



# TAPUITEA

Oct 2025 | ISSUE 005

## Government in Action

- The Moso'oi Festival of Arts and Humanities by Agency for Better Living Endeavours commenced its celebrations with the premiere of its inaugural event
- Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. Delivers Special Remarks at Grand Opening of American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition's New Office in Tafuna
- Department of Search and Rescue breaks ground for the New Marine Patrol Headquarters in Fagatogo
- American Samoa Strengthens Pacific Tourism Ties: ASVB Director Attends Key SPTO Meetings in Vava'u, Tonga



## 30th Police Academy GRADUATION

*Lee Auditorium, October 3, 2025-* Governor Pulaali'i and Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala stand firm in pride and support as each cadet of the 30th Police Academy receives their recognition during the graduation ceremony, honoring their commitment, discipline, and service to the community.

## American Samoa Commemorates the 30th Police Academy Graduation Ceremony

In a proud milestone for the territory, 62 cadets officially joined the ranks of American Samoa's law enforcement community during the 30th Police Academy Graduation Ceremony, held the morning of October 3 at the Governor Rex Lee Auditorium.

The event marked the end of months of intense training and dedication. Families, friends, and dignitaries packed the auditorium to celebrate the cadets' achievement. Among those in attendance were Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula and First Lady Lois Pula, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., Senate President Tualo Manaia Frucan, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, Samoan Consul General Fata Brian Kaio, and members of the Fono.

Public Safety Commissioner Taagaai'afeai S. Moliga opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks, followed by hymns sung by the cadets. Reverend Elder Faataa Eleasaro led the invocation, and Chief Associate Judge Mamea Salā administered the oath of office, officially inducting the cadets as officers.



Governor Pulaali'i delivered a moving speech, highlighting the role of family and the values that define public service. "Bravery is not the absence of fear, but action in the face of fear," he said. "True courage comes from choosing to act with integrity, discipline, and commitment, even when challenges arise."

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The ceremony wrapped up with the presentation of certificates, special awards, and rank recognitions. Applause and cheers echoed through the auditorium as each cadet stepped forward, ready to begin their journey in public service.





# Agency for Better Living Endeavors launches the Moso'oi Festival of the Arts and Humanities 2025 with the Mosooi Premiere



Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula joined community members and cultural performers at the highly anticipated premiere of the 2025 Moso'oi Festival of the Arts and Humanities by the Agency for Better Living Endeavors and the Mosooi committee, held on October 4th at the Afioga Tufele Li'amatua Sr., Cultural Center in celebration of Samoan heritage and artistic expression. The evening featured a vibrant showcase of performances from cultural groups across the territory, highlighting the rich diversity and creative spirit of American Samoa. From traditional dances to contemporary musical acts, the premiere set the tone for a month-long celebration of the arts.

Governor Pulaali'i delivered special remarks during the event, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Agency for Better Living Endeavors (ABLE) and the Moso'oi Festival Committee for their dedication in organizing the festivities. "The Moso'oi Festival is a celebration of our identity as Samoans," said Governor Pulaali'i. "Through music, dance, storytelling, and visual arts, we preserve the soul of our culture and pass it on to future generations."

The Governor emphasized the importance of cultural preservation through artistic platforms, noting that events like the Moso'oi Festival play a vital role in strengthening community pride and unity.

The premiere marks the beginning of a series of events scheduled throughout the month of October, inviting residents and visitors alike to participate in Moso'oi Art GALA, Miss Moso'oi Scholarship Pageant and the finale the Moso'oi Siva Competition. The Governor encourages the entire community to join in the celebration and support the artists and cultural practitioners who keep Samoan traditions alive. For more information about upcoming Moso'oi Festival events, please contact the Moso'oi Festival Committee or visit the official Moso'oi festival facebook page.



**MOSO'OI  
FESTIVAL  
OF ARTS  
& HUMANITIES**



## Governor Pulaali'i Attends Opening of "Tiu Lelatasi Training" by Pae ma le Auli Organization



Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula and First Lady Lois Pula attended the opening ceremony of the "Tiu Lelatasi Training" hosted by the Pae ma le Auli Organization. The event, held in partnership with the American Samoa Alliance Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA), and other civil society organizations, marks another milestone in the ongoing effort to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence in the territory.

The multidisciplinary training is funded through the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) under the VAWA-STOP Grant Award, and aims to strengthen collaboration among community organizations, government agencies, and advocates working to end abuse and violence.

In his remarks, Governor Pulaali'i commended the leadership of the Pae ma le Auli Organization for their steadfast commitment to combating violence and promoting healing within the community. He also acknowledged their President, High Chief Leiatua Leuga A. Turner and Vice President Ipu Avegalio Lefiti for their many years of service to our community through their organization. "This is a very important training and mission as it supports and includes every family in our territory," said Governor Pulaali'i. "It is often our relatives that abuse, and it should stop. I hope this training on these sensitive issues will help resolve, minimize, and ultimately eliminate abuse in our community."

