



# Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauaga.



Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

Friday, October 3, 2008

Vol. III, No. 39

### *In This Issue*

**ASEPA  
Integrated  
Water Quality  
Monitoring  
and  
Assessment  
Report  
Pg. 2**

**Fiber optic  
cable project  
update  
Pg. 3**

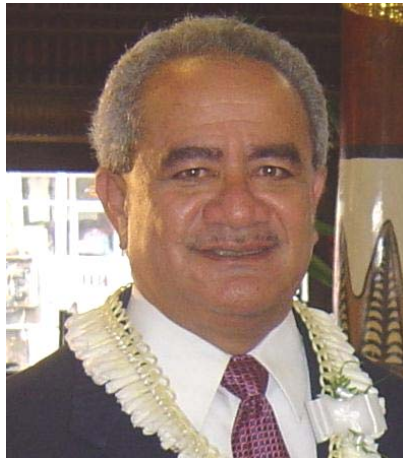
**DBAS  
announces  
availability of  
\$500K for New  
Homes  
Pg. 3**

**Governor  
Togiola issues  
approval of  
District Court  
bill  
Pg. 5**

**Governor  
addresses  
territory's high-  
risk status to  
USDOE  
Pg. 6**

**Historical Notes  
& much, much  
more...**

*For additional  
news,  
information  
and much,  
much, more  
about your  
government,  
visit the  
ASG Website  
at  
<http://www.americansamoa.gov>*



## **Governor Togiola addresses challenges of increasing population during American Samoa Population Summit**

dous challenge facing our small islands and if the issue is left unchecked and not properly managed, there is not a man, woman, or child in American Samoa that will escape the impact of population growth.

Togiola cited the recent Festival of Pacific Arts as a perfect example of what the future may hold for American Samoa.

He said during that two week period in July, the territory was home to approximately 3,000 guests and the impacts of more island residents were noticeable, with more congested traffic in town, longer lines at restaurants and banks, as well as the enormous challenge in managing the removal of trash.

Togiola said the sudden boost in the territory's population during the Festival is a valuable glimpse into the future; and although the Festival participants have returned to their homelands and their impact was short-lived, this will not be the case with our current population issues, which the Governor described as "challenging and long-lasting."

He said local resources in some areas are already stretched too thin and will continue to diminish. And since 40% of the population includes people under 15 years old, the population will continue to in-

crease even with the strictest of population reduction controls in place.

"The problems associated with this growth are inevitable and must be appropriately managed. If it is not, it will cause excessive demands to our government and our people," said the Governor.

Those demands include more strain on social and economic resources, more cars on already congested roads, and more children than our limited schools can adequately accommodate.

"We will have more trash than waste removal resources can handle, more patients seeking services at our hospital and health clinics, more housing issues to burden our infrastructure capabilities, and more hungry mouths to feed," said Togiola, adding that these changing circumstances cannot be managed by simply building more schools, more houses, and more roads.

"Our island paradise is small, and we cannot continue with this short-sighted way of thinking as we have in the past," he said. The American Samoa Government has recognized the problem and has been addressing this issue since May 2000 when Togiola was the Chair of a Task Force on Population Growth. *(Continued on page 9)*

Governor Togiola Tulafono opened the American Samoa Population Summit themed "Managing Changes" at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei on Wednesday, Sept. 24 with a speech addressing the challenges that the growing population is placing on the natural, economic, and social resources of American Samoa.

Simply put, the Governor told the participants of the two-day meeting that although complex in many ways, continuous population growth will basically mean: "too many people, on too little land."

According to him, population growth in American Samoa will affect both the quality and way of life in American Samoa.

The Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) has determined that the pressures of our increasing population are the single greatest threat to our coastal resources. "I strongly agree with this assessment," said the Governor, who added that population pressure is a tremen-

## **ASEPA invites public comments on the AS 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report**

Director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e has issued a public notice inviting the public to offer comments on the American Samoa 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report which is available for viewing at the ASEPA office in Utulei.

The report, which was prepared by the ASEPA, is intended to satisfy the listing requirements of Section 303(d) and the reporting requirements of Section 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act.

The report places water in five (5) assessment categories. Category 5 waters are considered impaired (do not meet one or more designated uses), and are 303(d) listed.

