



Novema 2023 | Lolomiga 0022

# TAPUITEA

*The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government*

IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA

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## American Samoa Department of Education's Close Up Summit: Nurturing Future Leaders through Civic Engagement and Democratic Education



The American Samoa Department of Education hosted a week-long Close Up Summit event dedicated to empowering the youth through discussions on democratic principles and governmental functions. The summit, scheduled from November 6 to November 9, 2023, was held at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium and gathered a selected group of students from each high school in American Samoa. This event represents the Department of Education's commitment to equipping young individuals with

the essential tools and knowledge required for active participation in the future governance of American Samoa.

The Close Up Summit was facilitated by a team including Mia Charity, President of the Close Up Foundation, Anna Bauder, and Danny Hastings. The Close Up staff members led engaging workshops and discussions, examining public policy issues influencing the island.

The official opening of the summit

commenced with special remarks from the Lt. Governor, Talauega E.V. Ale. Lt. Governor Ale highlighted the current challenges facing democracy and the urgent need for the younger generation to understand and uphold the principles of a free and just government.

"Democracy is under attack," stated Acting Governor Ale. "There has never been a more crucial time for our youth to immerse themselves in learning the fundamental principles of a free government. Your presence here is not just significant, but critical. You are the future of American Samoa. The responsibility to safeguard our democratic values will soon be in your hands, and it is imperative that you stand firm in upholding the law and the principles of the Government of American Samoa."

Students shared legislative proposals at the end of the session, summarizing summit research and discussions.









# Hawaii Job Corps Program Selection from American Samoa

The Office of the Governor in American Samoa announced and offered congratulations to Joshua Sagele, who departed from the territory on Monday, November 27, 2023, to participate in the Hawaii Job Corps Program. This achievement marks a significant milestone as Joshua becomes the first Job Corps recipient from American Samoa since the transfer of recruitment responsibilities from the Legislature to the Governor's Office, formalized in August with the signing of the official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Hawaii Job Corps Campus in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

Over the years, numerous students from American Samoa have successfully enrolled in and completed the Job Corps Program in Hawai'i, while others have pursued the program at centers on the mainland. The Job Corps program was initially introduced in American Samoa around 1997, spearheaded by then House Speaker Nua Saoluaga, who appointed Afimutasi Gus Hannemann to oversee federal government affairs for the House leadership and manage the implementation of the Job Corps program in the territory.

The transfer of recruitment responsibilities from the Legislature to the Governor's Office is a pivotal step in streamlining the process, ensuring individuals like Joshua can access the Hawaii Job Corps Program. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga also expresses his gratitude



to the previous local recruiters, Deeanah Fuimaono and Jeannette Tu'ufuli, for their dedicated years of service in facilitating the recruitment process. Their commitment has laid the groundwork for a seamless transition and continued success in connecting the youth of American Samoa with valuable opportunities.

Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga commends Joshua Sagele for his commitment to pursuing educational and career avenues through the Hawaii Job Corps Program. The Governor stated, "This is a great opportunity for our youth to find their career paths and acquire the skills they need for their future. As you embark on this journey, remember the importance of family, as they are the foundation of your support."

This achievement not only underscores Joshua's dedication and potential but also the ongoing commitment of the American Samoa Government to support the youth of American Samoa in their educational and career pursuits.



# University of Hawaii-American Samoa Campus Inauguration Marks 45 Years of Education Partnership



November 28, 2023 marked a momentous occasion as the Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga presided over the inauguration of the UH-American Samoa Campus facility in the village of Puapua, American Samoa. This event, featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a celebratory dinner, was a culmination of a remarkable 45-year education partnership between the University of Hawaii (UH) and American Samoa.

The roots of this collaboration date back to 1979 when the University of Hawaii was granted the first teacher education contract under a Teacher Corps Program grant. The initial goal was to offer a four-year Bachelor of Education degree, and this partnership was established in collaboration with the American Samoa Community College. The American Samoan Teacher Corps program, operational from 1979 to 1981, evolved into the Territorial Teacher Training Assistance Project

(TTTAP), which continued its impact from 1981 to 1997.

From 1997 to the present, the University of Hawaii, in partnership with the American Samoa Community College, has been at the forefront of the Cohort Teacher Education Program. This program has allowed in-service teachers to pursue a high-quality, nationally accredited Bachelor of Education degree while remaining at home with their families, communities, and schools.

During his speech at the ceremony, Governor Lemanu conveyed gratitude for the University of Hawaii's continuous dedication to meeting the teacher education needs of American Samoa. He expressed, "I extend my sincere appreciation to the University of Hawaii for their steadfast support in molding the educational terrain of American Samoa."