The Governor also emphasized the importance of compassion and mindfulness, urging everyone to be sensitive to those suffering from pain and trauma, particularly families, children, and women. "We must stop violence and abuse against women and children," the Governor added. "This is not what God intended for our people or our families." The Tiu Lelatasi Training runs from October 6–8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. The program is designed to build system-wide responses to domestic violence, strangulation, child physical and sexual abuse, and human trafficking. In addition to justice-based topics, the training features sessions on motivational interviewing and addressing trauma and resilience through art.

On October 8, the program will also include a partnership with Compassion and Choices, a national organization focused on access to end-of-life planning resources. These sessions will explore motivational interviewing and culturally responsive ways to discuss end-of-life transitions with families, as well as how to approach these sensitive topics through the lens of art.



## Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Marine Patrol Headquarters in Fagatogo

The Department of Search and Rescue (DSAR) held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 15, 2025, marking the beginning of construction for the new Marine Patrol Headquarters to be located behind the Fagatogo Marketplace.

The ceremony was attended by lawmakers, cabinet members, and government officials, all celebrating this important milestone in strengthening the territory's public safety and emergency response capabilities. Reverend Tisega Mariner of the Fagatogo Methodist Church led the invocation for this special occasion.

Speaking on behalf of Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula and Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., was the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, HTC Faiivae Godinet, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the project, emphasizing its importance to the safety and well-being of the community.

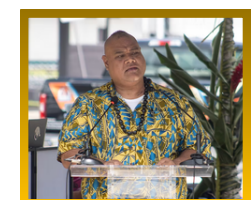
"It is essential to have a dedicated base for these vital services that protect our people," said Secretary Faiivae. "Marine Patrol plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety of our residents and fishermen when out on the open sea. We commend the leadership and staff of the Department of Search and Rescue for this new beginning."



Director Utumoe Alefosio extended his appreciation to the American Samoa Government and ARPA for making the project possible through their support and funding. He noted that the current headquarters is small and houses all three branches of the Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Fire Department, and Marine Patrol and that the new facility will allow Marine Patrol to better carry out its duties.

"This project will provide the space and resources our Marine Patrol team needs to operate more efficiently and effectively in serving our people," Director Utumoe said.

The ceremonial groundbreaking was conducted by the esteemed guests, officially marking the start of construction for the new Marine Patrol Headquarters, a milestone that signifies progress, safety, and commitment to protecting lives at sea.



For more information, Contact  
Department of Search and Rescue





## Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. Delivers Special Remarks at Grand Opening of American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition's New Office in Tafuna



The American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition (ASCCC) celebrated a major milestone with the grand opening of its new office space at the Alofa Office Building in Tafuna. Held on the morning of October 16, the event was distinguished by a profound sense of unity and renewed commitment to advancing the health and well-being of the people of American Samoa.

The ceremony commenced with a word of prayer and heartfelt encouragement from Bishop Kolio Tumanuvao Etuale, who reminded attendees of the power of faith and service in uplifting the community.

Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. delivered special remarks, emphasizing the vital role the ASCCC plays in providing cancer awareness, prevention, and support services across the territory. He congratulated Executive Director Dr. Vaatausili Tofaeono and the entire ASCCC team for their unwavering dedication and for reaching this significant milestone. In his closing message, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged all in attendance to lead healthy lifestyles and avoid behaviors that could compromise their well-being.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by First Lady Lois Pula, who had the honor of officially opening the new facility. This was followed by the blessing of the office space from Bishop Etuale, who shared a poignant reflection: "While the building is indeed a blessing, it is the dedicated individuals who serve within it, their commitment and compassion, that truly embody the greatest blessing to our community."

Guests were then invited to tour the new office space, which features state-of-the-art amenities including exam rooms, a dedicated MRI scanning room equipped with a portable MRI machine, a laboratory, administrative offices, and a welcoming lounge area for staff.

The grand opening highlights a new chapter for the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition as it continues its mission to provide compassionate, accessible, and life-saving services to the people of American Samoa.

Please Contact ASCCC for more information:



**Alofa Office Building, Tafuna  
Second Floor**

## HAPPY 60 YEARS LEONE HIGH SCHOOL

In a heartfelt celebration marked by pride, unity and resilience, Leone High School commemorated its 60th anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee held at the school's field on October 22, 2025. Despite persistent rain, alumni from across generations gathered in full force to honor the legacy and achievements of their beloved alma mater.

The ceremony opened with a vibrant parade of proud alumni, showcasing the enduring spirit and connection shared by former students. This was followed by an uplifting opening service led by Reverend Maugaaoa Alaifaleula, who delivered a stirring invocation and spiritual message that set the tone for the day's festivities.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by Leo'o Dr. Patrick Danielson, Principal of Leone High School, who reflected on the school's journey and its impact on the community. The keynote address was delivered by Maefau Dr. Mary Lauagaia Taufetee, Director of Education, whose wise and inspiring remarks honored the school's legacy and challenged the next generation to carry it forward with excellence.

