



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

**“WOMEN’S HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”**

Women are a foundation of our families, and their health affects the well-being of our communities and our Island. They often make health care decisions for our families as well as themselves. However, women have not always had time to access the health care that they need, or the resources to make the best health choices for their loved ones. As an island, we must ensure our mothers, daughters, friends, and colleagues have time, attention, and access to resources they need to live healthy and happy lives.

**WHEREAS,** during the month of October 2022 we reaffirm our commitment to making women’s health a priority; and

**WHEREAS,** this is an opportunity for women of all ages, ethnicities, and economic circumstances to take simple everyday steps to embrace healthier lifestyles; and

**WHEREAS,** Women’s Health Campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness, advocate resources, and promote access to education about women’s health; and

**WHEREAS,** Women’s Health Campaign is a great time for women and girls to focus on better and broad range of health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, mental health, maternal health, cancer (breast and cervical) etc.; and

**WHEREAS,** considerable progress has been made in the fight against breast cancer, it remains the most frequently diagnosed type of non-skin cancer and the second leading diagnosed cancer among the women of American Samoa. As we display ribbons and banners on our lapels, offices, and home front, we also support those courageously fighting breast cancer and honor the lives lost to this devastating disease; and

**WHEREAS,** thanks to earlier detection and better treatment, mortality rates for breast cancer can be steadily decreased; and

**WHEREAS,** knowing what may contribute to breast cancer is an important part of its prevention. Risk factors for breast cancer include family and personal history, radiation therapy to the chest for previous cancers, obesity, and certain genetic changes. Getting regular screenings, may help lower the chances of developing breast cancer and women and men are encouraged to talk with their health care provider about their risks and what they can do to mitigate them, and to learn more about the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of breast and other cancers; and

**WHEREAS,** cervical cancer is another disease that strikes American Samoan women each year; and

**WHEREAS,** cervical cancer most often affects women in the prime of life; and

**WHEREAS,** regular cervical cancer screening tests are effective in detecting the disease early when it can be effectively treated; and

**WHEREAS,** cervical cancer disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities that are not utilizing health care regular screenings and proven life-saving tools; and

**WHEREAS,** cervical cancer vaccines are available that—together with screening tests—provide a formidable and effective means of preventing this disease; and

**WHEREAS,** increasing awareness among women and healthcare providers alike regarding the best use of these prevention tools is a key component is safe-guarding women’s health; and


**WHEREAS,** during the Women’s Health Month, and the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October), the Cervical Health Awareness Month (January) we stand with our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends, and we recognize all the Women’s Health services provided for American Samoa. We stand with those who have joined their loved ones in fighting their battle, as well as the advocates, and health care providers whose care and hard work gives hope to those living with different types of diseases/cancer. By educating ourselves and supporting each other, we will improve the quality of life for all affected by the daunting diseases amongst our female population; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government is pleased to join with the Department of Health and all the programs that caters to women’s health in promoting “Healthy Women, Healthy Societies” through community outreach activities; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government encourages people to increase awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical check-ups, and to participate in preventive health practices and early detection efforts such as screening for breast and cervical cancer throughout our island.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALAUEGA E. V. ALE,** Acting Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the Month of October 2022 as the “WOMEN’S HEALTH MONTH” and the NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in American Samoan, and commend its observance to all citizens and residents.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of my office on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.

  
**TALAUEGA E. V. ALE**  
Acting Governor