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“Governor Lemanu Moves Forward With BEAD Program”

“Expanding and improving broadband in American Samoa has been a key priority since taking office. This effort will aid in closing the digital divide for our people.”

On July 21, 2022, Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga received word from the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce for Communications and Information, Honorable Alan Davidson, confirming and commending American Samoa for their participation in the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD Program is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Internet for All Initiative, to provide funding to expand high-speed internet access through planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the nation and territories.

The Assistant Secretary Davidson stated in his letter, “We appreciate the hard work that went into submitting required documents and are grateful for your attentiveness in this important step. Your partnership with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Commerce is exciting, and we look forward to working with you to connect everyone in America to affordable and reliable high-speed internet.”

The Lemanu-Talauega administration has been making strides in moving American Samoa forward in telework. At the NTIA conference held in June 2022, it was announced that American Samoa was the first to submit its Letter of Intent to participate in the BEAD Program out of all the US states and territories. “This is a testament of our administration’s commitment to the advancement of our territory.”

“Expanding and improving broadband in American Samoa has been a key priority since taking office,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “This effort will aid in closing the digital divide, and we look forward to working collaboratively with our federal and local partners in this initiative in expanding our digital workforce and economic development opportunities, improving telehealth, and advancing our education system.

Governor Lemanu in GM 070-22, established the Broadband Core Working Group, comprised of members of the administration with relevant expertise, to focus efforts in securing financial assistance in enhancing and developing our local economy and infrastructure.

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