For Official Release
PR 001-09132022
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
September 13, 2022

Governor Lemanu Deliberates with Regional Leaders in Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders on Critical Issues in the Pasefika

"Although individually working through these problems, our familial culture brings us as one to collectively be the voice of our people and our future generations, to confront these critical issues."

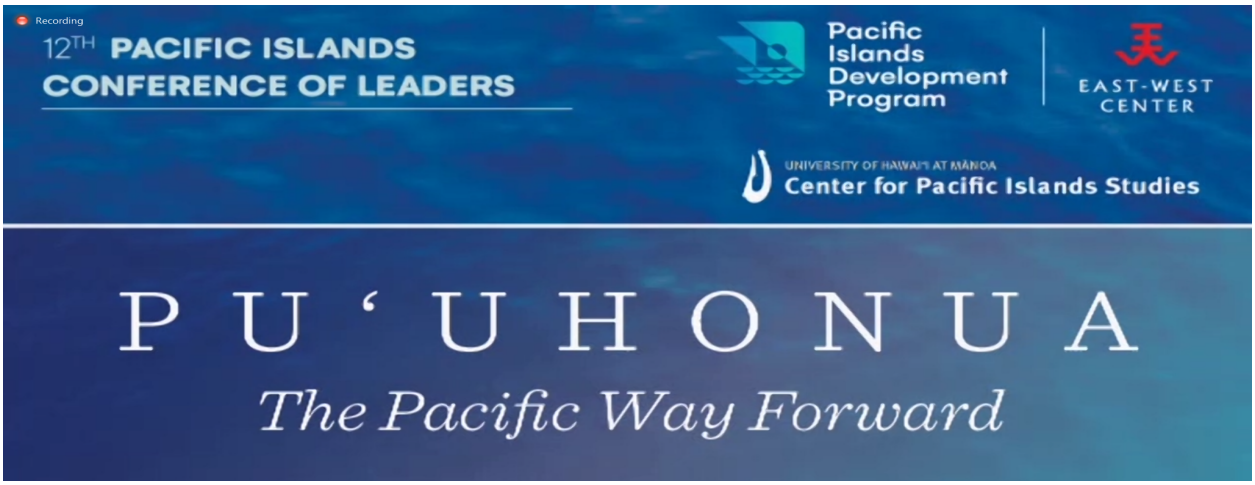
The Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP) along with the East-West Center, is currently hosting the "Pu'uhonua: The Pacific Way Forward," the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) from September 12 through the 14 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Honorable Governor Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga is attending virtually.

Among the assembly, PICL is composed of 20 regional leaders from independent Pacific Island countries, as well as territories, and the State of Hawai'i. PICL members include: American Samoa, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai'i, Kiribati, The Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

"This is an opportune time for esteemed leaders to specifically address unique issues faced as a Pacific Region," stated Governor Lemanu during the conference. He continued, "Although each island nation is individually working through critical concerns of their own, our Pacific Culture brings us as one to collectively be the voice of our people and our future generations. We must come together to discuss these prime issues, and continue to work towards a prosperous future for the whole Pasefika."

The three-day PICL Agenda includes discussions on the impacts of climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, industry diversification, and geopolitical challenges. As the leaders are addressing shared concerns, they are also focused on developing common approaches towards regional issues. This platform also allows for leaders to create and provide dialogue with high level US officials, such as United States Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Honorable Carmen Cantor, INDOPACOM Deputy Commander Lt. General Steve Sklenka, USCG District 14 Commander Rear Admiral Michael Day, and the United States Deputy Secretary of State Honorable Wendy Sherman.

Pictured above from left to right: Niue Premier Honorable Dalton Tagelagi and American Samoa Governor Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga.



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