



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

**“National Disability Employment Awareness Month”**

**October 2024**

- WHEREAS,** the Territory of American Samoa joins our Nation as it continues to reaffirm and to honor its commitment to avail more employment opportunities for people with disabilities by declaring October as the National Disability Employment Awareness Month rooted in its conviction that America and the Territory’s economies are stronger when every American is accorded the opportunity to thrive and to provide meaningful contributions; and
- WHEREAS,** during the National Disability Employment Awareness Month our Nation celebrates, recognize, and lauds the incredible contributions of disabled Americans to our country, our respective economies, and our communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Disability Employment Awareness Month underscores our Nation and our Territory’s unrelenting pledge to advance the fundamental tenet of equal, accessible, and equitable distribution of employment opportunities by individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** it was not uncommon in the distant past for an individual with disability to be denied employment because of their disability, access public spaces, access public transportation, or readily access services to satisfy their basic needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Disability Employment Awareness Month reenergizes America’s commitment in continually reaffirming its core values and inalienable rights of all Americans, including individuals with disabilities to dignity, respect, and an equal chance at the American Dream; and
- WHEREAS,** while the existence of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act have become sources of opportunity, meaningful inclusion, participation, and preservation of dignity, equality and equity for employment for those with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** in spite the tremendous strides achieved regarding the efforts of our government dedicated to the advancement of opening the doors wider to those with disabilities to successfully access employment opportunities, much more needs to be done to create more employment opportunities to accommodate the growing number of unemployed individuals with disabilities; and

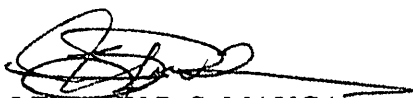
**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government has promulgated and articulated policies encouraging all government agencies to employ individuals with disabilities, and it reaches out to the business community to establish similar employment policies to ensure that all those with disabilities needing employment will have access to one; and

**WHEREAS,** this administration is fully committed to comprehensively address the needs of our people with disabilities by continuing to increase its investment in building the required support infrastructure to ensure that the quality and sufficiency of services rendered for the disabled population of American Samoa will promote our mission and our Nation's vision to maximize their chances at attaining the American Dream.

**WHEREAS,** During the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, American Samoa is in partnership with our Nation as we celebrate the talent, impact, and legacy of our resident with disabilities and across our Nation aimed to make our county stronger, more prosperous, and more equitable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA,** Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*. I urge all residents to embrace the talents and skills of workers with disabilities and to promote their right to equal employment opportunity for all. I humbly ask all of the stakeholders and private sector employers to engage in appropriate activities to honor and promote the inherent tenets of the National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

  
LEMANU P. S. MAUGA  
Governor