

TAPUITEA



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GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

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- Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Joins Coast Weeks Kick-off led by the Department of Commerce
- Governor Pulaali'i Delivers Special Remarks at DOE Athletics Opening Ceremony
- American Samoa Delegation led by Governor Pulaali'i, attends Historic Swearing-In Ceremony of Samoa's 18th Parliament.



Leaders of the American Samoa Government, including Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, First Lady Lois Pula, Senate President Tualo Manaia Fruean, and Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, stand in solidarity with the people of Samoa during the official swearing-in ceremony of the 18th Parliament of the Independent State of Samoa. The event marked the inauguration of Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa Polata'i'vao Schmidt and reaffirmed the enduring partnership between the two Samoas.

American Samoa Government Joint Agency Response to a Relief Assistance Request from Aunu'u

On Saturday, September 6, 2025, the American Samoa Government initiated a coordinated emergency response to deliver urgent relief to the residents of Aunu'u, who have been stranded due to recent disruptions in boat services between Aunu'u and Auasi.

With vessel operations currently suspended, families in Aunu'u are facing considerable hardship. In recognition of the severity of the situation, ASG acted swiftly to ensure the timely delivery of essential support.

Relief efforts were facilitated through the Aunu'u Liaison in close collaboration with the Department of Search and Rescue, the Office of Homeland Security, the Department of Health, and the Governor's Office.

Beyond immediate assistance, government agencies are actively engaged in strategic planning to develop sustainable solutions that address both the present transportation challenges and the long-term provision of essential services for the Aunu'u community.

The American Samoa Government expresses its profound appreciation and fa'afetai tele lava to all agencies and personnel who have committed their time and resources to this critical effort. Above all, ASG's thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Aunu'u during this difficult time.



Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Hosts the Amerika Samoa's 4th Annual Disaster Resilience Summit, "Resilience by Design"



The Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) proudly hosted the 4th Annual Disaster Resilience Summit from September 9 to 11 at the Methodist Church Hall in Otterville, convening a diverse coalition of stakeholders dedicated to fortifying American Samoa against both natural and human-induced hazards. Centered around the theme Resilience by Design, this year's summit underscored a strategic, community-led approach to cultivating a safer and more adaptable territory. Spanning three days, the summit featured a robust program aimed at fostering collaboration, innovation, and preparedness. Attendees included representatives from local government agencies, federal entities, regional specialists, and disaster response teams from across the Pacific. The gathering served as a critical forum for sharing best practices, establishing new partnerships, and reaffirming resilience as a foundational design principle.

The event commenced with a formal opening ceremony, followed by keynote presentations from esteemed experts in disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and emergency management. Speakers offered valuable perspectives on emerging threats, cutting-edge mitigation strategies, and the integration of traditional knowledge into contemporary resilience frameworks. Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala delivered special remarks. Technical workshops and scenario-based planning exercises provided participants with opportunities for hands-on learning and enhanced interagency coordination. The second day of the summit highlighted community engagement, with a particular emphasis on youth participation. Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula addressed the assembly, stressing the indispensable role of leadership and collective action in fostering long-term resilience. His remarks reinforced the importance of refining and aligning the Strategic Hazard Mitigation Plan through active collaboration with the community.

The day also featured an interactive exhibition hall where various government departments, private sector organizations, and non-profit agencies hosted engaging booths tailored for high school students. Students explored career pathways, learned about emergency response tools, and participated in hands-on demonstrations that highlighted the intersection of technology, sustainability, and disaster readiness.

The final day of the summit carried a solemn tone of remembrance and reflection. Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala delivered closing remarks, igniting a moment of silence in honor of the lives lost during the September 11 attacks. His message resonated deeply with the youth in attendance, encouraging them to be stewards of American Samoa's environment and to take pride in protecting the land and communities they call home.

"As we remember the past, we must also look forward," Pulumataala stated. "Our students are the future of American Samoa. Let us empower them to lead with knowledge, compassion, and a commitment to resilience."

As climate change and evolving threats continue to challenge island communities, American Samoa remains steadfast in its pursuit of innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions. The summit concluded with a renewed pledge to strengthen regional cooperation and invest in the tools, training, and infrastructure necessary to protect lives and livelihoods across the territory.