In the 2008 report, Category 5 waters include 16 watersheds due to elevated levels of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and/or bacteria in the streams; and 26 watersheds due to elevated levels of bacteria and/or other non-point source pollutants on beaches.

Public comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the first published date of the public notice, which was Sept. 19, 2008. Comments may be submitted to the ASEPA office or by mail to:

ASEPA Water Program  
PO Box PPA  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

More information can be obtained by calling the ASEPA Water Program Manager Lt. Elena Vaouli at 633-2304.

### **LBJ Pharmacy announces changes in dispensing operation**

The Pharmacy Department of the LBJ Medical Center will implement, beginning October 1, 2008, dispensing process changes aimed at promoting improved service, patient safety and satisfaction, as well as meet regulations requirements.

The changes are as follows:

1. Pharmacy staff will directly serve patients at the Service Center
2. All transactions will be processed at the counter starting from payment to dispensing medications to the patients with appropriate counseling.
3. Patients can pick up their medications at a later time if they choose not to wait.
4. A numbering system will be set up to allow patients to be served fairly and in an orderly fashion.
5. As of October 1, 2008, most medication orders will be electronically transmitted by the physicians, meaning written prescriptions will be eliminated.

According to LBJ, the changes will decrease waiting time for patients, and provide patient education counseling with each prescription dispensed. In addition, the changes will also promote patient safety and confidentiality, as well as meet mandated federal regulations for pharmacy operations.

## DBAS announces availability of \$500K to fund construction of new homes

The Development Bank of American Samoa has available for its Direct Loan Program, \$500,000 to fund the construction of new homes only. Loan amounts will be set according to the standard plans provided by DBAS.

Standard plans for a 1-bedroom home is \$40,000; \$60,000 for a 2-bedroom house; and \$80,000 for a three-bedroom home.

The loans are for a term of up to 30 years, at an interest rate of 8.50%

Only those applicants who can provide a recorded communal land lease or a warranty deed for individually owned land are eligible for the program.

Application packages are now available at the DBAS office in Pago Pago, and only completed

applications will be accepted.

Applications will be accepted from October 13-17 on a 'first come, first served' basis. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$75.

More information about the Direct Loan Program can be obtained by calling DBAS directly at 633-4031.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Governor Togiola offers brief update on fiber optic cable project

The highly anticipated fiber optic cable project is progressing along as planned. According to Governor Togiola Tulafono's announcement during his paid weekend radio program, the container carrying the machines and equipment needed in order to set up the Ili'ili site where the fiber optic cable will land arrived last week.

In addition, the Governor said that the project has applied for all the necessary permits with the Project Notification and Review System (PNRS), and an environmental impact review is already completed.

American Samoa has also applied for a permit for the cable to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and according to the Governor, the FCC informed the government earlier this month on Sept. 3 that a public notice has been issued by the FCC regarding the request for a permit.

Right now, the cable is located about 100 miles off the territory, at a depth of about 15,000 feet. A submarine vessel, which Togiola said is scheduled to arrive in early November, will detect the cable before recovering and relaying it to American Samoa.

"The contractors for the project are already standing by and prepared to move forward with the project," Togiola said.

The cable is expected to be up and running early next year. It will be landed in Fogagogo and connected to the Blue Sky site in Ili'ili which will be used as the main center for distribution to the government, private sector, and others.

### ***SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER***

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens ([harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov](mailto:harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov)) or Tialuga Vince Iuli ([vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov](mailto:vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov))

## Governor Togiola announces the transfer of Emergency Medical Services to DPS

Governor Togiola Tulafono said during his paid weekend radio program that effective October 1, 2008 (which is the first day of fiscal year 2009), the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety (DPS); however, the change will not affect the staff, equipment, and site locations which include the EMS station at the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu and both the Eastern (Faga'itua) and Western (Tafuna) DPS substations.

EMS is currently under the LBJ Medical Center.

According to Togiola, EMS is part of the territory's First Responders Team during emergencies and disasters and this is why he agrees with the change. The transfer will allow EMS to apply directly for their own federal funds and grants, which will greatly assist them in staff training and the acquisition of additional EMS vehicles.

