



Governor's Mansion Hosts First-Ever Women's Coalition Meet & Greet



In celebration of Women's History Month, the Governor's Mansion welcomed the Women's Coalition of American Samoa (WCAS) for a historic and heartfelt evening of connection, reflection, and inspiration. Hosted by First Lady Dr. Lois Pula, the event honored the strength, resilience, and lifelong contributions of women across generations and sectors.

In her opening, Dr. Pula warmly welcomed the women by saying, "This is your house because it is the people's house, and you belong here." She was introduced as a powerful example of perseverance, purpose, and passion. A proud advocate for lifelong learning and women's voices, she began her college journey at age 50 and later earned her Ph.D. in 2011. Her work in education and strategic communications has helped shape leaders. With grace and humor, she shared her personal story and reminded everyone that leadership comes in many forms and that it's never too late to walk in your purpose.

WCAS Public Relations Officer Luisa Kuaea delivered the opening remarks, reflecting on the significance of gathering on Maugaoalii—the land of her ancestors. She spoke to the evening's theme: "Moving Forward Together – Women Educating and Inspiring Generations," highlighting the collective power of women to influence lasting change.

All WCAS Board Members were proudly in attendance. President Vaitinasa offered an overview of the Coalition's mission, grounding her message in the Samoan proverb: "Le au ina'ilau a tina, e au le ina'ilau a tama'ita'i"—a reminder that women accomplish great things when they move forward with purpose and unity. She also emphasized the mission of WCAS: to Strengthen, Empower, and Unite (SEU) the women of American Samoa ensuring that their voices are heard, their leadership is recognized, and their contributions continue to shape the future of the territory.

The evening closed with a renewed commitment to uplift one another and ensure that the next generation of women continues to rise together.