This 45-year partnership is a testament to the shared vision of providing our teachers with the tools they need to thrive. The new UH-American Samoa Campus, marks a significant chapter in American Samoa's educational journey.

Distinguished guests from the University of Hawaii, including UH President David Lassner, Chief Global Vice Provost Brent White, Dr. Ivy Yeung, and PACMED Director Deborah Zuercher, were present. President Lassner acknowledged UH's 40-year presence in American Samoa, emphasizing the profound connection between Hawaii and American Samoa, given the shared challenges faced by their communities.

Following the formalities, attendees were treated to a delightful dinner and entertainment, presented by UH Cohort 36 and PACMED students.



# Veterans Day Commemoration Kicks Off with Candlelight Vigil Service in Tafuna



In a tribute to honor our nation's heroes, the American Samoa Office of the Veterans Affairs and the Office of the Governor jointly hosted the Veterans Day commemoration. The solemn Candlelight Vigil Service took place at the Veterans Memorial Monument in Tafuna on Friday, November 10, 2023.

The Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, First Lady Ella Mauga, Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale, and other esteemed leaders, gathered to witness the significance of this event. Notably, Deputy Prime Minister Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio from the Government of Samoa was also present as a guest speaker at the event.

The Candlelight Vigil Service began with the Fagaitua High School JROTC posting the Colors, followed by Army Veteran Paul Ieti's rendition of the National Anthem.

Reverend Elder Fouvale Asiata delivered the invocation and expressed gratitude to all Veterans for their service.

Following the invocation, the Veterans Affairs Acting Director Rosie Fualaau Lancaster and Faamasino U. Galoia conducted a heartfelt candle-lighting ceremony to honor Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. A special table was set for the "Missing Man" – honoring combatants who have not returned home.

Governor Lemanu expressed gratitude and acknowledged the immeasurable contributions of our veterans. "To the veterans who have bravely served our nation, I extend profound gratitude for your sacrifice," remarked the Governor. He continued, "We honor the bloodshed and lives sacrificed in war, remembering every soldier who has served. Today, we celebrate all veterans—past, present, and those

yet to come. The freedom our families enjoy is a testament to their service."

Governor Lemanu further added, "This monument on this field stands as a poignant tribute to veterans across all branches of the US military. American Samoa's ongoing commitment to the US Military, with our residents offering, is a testament to our enduring dedication. Let us never forget. In addition, we commemorate the 248th birthday of the U.S. Marines, recognizing their significant contribution to our nation's defense."

Guest Speaker Hon. Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio, emphasized the shared commitment to peace and unity between the two nations, recognizing the contribution of the U.S. Veterans of Samoan descent of Independent State of Samoa.

Veterans Day activities continued on Saturday.







# American Samoa Honors Veterans in Grand Finale of Two-Day Commemoration

The second and final day of the Veterans Commemoration event, held on November 11, 2023, unfolded with a heartwarming Family Fun Day in the afternoon, bringing together the Veteran community and their families for a day of camaraderie and celebration.

Towards the evening, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga led a special tour of the historical bunkers behind the Veterans Monument, offering Deputy Prime Minister Tuala Ponifasio and Samoa's Return Services Association Vice President Peter Antonius Jensen, a glimpse into the region's wartime history. The bunkers were a part of the historical Tafuna Airfield built by the U.S. Marine and Navy Seabees to support the military and store ammunition during the World War II era.

The prayer service began with Reverend Mathew Failauga, a Navy Veteran, who delivered an invocation during the evening program, emphasizing the profound truth that freedom is not free. He continued to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans in safeguarding the liberties enjoyed today.

Following the invocation, the Veterans Day Concert, hosted by Galoia Upuese Faamasino and Adrianna Princess Auvaa, showcased a lineup of esteemed performers. The audience was treated to powerful performances by the SAFF of the American Samoa



Community College, Nato Penei of the Nato Brothers, and Mr. Cowboy Sam Choo Koon. A special opening performance by Paul Ieti set the tone for the event. Mr. Ieti is a US Army veteran, a native of American Samoa from the villages of Aoa and Sailele, and is popularly known for being a finalist in the 2014 America's Got Talent national competition.

The Office of the Governor and the American Samoa Veterans Affairs Office express sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this commemoration, including generous donors and the supportive community of veterans in American Samoa. The event was a fitting tribute to those who have served the United States and its territories, we extend heartfelt thanks to veterans for their dedicated service.

As the Veterans Commemoration event concludes, American Samoa stands united in honoring the legacy of its veterans and expressing gratitude for their selfless contributions to our nation.