EMS's budget for FY 2009 is listed at \$825,000 which includes a subsidy of \$600,000 from the American Samoa Government. The Fono was informed by the Administration earlier this month that the EMS unit will be an enterprise activity under DPS.

This means that the general public will be charged for ambulance calls - something the Governor said could result in complaints from local residents.

Togiola explained that the new imposed charges should not stop people from calling the EMS for ambulance assistance during times of emergencies, and this has already been explained to EMS officials.

"No one will be denied EMS service(s)," the Governor said, adding that the cost(s) can either be billed to Medicare or the patient's insurance company. However, he added, if EMS officials determine that the individual or family cannot afford the cost(s), the service would be free of charge.

Togiola said the government is working on securing a firm to train EMS workers on Medicare/Medicaid billing so that once the contract is over, EMS can do the work on their own.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On September 27, 1845**, French Marist Fathers Gilbert Roudaire and Louis Violette arrived in Apia, and were welcomed by Tui Atua Mata'afa Fagamanu.

**On September 28, 1957**, *Toxorhynchites brevipalpus* mosquitoes were introduced to American Samoa from Hawaii to control the *Aedes polynesiensis* mosquito, which is a vector of filariasis.

**On September 29, 1913**, the United States consul in Apia, Mason Mitchell, Esq., wrote to the Governor of American Samoa, Commander Clark D. Stearns that the time had come for action regarding Swains Island. As the nearest United States consul, Mr. Mitchell had the island under his protection, but this was no substitute for a method of administration, and he proposed to join Swains Island to American Samoa to define its status. Frankly interested in the taxes which Swains Island's copra would earn for his government, Commander Stearns thought highly of Mr. Mitchell's idea and asked the Secretary of the Navy to consider the plan. This prospect evidently pleased Eli Jennings, Jr., for he wrote directly to the Department of State to urge the union and pointed out that he transacted his business in Apia and used the German courts there for the sole reason that there was a United States consul present to protect his interests.

**On September 29, 1930**, the American Samoan Commission traveled to Leone to hear testimony. Senator Hiram Bingham presented Afioga Tuitele with a cane made of Hawaiian *koa* wood. The cane bore a silver plate, with Tuitele's name inscribed on it.

**On September 29, 1942**, in the "First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Tutuila, Samoa," "the undress lavalava was abolished as a part of the Samoan Marine liberty uniform, and the dress lavalava with dress cap, white undershirt, and red sash was the only prescribed liberty uniform."

**On September 29, 2000**, McDonald's American Samoa opened its restaurant in Tafuna.

**On September 30, 1942**, the strength of the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve was seven officers and 433 enlisted men.

**On September 30, 1943**, the membership of the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve was listed as "11 Marine officers, 1 Navy officer, and 530 enlisted, including 6 Navy hospital corpsmen...Samoan Marines totaled 494."

**On September 30, 1943**, the Marine Corps fighter strip at Leone was completed. Only two planes took off and landed. After that, it was never used again, because of turbulent air currents. The field was abandoned in early 1945. (Ed McMahan, Johnny Carson's co-host on NBC's "Tonight Show" was stationed there).

**On September 30, 1943**, the United States military population of the Samoan Defense Group was as follows: Tutuila: 7,950; Upolu: 1,541; Wallis: 2,726; Funafuti: 1,838; Nanumea: 1,221 and Nukufetau: 947.

**On September 30, 1976**, Earl B. Ruth completed his term as American Samoa's 11th appointed civil governor.

## U.S. EPA program certifies six Pacific Island water quality labs

The U.S. Freely Associated States Water Quality Laboratory Certification Program recently completed a very successful first year with the certification of six of its laboratories.

The certification program operates under the auspices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Samoa EPA, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Division of Environmental Quality, and the Guam EPA.

Certification was granted to laboratories of the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, the Republic of the Marshall Islands EPA, and the Federated States of Micronesia - which includes Yap State EPA, Chuuk State EPA, Pohnpei State EPA, and Kosrae Department of Health Services. All the labs are now certified to analyze drinking water for bacterial contamination and in addition, the Palau and RMI labs also received certification to analyze bacteria in marine water.

