

TAPUITEA

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AMERICAN SAMOA
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Mt. Tumatumu, Ofu Manu'a

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Government In Action

- Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Champions Youth Empowerment Alongside NFL Legends at Polynesian Football Camp
- Governor Pulaali'i, Director of Education, and Attorney General Meet with U.S Secretary of Education Linda McMahon
- Governor and Samoan Language Commission Welcome Stanford Alumnus to Mark Launch of Samoan Language Program at Stanford University
- Manu'a Islands Mark 121 Years Since Historic Cession to the United States
- American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and Humanities Forms Landmark Partnership with Samoa's Ministry of Education and Culture



June 30, 2025- The Honorable Governor Pulaali'i, together with distinguished guests and national representatives, formally inaugurated the 2025 Tennis Pacific Nations Cup in American Samoa. In attendance were delegations from 11 Pacific Island nations, gathered in unity to commemorate the commencement of a prestigious regional tennis tournament rooted in sportsmanship, cultural heritage and cooperation.

Governor Pulaali'i Officiates Opening Serve at Pacific Nations Cup Kickoff in American Samoa



The American Samoa Tennis Association (ASTA) proudly inaugurated the 2025 Pacific Nations Cup with an official opening ceremony held on Monday, June 30th. The event welcomed over 65 athletes, coaches, and officials representing 11 island nations: Fiji, Nauru, Norfolk Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the host nation, American Samoa.

Commemorating ASTA's 40th anniversary, President Dr. Florence Wasko extended heartfelt gratitude to distinguished guests, sponsors, families, and supporters whose contributions made the tournament possible. "This marks a meaningful milestone for our association," she remarked, "and we are honored to share it with our Pacific neighbors."

Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula addressed the gathering with special remarks, warmly welcoming all visiting delegations to American Samoa. Highlighting the power of sport to bridge cultures and foster unity, the Governor noted, "Sport is more than just competition, it is an opportunity to build lasting bonds, share cultures, and create memories that transcend borders." He offered his best wishes to all participants for a successful and enjoyable tournament.

"We affirm our shared commitment to athletic excellence, cultural heritage, and regional solidarity through the spirit of tennis."

In a symbolic gesture to commence the competition, Governor Pulaali'i delivered the ceremonial opening serve, officially launching a week of spirited matches and Pacific fellowship.

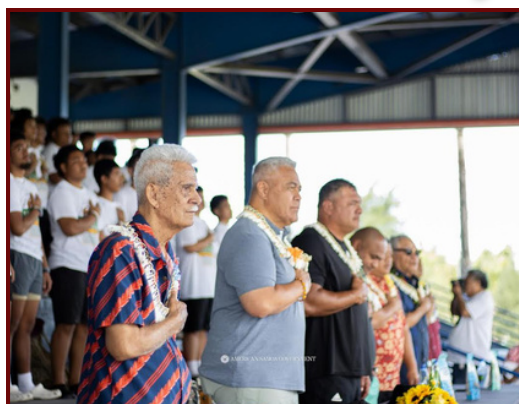
The 2025 Pacific Nations Cup stands as a vibrant celebration of athletic excellence and regional camaraderie, embodying the enduring spirit of tennis across the Pacific.



Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Supports Youth Empowerment with NFL Greats at Polynesian Football Camp

The atmosphere at Veterans Memorial Stadium was one of spirited unity and inspiration as the Polynesian Pago Pago Football Camp welcomed young athletes from across the territory. Spearheaded by a dynamic partnership of public and private sector leaders, dedicated sponsors, and generous supporters, the event underscored themes of resilience, communal pride, and the strong ties between American Samoa and its returning sons.

Among the distinguished guests was the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala, joined by local dignitaries and international attendees, reflecting the wide-reaching support for this youth-centered initiative. In a compelling address, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged participants to pursue their aspirations with determination, embrace opportunities, and honor the sacrifices of their families. He urged them to remain free from substance abuse and commit to personal growth through athletics and education. Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala extended heartfelt thanks to the Sons of American Samoa for sharing their time and talents, and expressed his sincere appreciation on behalf of the Government of American Samoa for their enduring commitment to uplifting the next generation.



"To rise from the islands to the league, you must **embrace** the grind, **honor our roots**, carry your culture with **PRIDE**. The journey is tough, but that's what makes us strong. Don't just dream, **prepare, sacrifice, and PROVE** you belong"

Manase Seiuli Jesse Sapolu

The ceremony commenced with an opening prayer led by Bishop Lotoa, who also offered heartfelt spiritual encouragement to the young athletes. The event featured an extraordinary lineup of former NFL champions and Polynesian icons, including Seiuli Manase Jesse Sapolu, Ma'a Tanuvasa, and Reno Mahe. These distinguished leaders delivered deeply moving speeches, encouraging the next generation to rise to their potential, uplift their communities, and carry forward the spirit of the islands and culture with pride.