# American Samoa Government Department of Corrections Celebrates Inaugural Academy Graduation Ceremony



The American Samoa Government Department of Corrections proudly hosted its first-ever Academy Graduation Ceremony on November 22, 2023, at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium. The ceremony commenced with the presentation of the colors by the Tafuna High School JROTC, setting the tone for the occasion.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Director of the Department of Corrections, Tauanu'u Semu F. Tauanu'u, who set the stage for an inspiring and celebratory event. Reverend Kautoa Moloti'i from the CCCAS Nua & Seetaga congregation provided a spiritually uplifting message.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony, the Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, delivered an address emphasizing the importance of executing duties with utmost diligence and placing emphasis on safety as correctional officers committed to serving and protecting. "You are not just officers of the law; you are guardians of justice, protectors of the community, and ambassadors of goodwill,"

remarked Governor Lemanu.

The academy, which commenced with thirty two cadets, witnessed the successful completion of twenty seven cadets who fulfilled all requirements and received a well-deserved certificate of achievement. The intensive four-week program included daily physical training (PT) sessions conducted by Department of Public Safety instructors. The curriculum covered a range of essential topics, including Intro to Corrections, History and Modern Concepts in Corrections, Ethics in Corrections, Contraband and Searches, Basic Security Practices, Lawsuit and Civil Liabilities. Moreover, there was a deliberate focus on personal mental health and mental well-being in the workplace.

Senator Olo Uluaio Letuli and Representative Avagafono Tuavao Vaimaga Maiava assisted with the presentation of the certificates. As a highlight of the event, the award for outstanding cadet was presented to Cadet Maureen Saupo.

## List of cadets:

- Auvele, Christopher
- Faaea, Nicholas
- Faalogo, TJ
- Faamanatuga, Pelenatete
- Leuluaialii, Dorothy
- Leifi, Denzel
- Lisiake, Fituiva
- Kupu, Faisea
- Malele, Faulaloata
- Mamaia, Rico
- Mataafa, Arona
- Moliga, Laufau
- Naea, Petaia Jr.
- O'Brien, Michael
- Saupo, Maureen
- Savea, Tofailefaleula
- Sekai, Nick
- Seleni, Camilla
- Semane, Aaron
- Soliai, Abel
- Skelton, John
- Tapeni, Lesina
- Taafua, Princess
- Toeaina, Onosa'i
- Tomafua, Michelle
- Tupuola, John







# Tatalaina o le Fono a Li'o Ta'ita'i o Polenisia & Fono 52 Ta'ita'i o Motu o le Pasefika



Na tomua le Fono 52 a Motu o le Pasefika (PIF) i faasologa o fono laiti i le taeao, e faataatia ai le tatalaina aloa'ia o le fono i le afiafi. E aofia ai i fono muamua le Fono Faavaega o Itulagi o le Pasefika ma le Fono a Ta'ita'i o Malo o Motu Laiti. O Fono Faavaega o Itulagi e aofia ai le Li'o o Ta'ita'i Polenisia, Li'o Faaulutao Melanisia, ma le Fono Faaperesitene na usuia faatasi uma i le 10 i le taeao i nofoaga eseese.

O le Fono 12 a Ta'ita'i Polenisia (PLG) na usuia i Muri, i le Atu Kuki ia Novema 6, 2023. Na tatala aloa'ia e le Peresitene o le Polenisia Farani-Maohi Nui, Lana Afioga Moetai Brotherson. Na auai le Afioga Kovana Lemanu P.S. Mauga i le fono lenei faatasi ma isi ta'ita'i Polenisia mai Polenisia Farani, Niue, Samoa, Toga, Tuvalu, Uea ma Futuna ma le Atu Kuki.

Na folasia le agaga faafetai ma le faamalieina o ta'ita'i i le Palemia o le Atu Kuki, le faigamalo, ma tagatanuu i le faafeiloa'i fiafia mai ma le talimalo lelei.

Na ta'ita'iina le fonotaga e lana Afioga Moetai Brotherson, Peresitene o Polenisia Farani-Maohi Nui. I lona see ane i le Ta'ita'ifono, na saunoa faaeaea le Peresitene i le Atu Kuki ona o la latou ta'ita'iga a'o nofoia le nofoa o le Ta'ita'ifono o le PLG. Na toe faamautu e ta'ita'i lo latou lagolagoina o le manatu autu o le Fono 12 a le PLG: "Tō hīroa, tō auhune - O lo Tatou Faasinomaga, O lo Tatou Soifua Manuia" e polili atili ai le avea o le Faasinomaga Polenisia ma totonugalemu o le fausia o le Soifua Manuia.