Manager of the EPA Pacific Southwest Region's Pacific Islands office John McCarroll explained that the successful program "is an excellent example of partnership and of leveraging technical expertise to get these critical drinking water labs certified." He added that the program "is really important for these islands because without a good water quality laboratory, you cannot be sure whether water is safe for drinking or nearshore water is safe for swimming or fishing."

McCarroll continued, "The amazing thing about this program is that we tapped the expertise not just of U.S. EPA, but also the territorial EPAs."

The certification program is led by American Samoa EPA Water Program Manager Lt. Elena Vaouli with the U.S. Public Health Service. One of the key accomplishments this year is the certification of the RMI Lab, which has enabled it to better analyze drinking water and marine water for bacterial contamination. Also, the Chuuk State Lab with its certification has become the Federated State of Micronesia's newest, largest, and best supplied lab with the highest number of certified staff analysts, enabling it to better analyze drinking water.

Certification audits for analysis of bacteria in marine water for the Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae labs are planned for next year, to verify their ability to monitor the ocean water quality and ensure the safety of those using the ocean resources.

Certification of laboratory facilities and personnel ensures that a laboratory produces scientifically valid and legally defensible data. To maintain certification, lab facilities must pass an on-site evaluation at least every two years, in addition to having at least one certified analyst on staff. To receive certification, analysts must successfully pass a written exam as well as a hands-on practical application of methods and procedures.

## Governor Togiola issues approval of District Court bill

Governor Togiola Tulafono has signed into law - following endorsement from the Fono - an Administration bill that increases the civil jurisdiction of District Court and clarifies the power of the District Court judge with regards to arrest warrants. In addition, the bill also allows for varying terms of detention as a condition of probation for misdemeanor offenses.

At present, local law obligates the High Court to hear all civil claims in excess of \$5,000 which the Governor says constitute a significant portion of the court's calendar and takes a toll on its limited resources.

Under the new law, the bulk of these matters can now be heard in the District Court, therefore freeing the High Court to concentrate on civil claims over \$15,000 as well as its land and matai title matters, among other issues.

As far as arrest warrants, the District Court judge has been issuing arrests warrants in his capacity as Acting Associate Justice of the High Court, although the High Court by opinion has ruled that a District Court judge may issue arrest warrants.

But the new law, according to Togiola, will put to rest any questions and do away with uncertainties that may exist due to the lack of proper codification of this authority which may lead to some ambiguities and give rise to challenges in the future.

The legislation also gives a sentencing court the authority to order varying periods of detention as a condition of probation for the three classes of misdemeanor offenses. Currently, a sentencing court may only require a period of not more than 15 days but the new law would allow a higher period of detention, depending on the severity of the crime.

Togiola explained, "In addition to its rehabilitative advantage, it also gives the sentencing court the ability to have closer supervision of its probationers over longer periods of time, which is expected to lead to a decrease in recidivism, especially in those offenses which involve alcohol and domestic violence."

## Governor addresses territory's high-risk status in corrective action plans submitted to the US Dept of Education

Governor Togiola Tulafono has submitted to the United States Department of Education, corrective action plans to address American Samoa's high-risk status and special conditions.

According to the Governor, the American Samoa Government's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for high risk, along with the Payroll Corrective Action Plan - which outline measures that ASG will implement to address and resolve the problems that have led to its designation as a high risk grantee - were sent last week.

The corrective action plans are due in Washington DC on September 30<sup>th</sup> as part of US Department of Education's Special Conditions for FY 2007 and FY 2008 funding. American Samoa has submitted all the required corrective action plans and reports that are mandated under the special conditions, and expects that independent public accountants RC Holsinger & Associates will forward the FY 2007 single audit by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

(RC Holsinger & Associates carried out the work for which the Payroll Corrective Action Plan included in the final report submitted to the USDOE is based).

Togiola explained that the Payroll Corrective Action Plan is a result of a payroll audit carried out by the off island public accountants for the period covering January 1 - April 10, 2008.

"I am very happy with the progress that we have made in addressing the challenging grant management and accountability issues that ASG has been facing regarding the administration of federal education grants," said the Governor. "The hard work that we have put in to comply with the requirements of federal standards to sustain timely audit reports, grants management, financial management, and accountability that meets the special conditions set by the US Department of Education is encouraging."

