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“Governor Meets with Fono Leaders on Constitutional Convention 2022 Matters.”

“We need to reach out to the youth; get them engaged so when it is their turn to be leaders of American Samoa, they will be better than us.”

Governor Lemanu and Lt. Governor Talauega met with Senate President Honorable Tuaolo Manaia Fruean and Speaker of the House, Honorable Savali Talavou Ale, recently to discuss plans for the 2022 Constitutional Convention. The Director of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, and Federal Relations, Dr. Tapa'au Dan Aga, presented strategies and programs leading up to the Constitutional Convention. The theme for this year's convention is, "O lou Tofi, lou Fa'asinomaga ma lou Fa'avae." The Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, and Federal Relations will compile a curriculum guide for the American Samoa Constitution Convention.

One proposed program is a student-led Constitutional Convention with the Department of Education is tentatively scheduled for April 2022. Students will experience how important it is to understand the American Samoa Constitution and the current Political Status in detail.

Governor Lemanu stated the importance of grasping the interest of the youth as they will become the next leaders of our Territory. "We need to reach out to the youth; get them engaged so when it is their turn to be leaders of American Samoa, they will be better than us. That is the ultimate goal. The journey that our forefathers had experienced was not an easy one, but it was the first step in our progress towards establishing our Government," stated Governor Lemanu.

The Speaker of the House also expressed how impressed he was to see the strong partnership between the Administration and the Fono early on. This harmonious relationship will bring this event to fruition. "The last Constitutional Convention took place in 2010, so as we prepare for this year's convention, it is important to work together for the betterment of our people.", stated Representative Ale.

The Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, and Federal Relations and the Constitution Review Committee will begin the work at the end of January, 2022.



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