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## **Governor Lemanu Submits Voter-Approved Amendments of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa to the Department of Interior**

*“The people of American Samoa have spoken...we ask that you support these amendments and take such actions as may be necessary to bring them into effect...and to facilitate the will of our people..”*

On December 14th, 2022, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga transmitted to the Secretary of Interior, Honorable Deb Haaland, five amendments to the Revised Constitution of American Samoa. The Constitutional Convention of 2022 recommended eleven amendments to be included on the referendum ballot of November 8, 2022. As a result, the Voters of American Samoa approved five amendments.

“The people of American Samoa have spoken,” stated Governor Lemanu in his letter of submission. “We ask that you support these amendments and take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to bring them into effect... and to facilitate the will of our people,” he continued.

Enclosed in the letter to Secretary Haaland were the following: A letter from the Chief Election Officer with the results of the constitutional referendum; the text of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa incorporating the text of the approved five amendments; and the report of the 2022 Constitutional Convention. Included in the report of the 2022 Constitutional Convention is the text of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa that incorporated the eleven amendments that were approved by the Convention as well as Executive Orders 001-22, 006-22, and 007-22.

Governor Lemanu expressed his gratitude to the Department of Interior for their manifold support for the 2022 Constitutional Convention. “The people of American Samoa appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Interior to support this locally conducted process by providing a technical assistance grant,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “We are grateful that the Honorable Carmen G. Cantor, the Assistant Secretary for Insular and

International Affairs, and Basil Ottley, the Director of Policy for the Office of Insular Affairs, could accept our invitations to attend the Convention as honored guests.”

Assistant Secretary Cantor delivered special remarks at the Constitutional Convention opening ceremony on August 29, 2022.

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