Earlier this year in July, the U.S. Department of Education notified Governor Togiola that while American Samoa has been working hard to resolve its grant management and fiscal accountability issues, it still needed to develop and implement proper policies and internal control procedures to ensure accountability and proper administration of federal funds.

Under the special conditions agreement, ASG agreed that it will not draw down any of the remaining FY 2007 or FY 2008 grant funds until after ASG has submitted its CAP for high risk, and until the plan is approved by the US Department of Education.

After ASG has met these two conditions, all remaining FY 2007 funds will be available for drawdown. However, there will be a restriction on FY 2008 funds until ASG has submitted its FY 2007 single audit, and developed a Payroll Corrective Action Plan approved by the USDOE to address deficiencies based on the independent public accountant's final report.

The Governor described the American Samoa Government's high-risk status as a "priority" and said, "We are working together with our Department of Education and all ASG departments that are included in the special conditions to resolve our high-risk challenges."

He concluded, "A priority initiative to address high-risk issues is the expansion of the current Integrated Fund Accounting System (IFAS) to the Department of Education. Being included in the IFAS will assist DOE program managers in administering the many programs funded by the Federal government more effectively."

## Applications for Notary Public now being accepted

The Office of the Secretary of American Samoa has issued a public announcement regarding the Notary Act of 2007 and the acceptance of applications from those interested in becoming a Notary Public.

Earlier this year on May 2, Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono signed into law the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended by Public Law 30-82. The new law establishes, among other things, new procedures and requirements for Notaries Public in the Territory. The new law will become effective on October 29, and all those who are interested in applying for a notary commission must satisfy certain requirements.

Applications can be picked up from the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa, located in the Governor's Office on the third floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei.

Applicants must attach to the application form, a fingerprint card from the Department of Public Safety, and pay a non-refundable application fee of \$100.

In addition, applicants must undergo and successfully complete a course on notary law, procedure and professional responsibility offered by the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa.

The initial notary course will be offered on October 15, 16, 22, and 23 at the American Samoa Community College from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room A-14. Only 20 slots are available and will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis.

Successful applicants will be notified through a letter from the Secretary and subsequently will be required to pay a \$500 security bond with the Treasury Department's Revenue Office. A receipt of payment must be provided to the Secretary before a commission is issued. An applicant who is denied a commission will also be informed by letter and allowed to retake the exam on a date to be announced by the Secretary, but no later than 20 days from the date of the issuance of said letter.

Pursuant to Section 31.0304 of the Notary Act of 2007, P.L. 30-18, as amended by P.L. 30-82, existing notaries commissioned before the Act's effective date will not be invalidated or terminated, but shall comply with the Notary Act when performing notarizations and in applying for new commissions.

On the effective date of the new law, no vendor or manufacturer may be authorized to issue notary seals or stamps to anyone without certification and authorization by the Secretary of American Samoa. Any vendor or manufacturer interested in issuing notary seals and stamps shall apply to the Secretary for a permit as required by Section 31.0341, P.L. 30-18, as amended by P.L. 30-82.

All interested individuals can contact the Governor's Assistant Legal Counsel Talaimalo Marcellus Uiagalelei or Communications Director Jacinta Galea'i at the Governor's Office for more information. Applications and additional information are available at [www.americansamoa.gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)

## Dengue fever count hits 83, DOH presses on with 3-D campaign

The Department of Health is strongly encouraging local residents to exercise the 3-D prevention methods in order to combat the increasing number of confirmed dengue fever cases which have climbed to 83. (This is the total number of confirmed cases only, although there are a lot of unconfirmed cases at this time).

The new figure is an increase of 14 confirmed cases on top of the 69 that were reported last week. Of the 83 cases, 9 were recorded before the 10<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts which was hosted locally in July. Some people speculate that the dengue fever outbreak was triggered by the Festival, and DOH said it is possible that some Festival participants arrived here without knowing they were carrying the dengue virus.

Dengue fever has claimed its first victim this year, a 10-year-old boy who died nearly a month ago.

About 40 cases of dengue fever were recorded in a span of three weeks last month. At the current rate, the number of dengue fever cases this year could far surpass last year's total which was 109, including one fatality.

