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American Samoa Office of the Governor in Hawai'i hosts Town Hall Meeting



On Thursday evening, January 18, 2024, the American Samoa Office of the Governor in Hawaii hosted a town hall meeting at the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa in Kunia, which aimed to celebrate Samoan heritage and discuss key community initiatives. Deputy Director Tuifagaloa Dr. Afu Lefaoaseu offered opening remarks and invocation was led by Pastor Hedrick Hunkin.

SSG Tiatia, Rani, an esteemed member of the Hawaii Army National Guard, discussed career opportunities for the youth and community. In addition, a presentation from the Kirikiti Tournament members Sue Miller and Eseta Saole, discussed opportunities of a non-profit organization celebrating the Samoan sport to host a one day tournament for the community-age groups 40 and above.

The Town Hall Meeting agenda focused on three areas:

- Preservation and celebration of Samoan Heritage sequence of events
- Updates on the Samoan Heritage Kirikiti League
- ASG E.L.L.A (E Lelei Le Atua) Scholarship

One of the highlights of the evening was the detailed presentation on Samoan heritage events planned for the year 2024. These events, designed to honor traditional Samoan values and practices, include cultural festivals, language workshops, Samoan dance entertainments, and arts exhibitions.

The discussion on the Samoan Cricket League captured the attendee's interest, illustrating the sport's role in fostering community in spirit and physical wellness. League organizers provided updates on upcoming matches and invited community and church organizations to participate.

In discussing the ASG E.L.L.A. scholarship, the session provided clarity on the application process, eligibility requirements, and importance of Education in empowering the youth. Samoan Community engaged in a Q & A session, seeking advice on how to best take advantage of these educational opportunities.

The town hall meeting concluded with light refreshments and benediction by Pastor Alualu, fostering a sense of unity and celebration among the attendees.

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