



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
GOVERNOR

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TALAEUGA E. V. ALE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH
MARCH 2021

- WHEREAS,** developmental disability is a natural part of the human experience and does not diminish the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and participate fully in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of our society;
- WHEREAS,** the Presidential Executive Order 13347 Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness was signed by President George W. Bush to support safety and security for individuals with disabilities in all types of emergency situations through a coordinated effort amongst agencies to ensure inclusive planning;
- WHEREAS,** the American Samoa COVID Task Force includes representation from the Disability Network recognizing people with disabilities are at a higher risk to be infected or severely ill due to preexisting conditions by the global pandemic;
- WHEREAS,** the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, employment, education, transportation and public and private places;
- WHEREAS,** the evolution of technology empowers people with disabilities to access daily activities and services through the use of assistive technology; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the commitment of the American Samoa Government to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to pursue meaningful and productive lives and thrive in a full inclusive society.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2021 as Developmental Disability Awareness Month in the Territory of American Samoa, and call upon our people to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Furthermore, I encourage the people of the Territory to seek input from any person or agency with knowledge and expertise in the matter of planning, coordination, and advisory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the Seal of my office on this 24th day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lemaniu P. S. Mauga".

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor of American Samoa