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# PRESS RELEASE

***Upu Tomua - O upu a le atunu'u o se avega e ave gofie ma māmā, o le avega lena e tausoa fa'atasi. O le au'ga lena o au'te o lenei tau'aofi'aga ma lona Manulauti ua fa'aulutalaina "TA'AVEGA E TA'USOA FA'ATASI"***

## Galulue Fa'atasi mo le Soifua Maloloina o Amerika Samoa.

Na usua se Fonotaga i le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi i le Masina o Mati 24 -26, 2025, O le Afioga i le Kovana Tofia, le Matua ia Pulumata'ala Ae,Ae Jr, o le saunoaga fa'apitoa o lea aso e fai ma sui o lana Afioga le Kovana Pulaalii Nikolao Pula, ona sa motu ma le taula i fuafua'aga fa'alemalo. Sa fa'atasi atu i ai sui o le Ofisa o le Medicaid, o Sui o le Fono, fa'apea le Kapeneta, sui o le Soifua Maloloina ma nisi o le mamalu o le atunu'u.

Na tanoa fa'alele le Afioga ia Pulu e momoli le agaga fa'afetai ona o avanoa maualuga ma le tāua ua fa'ataunu'uina ai lenei fa'amoemoe. Sa saunoa fa'alauaitale lana Afioga ma fa'ailoa ai le agaga fa'atuatuaina ma le sapaapaia e le Malo o lenei Polokalama. Na ia ta'ua ai e masani ona asiasi i nu'u ma Afio'aga ma ia maitauina ai ma le agaga o'otia i le toatele o tamā ma tinā ua tausii moega. O nisi ua vaimāmā toto, o nisi o lo'o i ai manaoga fa'apitoa 'atoa ai ma le toatele o le mamalu o le atunu'u e le'o maua fesoasoani tau le Soifua maloloina i Polokalama ia a le Malo, a e peitai o lenei Polokalama e agava'a ai le toatele.

O lo'o ia molimauina le tele o fa'afitauli i totonu o Aiga, a e sa ia tu'ualalo ma fa'amalosi'au i tupulaga, ina ia tausii fa'amaoni matua ma ia aloese mai le fa'aaogaina o fuala'au fa'asaina, a e le gata i lea ia finau e saili so latou lumanai manuia, a e ia fa'amuumua lava le soifua maloloina.

"E mautinoa ma le agaga fiafia le aoga tele o le Medicaid ma lana auaunaga mo Amerika Samoa ma ona tagata, ma e tele foi nisi o fa'amanuiaga fa'aopo'opo o le a maua mai ai i le "State Medicaid Plan" Na fa'alauiloa foi e le Kovana Tofia, ia ave lenei Fono e galulue fa'atasi ai ma pa'aga mo le fo'ia o ni popolega ua leva ona fofou mai e lamatia lo tatou Soifua maloloina.

I le si'ui o lana Saunoaga na ia ta'ua ai, o le finagalo o le Afioga le Kovana Sili fa'apea ma lo'u nei tagata, e naunau tele ina ia lelei ma maualuga le auaunaga mo le tautuaina o le Soifua maloloina o le mamalu o lo tatou atunu'u. Na ia tu'ualalo foi ina ia fa'aauau pea fa'ata'ita'iga lelei na fa'avae mai e o tatou Tua'a o lo'o ua saga mai aopouli.



# PRESS RELEASE

## Opening of the Annual Medicaid Health Summit for 2025 - Working Together for a Healthier American Samoa.

The American Samoa Medicaid State Agency has commenced its annual Health Summit, scheduled to take place from March 24 to 26 at the ASCC Multipurpose Center. This year's summit is centered around the theme, "Working Together for a Healthier American Samoa." The event brings together Fono and Cabinet members, health specialists, and members of the public who are eager to gain a deeper understanding of the Medicaid Office and its initiatives.

The Honorable Acting Governor, Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., who was scheduled to be the keynote speaker, was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. However, he conveyed his gratitude to the Medicaid State Agency for the opportunity to share his message.

*"Thank you for this valuable opportunity to extend my regards and share my remarks at this Healthcare Summit. I sincerely appreciate the chance to be part of this important event,"* said Acting Governor Pulumataala. *"As you may know, I speak from the heart, and I believe in leading by example. I often walk through communities, spending time in the field, where I have observed firsthand that many of our elderly, bedridden individuals, village residents on dialysis, individuals with disabilities, and even members of our workforce are not receiving the quality healthcare they deserve."*

The Acting Governor also emphasized his commitment to tackling drug use in the territory, acknowledging the fear it instills in families. He urged the youth to care for their elders, strive for success, and prioritize their health and well-being.

*"I firmly believe that Medicaid can and will expand its efforts to provide additional services under the State Medicaid Plan, ensuring greater benefits for our people,"* he added.

The Acting Governor expressed hope that the summit, in collaboration with all stakeholders, would address longstanding concerns within the healthcare system.

*"Many of these complaints have persisted for years. Our goal should not only be to resolve them but to eliminate them entirely, ensuring that our people receive the quality healthcare they deserve," he said.*

Acting Governor Pulumataala concluded by reaffirming his vision for a healthier American Samoa.

*"The Governor and I want to empower our people to live as our ancestors did. They were active—walking, working the land, growing vegetables, singing, dancing, and fellowshiping with one another. Medicaid should work with various health agencies and nonprofit organizations to revise the State Medicaid Plan to better serve the needs of our community and deliver quality healthcare."*

Medicaid Director Louise Kuaea, in her opening remarks, warmly welcomed all summit participants and expressed her appreciation for their presence.

*"I am humbled by the appointment given to me by Governor Pulaali'i and Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala to serve in this capacity," said Director Kuaea. "Our Medicaid team is deeply committed to serving the people of American Samoa and fulfilling our mission to provide access to quality healthcare."*

She also acknowledged the challenges faced by the department, particularly the inability to provide healthcare benefits to all residents on the island. However, she expressed confidence in her team's ability to overcome these obstacles.

*"Challenges are simply opportunities in disguise," she noted.*

Director Kuaea concluded by emphasizing the importance of public awareness and accessibility to healthcare services.

*"To empower our community, we must do more to help our people understand their healthcare options. The purpose of this summit is to ensure that every individual is aware of the healthcare services available to them. Through outreach programs, public awareness efforts, and the support of our government, healthcare partners, and the community, we will continue working to enhance and expand access to essential services. Healthcare is a basic human right that every resident of American Samoa deserves," she said.*


This year's Health Summit will focus on expanding healthcare access, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing Medicaid services in American Samoa. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the Medicaid team, explore valuable resources, and participate in discussions aimed at identifying effective healthcare solutions for the community.


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