The rise in dengue fever cases in the territory, as well as other places across the Pacific region has triggered warnings from the World Health Organization that the disease is spreading in pandemic proportions.

But DOH medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau says, "We can beat this." According to him, taking precautions like (3Ds) "Draining" standing water, "Dressing" in long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and using mosquito repellent that contains "DEET" could go a long way in preventing the continuous spread of a disease that can claim lives.

"We need to start practicing the 3Ds of prevention," Tuliau said. "This is something that the entire community needs to get involved with so we can stop the spread of dengue fever."

DOH is calling on all local residents to start by cleaning up around their homes and getting rid of anything that can hold standing water, as the mosquito that carries the dengue virus breeds in water.

Mosquito-breeding sites include old tires, oil drums, buckets, ice cream containers, etc.

In addition to American Samoa, other Pacific countries including Kiribati, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Palau are also reporting increasing number of dengue cases.

"Prevention is the key word that our community should focus attention on," Tuliau said.

## ASCC awarded \$300K grant from the USDOE

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) has been awarded a \$300,000 grant for a one-year period from the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) under the United States Department of Education.

The grant will offer student loan repayment for borrowers who are employed in high-need professions like teaching and nursing, and will also provide beneficial services for local high school students, as well as middle school and high school counselors.

The USDOE has released a list of colleges and universities located in different states and territories that will receive CACGP funding, American Samoa included.

Under the grant, ASCC will conduct a variety of activities in seven categories to support increased college enrollment and retention for Samoan students. For retention, ASCC students will provide daily homework assistance and tutoring to high school and college students to increase academic persistence and success.

One of the categories is 'financial assistance' which is a loan repayment assistance of up to \$5,000 provided to students who are college seniors (or at the end of a degree program like registered nursing), or who have graduated within the last two years, with priority given to the high-need professions of nursing and teaching.

According to the USDOE, applications will be screened by a local review committee and be need-based. In addition, scholarships of up to \$500 and college application fee assistance of up to \$100 per student will be provided within available funds.

High school students will benefit from the grant under the listed category of "college-level math skills," which will allow high school students to take the ASCC placement test and enroll in ASCC developmental math courses - with the schedules adjusted for their high school classes - and/or SAT math preparation courses to increase readiness for college entry and success.

Additionally, the "college-level English skills" category, much like the aforementioned, will allow high school students to enroll in ASCC developmental English courses and/or SAT writing preparation courses.

Another category is general awareness, whereby project staff will provide general college and financial aid information through at least three 'family college night' events and at least fifteen school-based workshops.

Also, in-service training will provide middle school and high school counselors with training in SAT, federal student financial aid (FAFSA), and college exploration support for their students. Counselors will also be able to enroll tuition-free in related ASCC courses.

Lastly, for financial aid awareness, ASCC will hold at least three evening workshops for parents and six school fair financial aid workshops to assist students with college financial aid applications.

According to their website, the CACGP's goal is to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants that are aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

## ASCC/SSI Launches Bilingual Guide to Cancer Terminologies

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

The Samoan Studies Institute (SSI) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) has taken a major step in demystifying the disease cancer for those who speak Samoan as their first language. This past Monday evening, the SSI hosted the launch of its new publication, "Bilingual Guide to Understanding Cancer-Related Terminologies in English and Samoan" with a special ceremony attended by dignitaries from the local medical and social welfare communities as well as staff from the College and members of the Board of Higher Education.

The 101-page publication, the result of nearly a full year of research, offers English-to-Samoan translations of an extensive list of cancer-related terms, listed in alphabetical order, as well as a glossary and illustrations. SSI Director Keseta Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila recalled how she and instructor/researcher Tafito Aitaoto faced some unique challenges in preparing the guide. "We tried to not only come up with easily-understood translations for the medical terminology, but also to make sure the terms had a sense of appropriateness in the Samoan language," said Fauolo-Manila. After consulting with local authorities and reviewing the information on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) website, Fauolo-Manila and Aitaoto relied on help from a number of different sources in choosing the proper translations. These sources included medical experts in American Samoa and the Independent State of Samoa, Nursing lecturers at the National University of Samoa, Samoan language experts, Samoan traditional healers, and even the Translation Office of Samoa's House of Parliament.