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Entertainment continued as the current student body delivered a magnificent performance that captivated attendees and celebrated the school's vibrant future. The festivities were a testament to the enduring legacy of Leone High School and the deep bonds shared among its students, past and present.

Regardless of the weather, the celebration radiated warmth, pride, and unity, hallmarks of the Leone High School spirit. The Government of American Samoa extends its heartfelt congratulations to Leone High School, its faculty, alumni, and students for this remarkable achievement and looks forward to many more years of success.





## Department of Health Begins Community Health Clinic Week with Opening Church Service



In a moving display of unity, faith, and public service, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. joined the American Samoa Department of Health (ASDOH) at a special church service held Sunday morning, October 26, 2025 at EFKAS Faitoto'a o le Alofa Church in Petesa Tai. The event was part of the Department's Community Health Centers Church Service Program, aptly titled "Boots on the Ground, Hearts in the Work", which celebrates the dedication of health professionals serving communities across the territory.

Led by Reverend Elder Eleasaro Fa'ata'a, the service was made especially meaningful by the active participation of Department of Health staff, who offered prayers and scripture readings throughout the program.

Director of Health Dr. Saipale Fuimaono opened the service with heartfelt remarks, acknowledging the tireless efforts of the department and the importance of grounding their work in spiritual strength. Lieutenant Governor Ae Ae Jr. followed with special remarks that resonated deeply with attendees. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Department for its unwavering dedication to the health and well-being of American Samoa's residents.

Let us continue to uphold our responsibilities with humility and faith," the Lieutenant Governor urged. "When we look to the Lord and remain grounded in His word, everything we do will prosper."

The service was further honored by the presence of distinguished guests, including President of the Senate, Tualo Manaia Fruean and Vice Speaker of the House Fetu Fetui Jr., cabinet members, management and staff. Their attendance reflected the broad support for the Department's mission and the importance of faith-based community engagement across all levels of leadership.

Reverend Fa'ata'a delivered a powerful sermon that reminded all present of the healing power of faith and the importance of community. The service concluded with closing remarks from Deputy Director Vesi Talalelei Fautanu, who thanked everyone for their participation and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to service for our community.



## American Samoa Strengthens Pacific Tourism Ties: ASVB Director Attends Key SPTO Meetings in Vava'u, Tonga



From 18–25 October 2025, American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB) Director Taimalelagi Minnie Tuia traveled to Vava'u, Tonga, to engage in a full suite of strategic regional tourism events hosted by the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO). Throughout the week, Director Tuia participated in the Tourism Board Meeting, the Council of Tourism Ministers Meeting, the Pacific Tourism Sustainability Forum, and the Cruise Summit, where discussions centered on strengthening sustainable tourism practices, enhancing tourism financing and investment, improving regional air-travel connectivity, advancing career pathways within the tourism sector, and growing the Pacific's cruise tourism economy.

The Tourism Board and Council of Ministers meetings emphasized the importance of collaborative air-transport solutions and open-skies initiatives that will better connect smaller island economies such as American Samoa to global visitor markets. Meanwhile, the Pacific Tourism Sustainability Forum brought together experts from across the region to address climate resilience, support community-led tourism development, and reinforce locally rooted supply chains, ensuring that tourism benefits reach into households and village enterprises. These discussions were complemented by the Cruise Summit, where leaders examined evolving cruise-visitor trends, port infrastructure readiness, and the shared goal of dispersing economic benefits across communities rather than concentrating them solely in capital ports.



A key highlight of the week was Director Tuia's role officiating the launch of the "Pacific Regional Roadmap" and the four Country Pathways under the Sustainable Tourism Enhancement in the Pacific (STEP) Project. This flagship initiative is funded by the European Union through the SWITCH-Asia Pacific Policy Support Component and supported by the Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific. The launch event, held at the Puataukanave Hotel in Vava'u, featured Director Tuia unveiling the Regional Roadmap before inviting representatives from the demonstration countries—Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, and Vanuatu—to join her on stage for a commemorative photograph marking a united commitment to sustainable and inclusive tourism investment across the region. The STEP Roadmap and Country Pathways are expected to guide coordinated policy action and unlock new opportunities for environmentally responsible destination development throughout the Pacific.



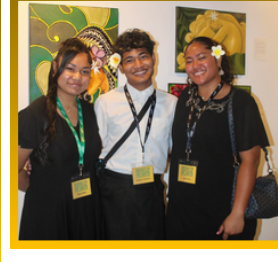
Her Royal Highness Princess Sālote Mafale'o Pilolevu Tuita, Princess Royal of Tonga, attended the events as Guest of Honour. Director Tuia expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to represent American Samoa in these vital conversations, reaffirming the Territory's dedication to regional collaboration that uplifts Pacific people, protects natural and cultural resources, and ensures tourism remains a force for resilient and inclusive development.

For more information, please contact the American Samoa Visitor's Bureau :





# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS





# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Veterans Day Memorial Celebration &  
Festivities**

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

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



**Office of the Governor  
Fagatogo, American Samoa**



