



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

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**Official Statement from the Honorable Governor
Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Bill**

On September 30, 2025, at 3:34 p.m., my office received the Fiscal Year 2026 budget bill from the Fono, only hours before the start of the new fiscal year. Despite this short window of time, I have carefully reviewed and signed the measure, with the paramount interest of ensuring the continuity of normal government operations and upholding our shared duty to the people of American Samoa.

Upon review, the local revenues exceeded expenditures, leaving a net excess in the budget. I plan to allocate this amount in furtherance of my constitutional authority over appointments, administration, and supervision of executive offices and personnel, as provided under Article IV, Sect. 7.

While I have approved this budget with my constitutional authority, I do so mindful that the decisions we make will affect thousands of lives. The Lieutenant Governor and I have observed the federal government enter a shutdown, and we are determined to find a way to limit the crisis here in our homeland.

Our decision is not for ourselves but for the 5,500 employees of the American Samoa Government and their families who rely on the stability of government operations. This budget approval ensures that our government will continue to function, that paychecks will be delivered, and that families will be supported.

At the end of the day, my responsibility is to the people of American Samoa. I signed this budget not out of convenience, but out of commitment to the wellbeing of our workforce and the stability of our homeland. Together, we will continue to move forward, and that the government remains steadfast in its service to the people.

Please see attached below the summary of the executive budget proposal alongside the legislative proposal for full transparency.

FY 2026 Budget Summary	Executive Proposal	Legislative Changes	Diff	% Diff
Enterprise	\$287,741,500	\$287,214,777	-\$526,723	-0.2%
Federal Grants	\$386,382,569	\$379,591,336	-\$6,791,233	-1.8%
Special Programs	\$20,661,000	\$20,661,000	\$0	0.0%
Local Funds	\$120,607,000	\$120,088,000	-\$519,000	-0.4%
Total	\$815,392,069	\$807,555,113	-\$7,836,956	-1.0%

The FY 2026 Budget Summary shows a slight overall reduction of **\$7.8 million (1.0%)** from the Executive's proposal of \$815.4 million to the Legislature's approved \$807.6 million. The largest decrease came from **Federal Grants**, which were reduced by \$6.8 million (1.8%) due to significant adjustments in departmental reporting, particularly cuts to the Department of Commerce and ODAPM, though partially offset by an increase to the Hospital Authority. **Enterprise funds** were lowered by \$526,723 (0.2%) as the Legislature reduced allocations to ODAPM and ASTCA while increasing personnel funding for the Hospital Authority. **Local Funds** saw a modest \$519,000 (0.4%) reduction, reflecting the Legislature's decision not to fund salaries for the identified positions, though the corresponding revenues remain available for the Governor's discretion.

Meanwhile, **Special Programs** funding held steady at \$20.7 million, maintaining Fono priorities such as the Board of Higher Education, Small Village Fund, and the Territorial Election, offset by reductions in housing, ceremonial activities, and restoration projects. Overall, the Legislature's changes were targeted and modest, with the most notable adjustments centered on federal grant allocations.

May God continue to bless American Samoa.



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
Governor