When considering the available linguistic terms in Samoan, Fauolo-Manila and Aitaoto formulated categories to help determine the most appropriate treatment of each individual English medical term. "We deemed it unnecessary to translate certain words and especially acronyms that most Samoan speakers already have some familiarity with," explained Fauolo-Manila, "such as HIV, Leukemia and tumor. For the terms we did translate, when possible we used body functions as a descriptive device, such as the word *puna* for glands. We sometimes based a translation on the shape of a body part, such as *ivitu tanoa* for pelvis." (Continued on page 9)

## Cancer Terminologies... *(continued from page 8)*

Occasionally, they considered it best to use simple transliteration, or translation based on sound, in cases such as *kasinoma* for carcinoma or *paketeri* for bacteria. Challenges came when Fauolo-Manila and Aitaoto considered Samoan words where the meaning has changed over the course of time. "For example, we considered *fatu gao* a more appropriate term for kidney than the previously common term *fatu maa*. The word *maa* means stone, so we used *fatu maa* as a translation for kidney stones." The SSI researchers also had to consider English words for which more than one translation existed in Samoan, as well as certain Samoan words not easily translated into English.

Early response to the finished guide has served to validate all of the necessary time and effort that went into its creation. In his remarks during Monday's launch ceremony, ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i reflected, "We have seen how some Samoans have avoided seeking treatment for cancer due to their apprehension and lack of understanding. A guide like this will serve the urgent need to help ease the fears of people who have difficulty understanding these medical terms because of the language barrier." Dr. Galea'i also contributed the Foreword to the guide, in which he refers to it as "the beginning of other translation publications" for the College as well as "a contribution to the body of Samoan written records." Tofaeono Victor T. Williams, MD, of LBJ Hospital wrote the Preface to the guide, and also joined in Monday's celebration. In the Preface, Dr. Williams writes, "As someone involved in coordinating cancer education in American Samoa, I welcome the present bilingual guide and applaud those who authored it."

The SSI funded the project through a partnership between ASCC and the American Samoa Community Cancer Network. Fauolo-Manila said that the SSI currently has "about 100" copies of the guide which it plans to give away free of charge. "Once we've disseminated all of the copies from this first run of the printing, then we may have to charge a fee to cover the cost of producing more copies," she explained, "but for now we can still provide free copies to anyone interested." To inquire about receiving a copy of the guide, telephone ASCC at 699-9155 and ask for the Samoan Studies Institute.

## Population Summit... *(continued from page 1)*

"Since that time, the problem - much like our population - has continued to grow. While certain solutions have been proposed, a new sense of urgency exists. The time for action is now!" the Governor said.

He expressed his gratitude to all the Summit participants and the individuals working on issues related to population pressure in American Samoa, including several honored guests with relevant experience in population issues.

However, he said, simply attending the Summit is not enough to bring about change. "Commitment, dialogue, and collaboration are essential. I challenge each of you to spend the next two days discussing these important issues and creating collaborative solutions to these serious problems. The outcomes you achieve will serve as the basis for the American Samoa Government to effectively develop and implement policies and enforcement procedures that will eventually be drafted into law by our legislators."

Togiola told those in attendance that the body of work they produce during the two-day summit "will have a profound effect on the future of our territory, our children, and our way and quality of life."

According to the Governor, the underlying ethic as the territory moves forward is the monumental challenge of accommodating the needs today, without compromising the needs of future generations.

"This concept is strongly rooted in our cultural heritage, '*Fa'atoetoe Le Muli o le Ola*,' which means, to keep for them the remainder of the basket. Inherent within this proverb is the fact that our resources are not finite, there are limits, and in an island setting as ours, the primary threat comes from *people* and how they behave responsibly in their use of land, water and air," Togiola said. "Our people have lived in this beautiful and unique island setting for centuries, but times are changing. How do we adapt to these changes without compromising our natural resources, our identity as American Samoans, or our traditional way of life? How do we sustain our culture and lifestyle for our next generation to enjoy?" he asked.