The one-day event brought together an inspiring team of seasoned coaches and former professional players, each driven by a shared commitment to their heritage and community. Through immersive mentorship, athletic training, and cultural engagement, the camp equipped young athletes with vital skills, confidence, and a winning mindset to thrive on the field and far beyond it.

The Polynesian Hall of Fame Football Camp stood as a heartfelt celebration of community, legacy, and generosity. Its impact will resonate in the dreams, resilience, and future successes of American Samoa's youth for years to come.

**For more information
Contact:**



Governor, Director of Education, and Attorney General Meet with Secretary of Education Linda McMahon

On July 7th, Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, Director of Education Maefau Dr. Mary Taufete'e and her team, along with Attorney General Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde, convened with U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to present a comprehensive overview of the distinct challenges and opportunities confronting American Samoa's education system. The delegation seized this occasion to ensure the Secretary acquired a thorough understanding of the territory's educational landscape and its specific needs. During the meeting, Governor Pula expressed heartfelt appreciation for the reinstatement of ARPA funds and acknowledged the Department of Education's steadfast support of the territory.

The dialogue centered on American Samoa's current economic trajectory, sustainable development strategies, and the indispensable role of federal funding in propelling the territory's educational advancement. Secretary McMahon actively engaged in the discussion, demonstrating a genuine interest in identifying and understanding the structural barriers impeding educational progress. She encouraged her team's participation by prompting thoughtful questions that underscored their commitment to responsive listening and collaborative problem-solving.



The ASDOE team, having worked diligently to advocate for the restoration of ARPA funding, continued to assert its pivotal role in strengthening the education system throughout the meeting. They highlighted the importance of expediting reimbursement timelines for both ARPA allocations and consolidated grants, emphasizing that delays could negatively affect program delivery and school operations. In turn, Secretary McMahon and her staff acknowledged these concerns and reaffirmed their dedication to processing funding requests with urgency. They also disclosed that the consolidated grants for the U.S. Territories had been finalized earlier that same morning.

Encouraged by the Department's unwavering support of American Samoa's students and educators, the delegation remains optimistic about ongoing collaboration. The meeting reinforced the significance of robust federal partnerships in crafting durable, effective solutions to the challenges facing the territory's schools. Collectively, we are committed to expanding access to essential resources, opportunities, and support systems that empower students across American Samoa to thrive and achieve long-term success.

a HISTORIC STEP FORWARD

The Samoan Language Commission and Governor Pulaali'i Welcomed Stanford Alumnus and Their New Samoan Language Program at Stanford University

Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula alongside the Office of the Samoan Language Commission welcomed Brandi Atuatasi and her father, Samson Atuatasi, during their visit to the Territory this week. The meeting honored Brandi's efforts to help establish Introductory Samoan Language courses at Stanford University, a first for the prestigious institution.

Brandi Atuatasi, alongside her classmate Ari Pātū, played an instrumental role in advocating for the inclusion of the Samoan language at Stanford. Motivated by a desire to deepen their connection to their culture and identity, the two students worked with the Stanford Language Center to launch Samoan language instruction in 2023. The course was successfully offered over two academic years but was paused this past year due to instructor availability. The University plans to resume the course in the upcoming academic year. Atuatasi, who was born and raised in San Diego, California, traces her roots to Fagasā and Fagamalo. She graduated this past spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Human Biology.

This fall, she will begin her Master of Science in Community Health and Prevention Research at Stanford, with long-term goals of serving Samoan and Pacific Islander communities in health promotion and disease prevention.

During the meeting with Governor Pulaali'i, Atuatasi shared how the Samoan language program at Stanford came to be. Governor Pulaali'i commended her commitment and vision, noting that efforts like hers are key to keeping the language alive beyond the borders of the islands. Executive Director of the Samoan Language Commission, Elisapeta Alaimaleata, expressed gratitude for Atuatasi's advocacy and recognized the importance of building academic and cultural bridges with Samoan communities across the United States that is home to over 250,000 Samoans, according to the 2020 Census. She emphasized the urgent need for accessible Samoan language instruction, particularly in California, where the largest population of Samoans resides.

