

PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
GOVERNOR



PULUMATAALA AE AE, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799
Telephone: (684) 633-4121

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS,** in 1945, Congress established “the first week in October of each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week” to recognize the contributions made by individuals with disabilities to America’s workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1962, Congress expanded recognition to include all types of disabilities by removing the word “Physically” and renaming it “National Employee the Handicapped Week”; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1988, Congress expanded observance to a full month and changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” (NDEAM), making 2025 the 80th anniversary of this important national observance; and
- WHEREAS,** the theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2025 is “Celebrating Value and Talent,” which recognizes the significant contributions and talents of American workers with disabilities to our workplaces and economy while highlighting their achievements both past and present; and
- WHEREAS,** this theme is particularly meaningful as part of the lead up to America’s 250th anniversary in 2026, celebrating how people with disabilities have always been and continue to be part of a strong American workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of efforts to build an inclusive community and strengthen American Samoa’s economy; and
- WHEREAS,** American Samoa is committed to ensuring that residents with disabilities have the right to live independently, enjoy self-determination, and be treated equally in the workplace; and
- WHEREAS,** people with disabilities represent an invaluable and often underutilized workforce resource, bringing unique perspectives, talents, and dedication that strengthen the Territory’s economy and enrich our communities; and
- WHEREAS,** during the historic 80th anniversary of NDEAM, American Samoa joins the rest of the nation in celebrating the achievements and potential of our residents with disabilities and reaffirming our commitment to creating inclusive employment opportunities for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025 as

“NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH”

in American Samoa, and I encourage all employers, educators, workforce development professionals, and community organizations throughout our territory to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that:

- Celebrate the valuable contributions of the residents of American Samoa with disabilities to our workforce and economy;
- Promote awareness about disability employment issues and the benefits of inclusive hiring practices;
- Advance equal employment opportunities for all individuals, regardless of disability;
- Support the development and implementation of workplace accommodations and accessibility measures;
- Foster partnerships between employers and disability service organizations;
- Recognize and honor the achievements of workers with disabilities both past and present; and
- Strengthen our commitment to ensuring that all residents of American Samoa can participate fully in economic life and pursue meaningful careers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of my office on this 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five.



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
Governor