



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

**SAFE BOATING WEEK**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**WHEREAS,** the Territory of American Samoa has been blessed with a vibrant ocean environment that provides many leisure opportunities for its residents and visitors. For countless generations, recreational boating has been a favorite way to relax with family and friends while enjoying our ocean and coastal waters; and

**WHEREAS,** even during short expeditions, safe boating practices remain extremely important as boaters and non-boaters can be affected by accidents on the water. Each year, lives and property are needlessly lost or damaged in boating accidents, many of which result from lack of basic knowledge of boating and ocean safety; and

**WHEREAS,** numerous government agencies, private groups, and community organizations work to education vessel operators about ocean safety principles by offering safe boating courses, conducting safety displays at harbors, boat ramps, inspecting boats for safety equipment, and taking part in other activities to keep American Samoa waters safe; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important for all persons to know that life jackets save lives when properly worn, and carrying the proper safety equipment on board a vessel, including VHF Radio or EPIRB, can also save lives; and

**WHEREAS,** always remembering to leave a float plan with a relative, friend or neighbor can do much to take the “Search” out of Search and Rescue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LA’APUI TALAUEGA E. V. ALE,** Acting Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the week of May 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as “Safe Boating Week” in the territory. I urge all boaters to wear a lifejacket, carry a VHF radio, obtain safe boating education, and to utilize the services of the Department of Search and Rescue, Marine Patrol Division, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the U.S. Coast Guard in practicing safe boating.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 14 day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

**LA’APUI TALAUEGA E. V. ALE**

Acting Governor