To learn more
Please reach out to:



Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management



Governor Pulaali'i Delivers Special Remarks at DOE Athletics Opening Ceremony

The Athletics Division of the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) proudly inaugurated its Athletics Opening Ceremony for the 2025–2026 school year on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The occasion was graced by the presence of Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, members of the Fono, and cabinet officials, alongside parents, families, supporters, student athletes, and DOE representatives, demonstrating a strong spirit of unity and pride. In his keynote address, Governor Pulaali'i expressed heartfelt appreciation for the reinstatement of athletic programs for all student athletes. He acknowledged that while previous budgetary constraints had led to reductions in sports funding, the decision was ultimately reversed following careful deliberation. Governor Pulaali'i urged student athletes to honor one another's talents and to uphold dignity both on and off the field. He emphasized the importance of responsible digital conduct, stating, "Everyone has phones these days. I encourage our youth to use them wisely and, above all, be respectful in what you post on social media. We, as Samoans, are known to be a very respectful people. Let us spread love, hope, and respect."

He further highlighted the need to maintain a balance between academics and athletics, reminding students that success in both areas is essential to securing a promising future. In closing, Governor Pulaali'i extended his sincere gratitude to the parents and families of student athletes for their steadfast support and belief in their children, recognizing their pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of leaders. To officially commence the 2025–2026 sports season, Governor Pulaali'i, joined by members of the House of Representatives, had the honor of throwing the ceremonial first ball. This year's athletic program includes football, volleyball, and softball. Best wishes to all participating schools for a successful and spirited season!

**For more information
Contact:**



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Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks New LBJ Warehouse at Lion's Park

On the morning of September 12, 2025, LBJ Tropical Medical Center commemorated a significant milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of its inaugural warehouse facility. The event was officiated by LBJ Board Member, Representative Faimealelei A. Allen, and commenced with a spiritual invocation delivered by LBJ Chaplain, Reverend Tumau Petaia.

Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. addressed attendees on behalf of the government, conveying heartfelt appreciation for LBJ's unwavering service to the people of American Samoa. In his remarks, he lauded the hospital's dedicated staff and recounted a personal experience from a recent visit, underscoring the critical need to advance medical equipment and sustain progress for the future of American Samoa, our children.

LBJ CEO, Dr. Scott Anesi, announced that the new warehouse represents a historic first for the hospital. He acknowledged the collaborative efforts that made the project possible, extending gratitude to Department of Commerce Director Ali'imua Magdalene Petaia, ARPA Director Puiali'i John James Faumuina, Lumana'i Builders, and the LBJ Hospital Board for their instrumental roles in realizing this vision.

Dr. Anesi further explained that the facility will alleviate logistical challenges by serving as a centralized supply hub for both the central and western regions of the island. Additionally, it will enhance emergency preparedness by supporting medical needs for travelers, ensuring timely access to essential supplies. He commended LBJ's staff for their perseverance and commitment, emphasizing that the project reflects a broader dedication to strengthening healthcare infrastructure throughout American Samoa.

The ceremony concluded with a shared sense of pride and optimism, as leaders and community members looked forward to a future marked by improved health services and enhanced medical readiness for the island.

For more information, Contact





Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Joins Coast Weeks Kick-off led by the Department of Commerce

The American Samoa Department of Commerce commenced its annual Coast Weeks celebration on the morning of Monday, September 15, 2025, with a dynamic and spirited “Awareness Wave,” graced by the presence of Acting Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. The event drew enthusiastic participation from various government departments and community members, setting a vibrant tone for a month-long observance dedicated to the appreciation and protection of coastal resources.

Immediately following the wave, an opening ceremony was held during which Acting Governor Pulumataala delivered a heartfelt address. He underscored the shared responsibility of safeguarding the natural environment, stating, “Our natural resources, ocean, land, rainforest, wetlands, and streams are essential to our well-being and future. Protect them through daily action with your family, village, and community. A clean environment begins with each of us.”

The ceremony was succeeded by the highly anticipated Ocean Golf Tee-Off, marked by an inaugural drive from the Acting Governor. This unique event brought together community members in a joyful celebration of coastal stewardship. The Ocean Golf Tee-Off featured the Eco-Bio Golf ball, a sustainable innovation designed to eliminate pollution and promote marine biodiversity.

“A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast”

O le autu o le Vaiaso o le Talafatai o le tausaga nei, A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast, e fa'aautu i le fa'atinoga o nu'u ma tiute tau si'osi'omaga, fa'amanatu mai ia i tatou uma o le soifua maloloina o tatou gataifale e amata i filifiliga tatou te faia i aso uma. O lo'o fa'amalosia e le Matagaluega o Fefa'ataua'iga tagata uma ina ia auai i mea o lo'o lumana'i ma fa'aauau le malosia e ala i le faia o faiga fa'aauau o fa'ata'ita'iga tumau i aso uma.