"This issue is bigger than you, it is bigger than me, and it is bigger than my administration. It is all of our problem, and it is a problem of the future as well," said the Governor. "However, I am sure that we can come together to create solutions, just as we did for the Festival. It is time for each of us to address this issue seriously, to help ensure that American Samoa moves towards a sustainable, healthy future for ourselves and all of the generations that will follow."

Summit participants included local religious leaders, hospital employees, government officials, community members, and off island guests Arthur Jorari, demographer and population specialist of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia, and Dr. Joan Castro, project director of the Integrated Population, a Coastal Resources Management Initiative (IPOPORM) from the Philippines

**American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Request for Comments on the American Samoa 2008  
Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has prepared the American Samoa 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. This report is intended to satisfy the listing requirements of Section 303(d) and the reporting requirements of Section 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act. The report places waters in five (5) assessment categories. Category 5 waters are considered impaired (do not meet one or more designated uses) and are 303(d) listed. In the 2008 report Category 5 waters include 16 watersheds due to elevated levels of Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen and/or bacteria in the streams, and 26 watersheds due to elevated levels of bacteria and/or other nonpoint source pollutants on beaches.

The report is available to the public at the AS-EPA office in Utulei. AS-EPA invites public comments on the report. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the first published date of this notice, 19 September 2008. Submit comments to the AS-EPA office or by mail to AS-EPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. For more information, please contact LT Elena Vaouli, AS-EPA Water Program Manager at 633-2304.

Thank you,



**Fanuatele, Dr. T.F. Vaiaga'e, Director**  
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

**Matagaluega o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa**

**FA'ASILASILAGA FA'ALAU'ITELE**

**Talosaga mo le Fa'atalatalanoaina o le Ripoti ua Tu'ufa'atasia ai  
Su'esu'ega ma Fa'amaumauga mo le Suavai Mama• i Amerika Samoa mo le 2008.**

Ua mae'a nei ona saunia e le Matagaluega o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (AS-EPA) se Ripoti o lo'o Tu'ufa'atasia ai Su'esu'ega ma Fa'amaumauga mo le Suavai Mama i Amerika Samoa mo le 2008. O lenei ripoti o le tali atu lea i aiaiga o lo'o i lalo o le tulafono o le Suavai Mama• (Water Quality Act); vaega 303(d) ma mata'upu e tatau ona tu'u i totonu o ripoti – vaega 305(b) atoa ai ma le 314 o le Tulafono mo le Suavai Mama•. E lima (5) ni vaega o lo'o ta'ua i totonu o le ripoti ua vaevae ai le su'esu'ega ma ituaiga o le suavai. O suavai o lo'o i le vaega lima (5), o suavai ia ua le mafai ona la'asia fuafuaga fa'ata'atia mo le fa'aaogaina ma ua tu'u i le lisi o le 303(d). I le ripoti o le 2008, o lo'o ta'ua ai o suavai oi le vaega lima (5) o lo'o a'afia ai nofoaga e sefulu ma le ono (16) o loo tapu'e ai le suavai, e mafua mai i le maualuga o fuaninumeria ua o'o ai le faitauaofa'i o le naitoroseni (nitrogen & phosphorous), tulaga palapala (Turbidity) ma le Okeseni faaliusuavai (Dissolved Oxygen), ma le luasefulu ma le ono (26) i matafaga, poo ogasami e fa'aaoga mo tafaoga ma ta'elega o loo siitia pea le siama o loo maua ai ona o otaota.

O lenei ripoti e mafai ona maua e le mamalu o le atunu'u mai le Matagaluega o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa. E talosaga atu lenei matagaluega ma le fa'aaloalo i ni manatu fa'aalia po'o ni fa'amatalaga e fa'ata'au i lenei ripoti. E mafai ona tusi ma lafo, pe faaoo mai i le matagaluega a le AS-EPA ae le'i atoa le 30 o aso talu ona faia lenei fa'asalalaga, 19 Setema 2008, i le AS-EPA, Porokalama o le Suavai, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Mo nisi fa'amatalaga au'ili'ili, fa'amolemole fa'afeso'ota'i LT. Elena Vaouli o le AS-EPA i le 633-2304.

Ma le Fa'aaloalo Lava,



**Fanuatele, Dr. Toafa T.F. Vaiaga'e, Director**  
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency