



American Samoa
Government

TAPUITEA

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American Samoa Community College Hosts Fall 2025 Welcome Assembly

On August 11, 2025, the American Samoa Community College officially inaugurated the Fall 2025 Semester with a Welcome Back Assembly. The event was graced by the presence of Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, members of the ASCC Board of Higher Education, faculty, and staff. Reverend Iasepi Ulu opened the gathering with a heartfelt invocation, setting a tone of reflection and unity.

In her welcoming address, ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Pato conveyed sincere gratitude to the college's faculty and staff for their unwavering commitment and service over the years. She encouraged educators to make the most of their time, to inspire meaningful learning, and to "always teach from the heart."

Governor Pulaali'i delivered a special message of appreciation to educators throughout the territory, highlighting the enduring challenges of the teaching profession through personal reflections on his father's career as an educator. He reaffirmed his deep respect for teachers and pledged continued support for the advancement of education in American Samoa. Echoing Dr. Pato's sentiments, the Governor emphasized the importance of heartfelt teaching and extended his best wishes for a successful academic year.

Following the assembly, ASCC facilitated institutional workshops for faculty and staff. Orientation sessions for new and returning students are scheduled later in the week to ensure a smooth transition into the semester. The Government of American Samoa extends its congratulations to ASCC on the commencement of the Fall 2025 Semester and anticipates a year of meaningful contributions from its faculty and students.

For additional information, please visit the ASCC website at <https://www.amsamoa.edu> or contact the college at (684) 699-9155.



August, 8 2025- Chef Devynne Fuga-Pu'a captivated the crowd with a live culinary demonstration during the Department of Agriculture's National Farmers Week celebration at the Fagatogo Market. Her vibrant dishes, crafted from fresh, locally grown ingredients, highlight the richness of Samoan agriculture and inspire a deeper appreciation for farm-to-table traditions.



Territorial Energy Office Launches Commercial Energy Audit Training with National Renewable Energy Laboratory



On August 12, 2025, the Territorial Energy Office (TEO) officially commenced its Commercial Energy Audit Training (CEAT), a strategic initiative aimed at cultivating local expertise in energy efficiency and sustainability. Delivered in collaboration with professionals from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the training is being hosted at the Election Office Conference Room in Tafuna. Leading the sessions are distinguished trainers Mr. Kosol Kiatreungwattana and Mr. Otto Van Geet.

During his opening remarks, Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula conveyed his strong support for the program, expressing optimism that the training will contribute meaningfully to American Samoa's long-term energy goals. He emphasized that the insights provided by NREL's experts will inform critical discussions at the upcoming Western Governors Association meeting in September, where regional energy challenges will be addressed. Governor Pulaali'i highlighted the significance of the CEAT initiative, extending his gratitude to the trainers for their commitment and expertise. "This training is not merely a series of workshops, it is an investment in our people and in our future," he affirmed.

The CEAT program forms a cornerstone of TEO's Workforce Development Initiative to Empower a Sustainable Future for American Samoa. Through a combination of expert-led instruction and practical field exercises, the program is designed to strengthen local capacity for data-driven energy decision-making. Participants, representing various departments within the American Samoa Government, will acquire the skills necessary to assess, prioritize, and implement energy efficiency measures that promote sustainable development and enhance the Territory's economic resilience. Beyond technical training, CEAT also fosters cross-sector collaboration and knowledge exchange, encouraging participants to think holistically about energy challenges and solutions. By equipping local professionals with the tools to conduct comprehensive energy audits, the program lays the groundwork for long-term policy innovation, infrastructure planning, and community engagement in sustainability efforts. Ultimately, CEAT aims to build a skilled workforce capable of leading American Samoa toward a more energy-secure and environmentally responsible future.



Governor Pulaali'i, Nikolao Pula

"The knowledge we gain here will echo far beyond these walls..."

"It will strengthen our voice in regional energy dialogues and help us chart a more resilient path forward."

For more information, Please Contact:



Tafuna



(684) 699-1101



Territorial Energy Office, American Samoa

Community Engagement at Deep Sea Mining Forum Held Both Virtually and In-Person



On August 6, 2025, the Deep Sea Mining Task Force convened a pivotal public forum designed to deepen community understanding and spark meaningful dialogue around potential deep sea mining activities within American Samoa's Outer Continental Shelf. The event served as a platform for residents, stakeholders, and experts to engage in open conversation about the complexities, risks, and opportunities tied to this emerging industry.

The forum featured presentations from three distinguished speakers, each offering unique perspectives on the environmental, technological, economic, and financial dimensions of deep sea mining:

Scott Vincent, President of the Critical Ocean Minerals Research Center, addressed the often polarized nature of public discourse. He challenged prevailing narratives shaped by environmental advocacy groups and explored both the known and uncertain impacts of harvesting polymetallic nodules from the ocean floor.

Oliver Gunasekara, CEO of Impossible Metals, introduced cutting-edge technologies aimed at minimizing ecological disruption. He emphasized the potential for selective nodule collection methods to preserve marine ecosystems while contributing to economic development in American Samoa.

Victor L. Vescovo, venture capitalist and deep sea explorer, offered a sobering analysis of the financial risks and technological hurdles facing the industry. He stressed the importance of strategic foresight and cautious evaluation as American Samoa considers its path forward.

While in-person attendance was modest, the forum drew robust virtual engagement, with many community members participating via Zoom. The online format facilitated a dynamic exchange of questions, concerns, and ideas, underscoring the community's active interest and commitment to informed decision-making.

The Deep Sea Mining Task Force extends its sincere appreciation to all speakers and participants for their valuable contributions. As the Task Force continues its mission to assess and shape policy around deep sea mining, it remains committed to transparency, inclusivity, and ongoing public engagement. Updates and future opportunities for involvement will be shared through official communication channels.

To learn more
Please reach out to:



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(684) 699-3636



American Samoa
Resilience Office

"The Deep Sea is not ours to DESTROY"



Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Inaugurates DSAR and U.S. Coast Guard Search Coordination and Execution Training



On August 19, 2025, the Department of Search and Rescue (DSAR), in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, officially commenced its Search Coordination and Execution Course at the VA Office in Tafuna.

DSAR Director Utumoeaau Alefosio extended a warm welcome to the distinguished instructors and dedicated participants attending the four-day training.

Representing Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. graced the opening ceremony and delivered heartfelt remarks.

In his speech, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala underscored the significance of the program, stating, "Our territory is truly blessed to have the U.S. Coast Guard share their expertise in search and rescue to enhance the safety of our people."

He also reflected on the recent loss of a 15-year-old boy swept out to sea, emphasizing the urgent relevance of this training for American Samoa.

The course was being led by a highly skilled team from the U.S. Coast Guard:

- **OS1 Chad Dills – Lead Instructor**
- **Lt. Madeline Romito – Instructor**
- **Mr. Jerrod Sneller – Instructor**
- **Cmdr. Preston Hieb – Chief of Incident Management, Senior Official**
- **Mr. Kevin Cooper – Search and Rescue Program Manager**

This collaborative training effort reflects the strong and enduring partnership between DSAR and the U.S. Coast Guard, united in their mission to protect and serve the people of American Samoa.

For more information

Contact:



Information Session on IRT Medical Mission, Dengue Control Measures, and Community Health Engagement

On Monday, August 25, 2025, Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, in collaboration with the Office of Samoan Affairs, hosted a comprehensive informational briefing at the Lee Auditorium. The event brought together a wide range of key stakeholders, including leaders from Samoan Affairs, village mayors, traditional authorities, Cabinet officials, the Department of Health, LBJ Hospital, and the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA).

The session featured critical updates on the ongoing Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Medical Mission, which continues to provide essential healthcare services across the territory. As of August 24, the mission has served over 3,400 patients, delivering treatments valued at more than \$866,000 in areas such as dental care, optometry, women's health, preventive medicine, and general medical services.



Discussions underscored the long-term benefits of IRT missions in improving healthcare accessibility and supporting community health programs. These include chronic disease management for conditions like diabetes and hypertension, health education initiatives, and expanded services for women's health. The Department of Health reported 66 confirmed dengue cases as of August 20, 2025; 25 locally acquired, 35 imported, and 6 under investigation. Encouragingly, 63 patients have recovered, with 3 currently hospitalized. DOH emphasized the importance of early detection, clinical readiness, and public education in managing the outbreak.

AS-EPA reported ongoing success in its mosquito control campaign, having cleared over 170 truckloads of scrap vehicles, appliances, and debris from high-risk zones to reduce breeding sites.

Governor Pula and Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala expressed sincere appreciation to all agencies, departments, and community leaders for their continued commitment to public health. They extended special thanks to the IRT Medical Mission team, DOH, LBJ Hospital, AS-EPA, Samoan Affairs and traditional leaders for their collaboration and service to the people of American Samoa.