Atuatasi and the Commission also met with Department of Health Director Dr. Saipale Fuimaono to discuss her graduate research interests and explore how her work might benefit American Samoa. Dr. Fuimaono offered his full support for her thesis and praised her dedication to health equity.

Director Alaimaleata also took the opportunity to share upcoming initiatives by the Commission to promote the Samoan language both locally and abroad. She extended an invitation to Atuatasi and others engaged in similar work to collaborate on future efforts.

Established in 2022, the Samoan Language Commission of American Samoa is dedicated to preserving Samoan as a living language and promoting its use alongside English. The Commission oversees outreach, research, policy, and advocacy efforts to strengthen the status and future of the Samoan language.



Historic Alliance forged between American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and Humanities and Samoa Ministry of Education and Culture



The American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and Humanities, in proud partnership with the Samoa Ministry of Education and Culture, is honored to announce the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to officially launch the Feiloa'i Ma Uso Program, a visionary initiative dedicated to fostering cultural exchange, artistic collaboration, and deeper mutual understanding between the youth of American Samoa and Samoa.

This historic agreement was formalized on July 22, 2025, at the Ministry of Education and Culture headquarters in Apia, during a ceremonial meeting between Mr. Ammon Fepulea'i, Director of the American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and Humanities, and Mr. A'eau Christopher Hazelman, Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Ministry of Education and Culture. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding marks a pivotal moment in regional cultural diplomacy, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving the vibrant traditions of Samoa while cultivating new avenues for creative expression and youth empowerment.

Director Ammon Fepulea'i remarked, "Today marks a historic milestone with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Samoa Ministry of Education and Culture and the American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and Humanities. This partnership will strengthen our Youth Exchange Program, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration to empower our youth and preserve our Fa'aSamoa for future generations."

The Feiloa'i Ma Uso Program will encompass a dynamic series of initiatives, including:

- **Joint Cultural Festivals showcasing traditional music, dance, and visual arts**
- **Student Exchange Programs enabling immersive cross-cultural experiences**
- **Collaborative Artistic Projects that celebrate shared heritage and contemporary creativity**
- **Workshops and Dialogues focused on cultural preservation, storytelling, and identity**


This groundbreaking collaboration not only reinforces the cultural bonds between American Samoa and Samoa but also serves as a model for regional cooperation in the arts and humanities. It reflects the unwavering dedication of both institutions to nurturing the next generation of cultural stewards, artists, and leaders.

For more information
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MANU'ATELE

Commemorate 121st Anniversary of Cession to the United States

In the early hours of July 16th, a profound sense of excitement and pride filled the air as the people of Manu'a gathered at Avaloa, Malaetele in Ta'u to commemorate the 121st anniversary of the signing of the Manu'a Cession.



The festivities, which commenced the previous week, brought the community together through a variety of vibrant activities, including cricket and volleyball tournaments, a farm fair, and cultural programs hosted by various government departments. On the morning of July 16th, the official program began with the ceremonial raising of the flags in Avaloa, followed by a traditional 'ava ceremony and a parade showcasing the vibrant spirit of the local community alongside government agencies and departments, all in honor of this historic occasion.

While Manu'a Cession Day has long been an annual tradition deeply rooted in the culture of the Manu'a Islands, its meaning remains as significant as ever. Year after year, the celebration continues to embody the pride, history, and rich cultural heritage of the people of Manu'a and American Samoa.



“**MANU'A**
is our Genesis”

-Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula

In his special address, Governor Pulaali'i expressed his deep gratitude to God for the blessing of partaking in Manu'a Cession Day for the first time in his official capacity as Governor of American Samoa.

Manu'a is our Genesis,” Governor Pulaali'i declared with heartfelt pride. “It is a legacy to be honored, a testament to the enduring resilience of the Manu'a people, whose strength and spirit continue to inspire far beyond our shores.”



In marking this historic milestone, the Governor extended his warmest congratulations to the islands of Manu'a and conveyed sincere appreciation for their invaluable contributions to the cultural, historical, and civic fabric of American Samoa. He further emphasized that the steadfast commitment of Manu'atele to preserving tradition while fostering progress stands as a guiding light for the entire territory.

MANU'A

SESSION DAY FESTIVITIES



MANU'A

SESSION DAY FESTIVITIES



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Deep Sea Mining Forum

**American Samoa Community College Welcome
Assembly**

**Department of Agriculture National Farmer's
Week Festivities**


**Territorial Energy Office Commercial Energy
Audit Training**

Should you wish to have any forthcoming
events considered for inclusion in our
newsletter, please contact us.



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