Please Contact ASDOC for more information:



LBJ Hospital hosts an Appreciation Luncheon for Dr. Robert Blotter

In a heartfelt tribute to a legacy, Governor Pulaali'i and First Lady Lois Pula joined a distinguished gathering at the DDW Restaurant for an appreciation luncheon in honor of Dr. Robert Blotter and Sister Tami Blotter. The event, hosted by the LBJ Board of Directors, CEO Dr. Scott Anesi, and Chief Medical Officer, marked a profound moment of gratitude for the Blotters' extraordinary contributions to the health and well-being of the people of American Samoa.

The luncheon was led by the Honorable Faimealelei Allen, with spiritual guidance and invocation offered by Stake President Kelemete. In attendance were Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala, the Vice President of the Senate, Senator Magalei Logovii, family of medical professionals, nurses, hospital staff, and patients whose lives were directly touched by Dr. Blotter's surgical expertise. Many guests from across the island joined in solidarity to celebrate a mission of compassion and faith.

Dr. Robert Blotter, a missionary physician called to serve in American Samoa through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' global Service mission, has provided care to over 3,000 patients during his tenure. His surgical record includes more than 100 total knee replacements and 10 hip replacement procedures, transformative operations that have restored mobility, dignity, and quality of life to countless individuals of our territory.

Senator Magalei, speaking on behalf of the Government of American Samoa, extended official thanks and deep appreciation to Dr. Blotter for his unwavering service. Guest speaker Dr. Salu Hunkin reflected on the spiritual calling behind Dr. Blotter's mission, emphasizing that his work was a manifestation of his commitment to serve the Lord and uplift humanity.

The event concluded with the presentation of gifts to Dr. Blotter and Sister Tami Blotter from the LBJ Medical Center, the Orthopedics Department, grateful patients, and other attendees who were touched by the gifts of Dr. Blotter. From the people of American Samoa, thank you for your service Dr. Robert Blotter!



American Samoa Delegation led by Governor Pulaali'i, attends Historic Swearing-In Ceremony of Samoa's 18th Parliament

A historic milestone was achieved as the Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula became the first Governor of American Samoa to attend a swearing-in ceremony for the Parliament of Samoa. Accompanying him were First Lady Lois Phillips-Pula and members of the American Samoa Government delegation. Representing the Legislature of American Samoa were Senate President Tuaolo Manaia Fruean and Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale.



... "strengthening our bonds, honoring our ancestors, and working collaboratively to uplift the lives of our people"

The official ceremony, held at the Tuana'imato Sports Complex, drew an audience exceeding 2,000 attendees. In an atmosphere marked by solemnity and heartfelt emotion, all 51 members of the 18th Parliament of Samoa were formally sworn in. The occasion also signified a moment of transition, as the outgoing Prime Minister, the Honorable Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, made her final appearance in office. She will, however, continue to serve her constituency as a member of Parliament.

His Highness Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II, Head of State of Samoa, administered the oath of office to the nation's 8th Prime Minister, the Honorable La'aulialemalietoa Polata'i'vao Schmidt, along with his newly appointed Cabinet.

In his inaugural address, Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa extended his appreciation to Governor Pulaali'i, Senate President Fruean, and Speaker Ale for their presence, underscoring the significance of regional collaboration and expressing gratitude for the support extended by the leadership of American Samoa.

Subsequent to the ceremony, Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa and Governor Pulaali'i convened their first official meeting as leaders of the two Samoas. Their dialogue centered on enhancing bilateral relations and reaffirming their mutual commitment to preserving the enduring ties between the two nations.

Reflecting on the day's importance, Governor Pulaali'i remarked: "Today is a great day for the Samoan Government. Congratulations Prime Minister La'aulialemalietoa, your cabinet members, and especially the people of Samoa." Governor Pulaali'i's historic participation in the swearing-in ceremony of Samoa's Parliament serves as a powerful testament to the deep-rooted cultural, ancestral, and political bonds that continue to unite the two Samoas.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



UPCOMING EVENTS:

30th Police Academy Graduation

**Mosooi Festival of the Arts &
Humanities Festivities 2025**

White Sunday

**Marine Patrol Head Quarters
Groundbreaking**

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



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