



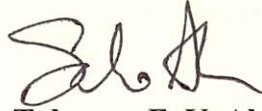
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONTH 2023**

- WHEREAS,** American Samoa is a place of unlimited possibilities. The willingness of entrepreneurs to take risks, work hard, and never quit to make those possibilities come alive is commendable. They turn vision into reality and ideas into products, profits, and national prosperity. This month, we celebrate their contributions as a point of national pride and recommit to giving them the space and support to ensure American Samoa businesses continue to thrive and expand; and
- WHEREAS,** during National Entrepreneurship Month, we celebrate the doers, dreamers, and job creators whose vision and grit fuel our economy and the essence of American Samoa; and
- WHEREAS,** starting and owning a business has always been a pivotal path to the Territory – a way to build wealth, serve your neighbors, and leave a mark on a community and the world. Requiring risk-taking and daring, entrepreneurs faced additional challenges during the pandemic and the economic crisis that it created. During COVID, many of our small businesses closed while others struggled to find workers and stock their shelves. However, as we have recovered, our local community has responded with an entrepreneurial spirit, seizing the opportunity to build new businesses and launch new careers; and
- WHEREAS,** to rebuild the local economy since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Business Recovery Capital Program (BRCP), funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and administered by the American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC), launched the following business economic recovery programs: BRCP Revolving Line of Credit (LOC), BRCP Grant Program, and Cash Assistance Program (CAP) for Impacted Businesses. To date, a total of 29 borrowers have received a BRCP LOC assistance worth \$4.65 million; 208 small businesses have received BRCP Grant assistance worth \$4.2 million, and a total of 230 have received CAP assistance worth \$1.3 million; and
- WHEREAS,** our Administration is working across the board to help them all succeed. As of September 29, 2023, 289 new registered businesses were established out of 3,548 existing ones in American Samoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Talauega E. V. Ale, Acting Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2023 as National Entrepreneurship Month. I call upon our community to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities and to celebrate November 18, 2023, as National Entrepreneurs' Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 24th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.



Talauega E. V. Ale
Acting Governor