Governor Pulaalii and First Lady Lois Pula Joins Special Church Service to Commemorate the Launch of the New Academic Year for the Department of Education

On Sunday, August 17, 2025, Governor Pulaalii joined educators, government leaders, and community members at a special church service hosted by Ekalesia Metotisi “O A’u o le Vine Moni” in Nu’uuli. The gathering marked the official launch of the new academic year for the Department of Education, beginning with a spiritual foundation under the theme: “The Learners of Today Are the Leaders of Tomorrow.”

Led by Rev. Tagiilima Lavilavi, the service offered heartfelt spiritual guidance and encouragement. He urged educators to look beyond titles and recognition, and instead root their work in honesty, humility, and a deep commitment to the students they serve. Rev. Tagiilima reminded attendees that the future of American Samoa depends on moral integrity and educational excellence, values best modeled by the very teachers who shape young minds.

Governor Pulaalii delivered heartfelt remarks, highlighting the essential role educators play in society

“Teachers are among the most vital gifts in our lives,” he said. “They are our children’s greatest hope and the most important guides in our communities.” -Governor Pulaalii

Governor extended his gratitude to everyone in the education system, from teachers and counselors to custodians and support staff, recognizing their dedication to nurturing the future of American Samoa.

Director of Education Maefau Dr. Mary Lauagaia Taufetee also addressed the congregation, expressing appreciation to government leaders and all attendees who came to uplift the department and its workforce. She emphasized that the success of the educational mission is built on shared values, collaboration, and perseverance. Dr. Taufetee honored the tireless service of educators and staff who continue to shape both the academic and moral foundation of the territory.

As the school year begins, Governor Pulaalii and Lt. Governor Pulumataala extend their warmest wishes to the Department of Education and to every educator across American Samoa. May this year be filled with inspiration, resilience, and continued success in shaping the minds and hearts of tomorrow’s leaders.

For more information Contact:



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Utulei, American Samoa
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Office of the Governor CONSTITUENT SERVICES

YOUR VOICE, OUR MISSION

The Office of the Governor of American Samoa is pleased to announce the official inauguration of the Office of Constituent Services, a newly established division operating under the distinguished authority of the National Governors Association. This federally authorized office, introduced by the current administration, marks a pivotal advancement in our ongoing commitment to fostering civic engagement, government transparency, and responsive public service throughout the territory.

Established as a refined and accessible platform for community dialogue, the Office of Constituent Services serves as a vital bridge between the people of American Samoa and their government. It offers residents a dignified and efficient avenue to express concerns, submit inquiries, and seek resolution on matters of public interest. From healthcare and immigration to education and essential services, the office is dedicated to ensuring that every issue is met with professionalism, discretion, and timely attention.

In its three months of operation, the Office of Constituent Services has already achieved a significant milestone, successfully resolving 200 constituent cases. This accomplishment reflects the division's commitment to guiding public concerns through the appropriate governmental channels and delivering meaningful outcomes that enhance the lives of our citizens.

*“...o le ‘au’ aunaga e
mulimuli i le fa’avae i le
Atua ma le
TULAFONO”*
-Kiso Skelton

The Office of Constituent Services stands as a guardian of public voice, a living embodiment of the administration's pledge to govern with empathy, integrity, and excellence. Its mission is clear: to ensure that every resident of American Samoa feels heard, valued, and supported.

We invite all members of our community to engage with this new office and take full advantage of the valuable services and resources it offers. Whether seeking guidance, voicing a concern, or requesting assistance, the Constituent services prepares to serve with professionalism, compassion and efficiency.

The Office of Constituent Services remains deeply committed to fostering meaningful engagement and delivering responsive, high-quality support to all members of our community. Constituents are encouraged to reach out, whether seeking assistance, voicing concerns, or contributing to thoughtful dialogue. Every voice plays a vital role in shaping collective progress, and the Office is honored to serve as a trusted partner in that journey. Together, they continue to build a more informed, inclusive, and empowered American Samoa.





MEET the Constituent Services TEAM



Kiso Skelton
Director



Constituent Services Caseworkers



Esther Fiatoa



Atumauga Vaoesea



Vaivaiolupe Fonopo



**Salamasina Satele-
Taufete'e**

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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**LBJ Hospital Tri-Parking Lot
Groundbreaking**

Disaster Resilience Summit

Creative West Dinner

Paogo Cultural Week


9/29 Tsunami Remembrance

Should you wish to have any forthcoming events considered for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact us.



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