities in addition to teaching classes in order to fulfill the Samoan Studies Institute's mission, which includes research, publications and public outreach. SSI full-time faculty Mr. Evile Feleti, Mrs. Alofa Nuusila and Mrs. Tamari Mulitalo-Chung joined Mrs. Fauolo-Manila at the podium to receive their awards.

The program continued with recognition of the longest-serving faculty and academic administrative staff at ASCC.

First to be recognized were faculty and staff who have served for 35 years or more. Celebrated for their well-earned achievement were Mrs. Elisapeta Faalafi Jones, Mr. Ed Imo, Mr. Laau Liufau and Ms. Cherylmoanamarie Ripley. Also recognized for 20 or more years of serving the College were Ms. Sinaitaaga Mose Peni; Dr. Faofua Faatoafe; Mrs. Regina Meredith-Fitiao; Ms. Lele Ah Mu; Mr. Tunufai Leiato; Mrs. Ethel Sokimi; and Mrs. Lilian Temese.

In the next portion of the program, recognition was given to the administrators who guide the College's overall efforts to fulfill its Mission.

These individuals, who received tokens of sincere appreciation, included President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato; newly appointed Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Lina Galea'i Scanlan; Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Mikaele Etuale; newly appointed Director of Teacher Education Ms. Shirley De La Rosa; Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i; ACNR Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta; SSI Director Mrs. Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila; Adult Education, Literacy and Extended Learning Director Mr. Tauvela Fale.

The last set of awards, for assisting the Academic Division in providing workshops/trainings to the faculty, were presented to Office of Institutional Effectiveness Director Mr. Sonny Leomiti; Registrar Officer Mrs. Sifagatogo Tuitasi; University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Director Ms. Tafaimamao Tupuola; and Financial Aid Manager Mr. Peteru Lam Yuen.

For more information on ASCC, visit the College's website at [www.amsamoa.edu](http://www.amsamoa.edu).



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