O mataupu laualuga i le talanoaga i le fono o:

- (1) Ea, Gataifale, ma Sootaga Faatekonolosi
- (2) A'oa'oga
- (3) Faatino le Fuafuaga Faataatia o le 2050 mo le Konetineti Moana o le Pasefika
- (4) Sami, Tala Tuufaasolo Niukilia, Suiga o le Tau ma le Si'omaga
- (5) Auai faavaomalo & uuna'iga
- (6) Pule'aga o le PLG

Na faamautu e ta'ita'i le see mai o Niue i le Ta'ita'ifono mo le Fono 13 a le PLG i le 2024. Ua malilie ta'ita'i o le a usuia le Fono 13 a le PLG i Niue i le tausaga 2024.

Na saunoa faafeiloa'i le Ta'ita'ifono o le Fono 52 a Ta'ita'i o Motu o le Pasefika. O le sauniga na tatala aloa'ia ai le Fono 52 sa faataunuu i le Maota o le Malo i Rarotoga i le Aso Gafua, 6 o Novema, 2023 i le 7:15 i le afiafi. Sa faatumulia le afiafi i faaaliga o le tamaoiga i aganuu ma agaifanua a le Atu Kuki, ma le ta'utinoga faamautinoa mo o latou tupulaga talavou – tamariki o lo latou itulagi. O le upu autu aloa'ia o le fonotaga, "O o Matou Leo, A matou Filifiliga, O la Matou FaaPasefika: Faatāua, Faapaaga, Alualu Manuia."

E atagia loloto mai i le autu o le faatasiga, moomooga o Amerika Samoa ia avea ma totino o le Fono a Motu o le Pasefika. O o matou leo, filifiliga, ma le soifuaga faaSamoa e faaaliga manino ai mana'oga tulaga ese e tutusa ai i tatou ma uso i atu motu. O lo tatou malamalama faatasi i lu'itau e patino ia i tatou e faatupu ai lo tatou malosia e uuna'i faatasi aga'i i luma i lo tatou tulaga o tausimea i lo tatou Konetineti Moana o le Pasefika.







# Feiloa'iga Aoao a le Fono a Motu o le Pasefika

Na usua le Feiloa'iga Aoao a le Fono a Motu o le Pasefika i le Maota o le Malo o Rarotoga ia Novema 8, 2023. Na aumaia faatasi ai ta'ita'i o le itulagi o le Pasefika, o usufono totino, usufono lagolago, ma usufono faalogologo. Sa faatasi ai i sui o malo o latou vaega tuma'oti ma le 'au iloa faapitoa i mataupu. O le tulaga o Amerika Samoa i le taimi nei o loo Usufono Faalogologo, e tusa ai ma lana matafaioi o le auai ma fai sao i fono a le itulagi, ae gata i talanoaga i taimi o fono ma le faagasologa o le faiga o faai'uga. Na tatala aloa'ia le Fono i le tatalo.

O loo galue punoua'i nei le Afioga a Kovana Lemanu P. S. Mauga ia siitia le tulaga o Amerika Samoa i le Fono a Motu o le Pasefika, ia iai se fofoga o le teritori i mataupu e aafia tonu ai o tatou tagata, ma lo tatou 'anofale i le faasinomaga o tagata o motu o le Pasefika.

O nisi o mataupu sa talanoaina, ae le na'o le pau lea:

- Fuafuaga Faataaita o le Konetineti Moana o le Pasefika aga'i i le 2050
- Suiga o le Tau & Oigata
- Faaolaolaina le Poloa'iga a Ta'ita'i o le Pasefika o Aia Tutusa o Itupa
- Faamuamua Faigafaiva
- Atiina'e o Tamaoiga

O le Afioga i le Palemia Mark Brown, Ta'ita'ifono, sa saunoa faafeiloa'i i usufono, o usufono lagolago, ma usufono faalogologo. Na faamautu e le Afioga a Brown le t'aua o le fono lenei, "e maua ai lo tatou taimi ma le avanoa e fesaga'i ai faata'ita'i o malo e talanoa loloto ai i nisi mataupu faanatinati."

Na faamamafa e le Failautusi Aoao (SG), Susuga Henry Puna, "e faamautinoa ua iai le avanoa ma le taimi mo outou ta'ita'i o atunuu eseese e fesoota'i ai lava outou i mataupu e ogaoga le t'aua e uiga i o tatou moomooga fai faatasi ma le atiina'ega o le li'o faafono".







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## **Upcoming Events**

- December 01- TAOA Christmas Event
- December 03-09- Christmas Holiday Music Festival
- December 11-21- Samoa Bowl (Softball Clinic)
- December 20- U.S. Space Force
- December 25- Jan1- Samoa Bowl (Volleyball & Football)
- December 25- Christmas Day

## **Did You Know?**

The concept of caroling had nothing to do with Christmas. Medieval carols were liturgical songs in the 12th century, while traveling to different homes came from a tradition in England of wishing good fortunes to your neighbors in exchange for gifts.