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“Governor Lemanu Issues Code of Ethics.”

"It is of the utmost importance to me and the Lieutenant Governor Talauega that we build on our strengths as a workforce and encourage our leaders to serve willingly and to the best of their abilities."

In Executive Order 008-21: signed on December 13, 2021, Governor Lemanu issued the "Order to Establish a Code of Ethics for the Executive Branch," and "remains in effect until January 2, 2025, unless it is extended, superseded, amended or repealed."

Issuing the code of ethics for the Executive branch has been a privilege that each Governor imposes on all American Samoa Government (ASG) employees. Governor Lemanu has looked closely at past codes and has updated policies that seemed efficient and maintained those that continue to uphold the highest ethical standards.

Section 4: Code of Ethics outlines the three main priorities; Leadership, Integrity, and Commitment. These priorities guide the standards that Governor Lemanu and Lieutenant Governor Talauega expect from their employees. Employees of ASG, regardless of their positions, should not engage in any activities that would present a conflict of interest. Including taking part in any private businesses that conduct business with their respective agency. ASG employees suspected of unethical behavior, should be reported to the Chief Ethics Officer. Under Section 5, the Governor has designated the Territorial Auditor as the Chief Ethics Officer. The code requires all ASG employees should hold each other accountable and treat everyone fairly regardless of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, and sex.

The Code of Ethics reflects Governor Lemanu's interest in ensuring fairness across the entire Administration. He expects unprejudiced and nondiscriminatory conduct by the employees of ASG while providing government services. They also served as guidelines for ethical and socially responsible behavior. It is also the hope that this high standard will encourage the recruitment and retainment of those best qualified to serve in those capacities.

"The Executive Code of Ethics has long-reflected an important standard of integrity for Executive Branch appointees," said Governor Lemanu. He continued, "It is of the utmost importance to the Lieutenant Governor Talauega and me that we build on our strengths as a workforce and encourage our leaders to serve to the best of their abilities. Every cabinet meeting, the directors are reminded about practicing accountability and integrity. We have

placed high expectations for them, and together with my entire Administration, we can continue to restore faith and trust in government and uphold high standards for public service."

A General Memorandum, GM 187-21, accompanies the Executive Order and asks for each director and agency head to provide the Chief Ethics Officer with the names of the Ethics Officer for their respective agency by January 2, 2022.

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