



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PROCLAMATION

“JUNE IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

WHEREAS, American Samoa’s seniors deserve to live safely with dignity, and as independently as possible, with the support they need; and

WHEREAS, the abuse, self-neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and disabled adults is a growing problem worldwide with the vast majority of cases going unreported; and

WHEREAS, older and disabled adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines; and

WHEREAS, not less than \$2.9 billion dollars is taken from older adults each year due to financial abuse, scams, and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, older adults who are victims of abuse or neglect are 3 times more likely to die earlier than older adults of the same age who are not abused; and

WHEREAS, disabled adults are 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability, while adults with mental health conditions are at nearly four times the risk of experiencing violence; and

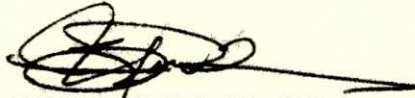
WHEREAS, eliminating the abuse of older persons is each community’s responsibility, and American Samoa is working to prevent the potential risk to our elder residents who may suffer from neglect and become victims of financial, emotional, or physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, all of our residents should be aware of signs of abuse such as physical trauma, withdrawal, depression, anxiety, and fear of family members, friends, or caregivers; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa’s seniors are valued, contributing members of society, imparting a wealth of experience and wisdom in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of June as “ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH” and June 15, 2023, as “ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY” in the Territory of American Samoa, and call upon its citizens to commit to building safer communities for our elderly residents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of the American Samoa Government on this day 2nd day of June, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lemanu P.S. Mauga', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

LEMANU P.S. MAUGA

Governor