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Lemanu-Talauega Administration Establishes a Seat for the Youth in ASG

“A Youth Council is an effective way to get more youth involved in solving local problems, actively engaging in the community, and contributing a junior perspective towards policies and public programs, including but not limited to, health, social services, education, recreation, delinquency, foster care, transportation, and job opportunities.”

On October 7, 2022, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga signed Executive Order 010-2022, an order to establish the Governor’s Youth Council, to act as a voice for the youth of American Samoa to the American Samoa Government.

Governor Lemanu mentioned that “American Samoa is home to young people who are diligent and passionate about societal issues. With the advancement of technology and networking, we see that our youth have become resourceful and connected; they can navigate and access global information and create opportunities to collectively act on social changes, or improve conditions for themselves and their communities.”

He further added, “A Youth Council is an effective way to get more youth involved in solving local problems, to actively engage in the community, and to contribute a junior perspective towards policies and public programs, including but not limited to, health, social services, education, recreation, delinquency, foster care, transportation, and job opportunities.”

Some of the duties of the Council include:

- 1) Meet no less than once a month;
- 2) Express the concerns of children and youth;
- 3) Make recommendations for policies, legislation pertaining to children and youth;
- 4) Encourage and foster local community action on behalf of and by children and young adults.

The Council will consist of:

- 1) Two Students (one boy and one girl) from each public and private school that has high school classes to be selected by the principal or the director of that school;

- 2) One student who is twenty-two years old or younger from American Samoa Community College that is selected by the president of the college; and
- 3) Six members appointed by the Governor, two from each district, who are twenty two-years old or younger at the time of their appointment.

The Youth Council will be supported by the Director of the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs, who shall act as a liaison between the Council and other organizations. This order will remain in effect until January 3, 2025.

To access Executive Order 010-2022, please visit www.americansamoa.gov/press-media

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