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Governor Lemanu and First Lady Ella celebrates Department of Education's Grand Opening and Groundbreaking Ceremonies

“These new facilities are another arm of the administration’s efforts to ensure our students receive the best. Our students deserve to be in an educational environment in which they can thrive.”



On Tuesday, September 06, 2022, the Department of Education held grand opening ceremonies for Alataua II Elementary School building and Manulele Tausala Elementary School Gymnasium, and the groundbreaking of the new Alataua II Elementary School building.

“These new facilities are another arm of the administration’s efforts to ensure our students receive the best,” remarked Governor Lemanu. He continued, “Our students deserve to be in an educational environment in which they can thrive. In these classrooms we have before

us our future Governor, our next Congresswoman, and rising artists. It is also important that their facilities are maintained well for future generations. In this gym we will lay the foundation for future professional athletes. We hope to provide more resources to our youth to better equip them in their endeavors.”

Alataua II Elementary School was one of four consolidated schools under Governor Rex. E. Lee’s administration in 1963. This institution included the villages of Amaluia, Asili, Nua, Seetaga, Agagulu, Fa’ilolo, and Amanave. Contracted to Jay’s Construction under the leadership of Mr. Sam Lei Sam, the facility is approximately 162 x 35 feet. The original plan included only four classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, and restrooms. However, with the foresight of Mr. Lei Sam and his team, the new school building now consists of five classrooms on the second floor, kitchen, cafeteria and restrooms, and office space for principal and administration on the first floor, totaling approximately \$1,639,444 funded under the Department of Education Covid Funds. The Certificate of Occupancy was presented by Director Faleosina Voigt, Department of Public Works to Director Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli, Department of Education.

Following the dedication, honorable guests and attendees made their way to the groundbreaking site of the new Alataua II Elementary School gymnasium. The project has been awarded to Jay's Construction.



Afterwards, Governor Lemanu and guests headed to Nu'uuli for the dedication of the Manulele Elementary School Gymnasium. The Manulele Elementary School is also one of the four

consolidated schools that provided fundamental education to all American Samoa students through a newly created six-channel television station. Also shared at the opening ceremony was the origin of its name derived from First Lady Lady Bird Johnson being present during the dedication of the school on October 18, 1966.

Contracted to Quality Painting Construction under the leadership of Atuatasi Jerry Seigafo, the facility is approximately 120 x 75 x 140 feet, including restrooms for both male and female students, totaling \$1,106,800 funded under the Office of the Governor's Capital Improvement Project. The Certificate of Occupancy was presented by Director Faleosina Voigt to Director Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli. A traditional ava ceremony by Ituau leaders concluded the program.

"I commend the various leaders in our community who share the same concern of prioritizing our youth. The fruition of your work is a testament to your dedication to your constituents and our community. These new facilities are an investment in the leaders of tomorrow."

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