



HUD Approves \$23 Million for Tualauta Drainage

On October 17, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved American Samoa's Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan to fund the Tualauta drainage project. With this approval, the Territory now has full access to its \$23million allocation since January 2020 to address the impacts of Tropical Storm Gita as a Presidential major declared disaster in February 2018. CDBG-DR funds are administered by the American Samoa Department of Commerce alongside its regular Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

"We are truly grateful for this new funding opportunity to finally address the longstanding flooding issues within Tualauta. The intent of these funds is to build a robust drainage system not only to mitigate flooding hazards, but also protect homes and lives from future disasters," said Governor Lemanu

This Action Plan approval builds on HUD's partial consent from January 2021 that gave the Territory access to only \$4.5million of the funding. A HUD Official also visited American Samoa in July of this year to verify the need for the proposed project, which led to an Action Plan substantial amendment for HUD's review after completion of a 30-day public comment period.

The approved funding will go exclusively towards the Tualauta Drainage Project, addressing the imminent demand for the infrastructure for American Samoa's most densely populated area, given its significant impact from flooding during Tropical Storm Gita. This project will be a collaboration between the Departments of Commerce, Public Works, and the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management.

Further information is available on the ASDOC recovery weblink at <https://www.doc.as.gov/cdbg>.



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Official Election Results



The Chief Election Officer (CEO) has confirmed the Midterm Election 2022 results are now certified as required by law in Title 6, Chapter 8, section 6.0805.

District NO. 1 Manu'a		
	Votes	
Alumamalu Ale Filoiali'i	299	Elected
Fetu Fetu Jr.	230	Elected
Elijah J. Leasau	112	
Paepaetele Mapu James	189	
District NO. 2 Manu'a		
Tiaoa'i'i Fauagiga T. Sai	205	Elected
Tili Tavita	82	
District NO. 3 Vaifanua		
Shaun O. Va'a	251	Elected
Lavea Fatulegae'e Palepoi Mauga	122	
Tuamalomutua Lorenoa Philip Faoa	91	
District NO. 4 Saole		
Titia'i'i Kitara Vaiau	173	Elected
Vaasa Uluva Simanu EdD	70	
District NO. 5 Sua #1		
Lua'itaua Gene Pan	201	Elected
District NO. 6 Sua #2		
Avagafono, Tuavao Vaimaga Maiava	166	Elected
District NO. 7 Maoputasi #1		
Vailoata Eteuati Amituarai	167	Elected
District NO. 8 Maoputasi #2		
Malaeoletalu Melesio Gurr	226	Elected
Vailuama Steve Leasiolagi	149	
District NO. 9 Maoputasi #3		
Veisiai Poyer	376	Elected
District NO. 10 Maoputasi #4		
Tapai Alaleptile Benjamin Vaivao	154	Elected
Tina Faisiotamo'i Vivao Ioare	35	
District NO. 11 Maoputasi #5		
Faimealelei Anthony Fule Allen	181	Elected
Muaivavanoa Fofoga Pila	107	
District NO. 12 Ituau		
Sauasetoa Tautolotuua Soliai Ho Ching	590	Elected
Manumaua Wayne C. Wilson	536	Elected
Logoitua Mark T. Atafua	451	
Fa'afeo Lagafuaina	243	
District NO. 13 Fofu		
Fiu John Saehua	397	Elected
Andra Samoa	274	

District NO. 14 Alataua		
	Votes	
Savali Talavou Ale	295	Elected
Fatumalala Leulua'i Al-Shehri	34	
District NO.15 Tualauta		
Larry S. Sanitoa	791	Elected
Samuel Ioka Meleisea	602	Elected
Bartley Su'a Papali'i Lucia	146	
Fiatagata Maloa Amani Johnson	208	
Taunaola Jeremiah Tatupu	473	
Vui Florence Vaili Saulo	318	
District NO. 16 Tualautai		
Manavaalo fa Tutuila Manase	230	Elected
Moiria Fatima Maiava	210	
District NO. 17 Leasina		
Ape Mika Asifa	197	Elected



Chief of Staff Loa and Lindsey Laupola at the Constitutional wave on November 7, 2022.

Five of the Constitutional Amendments have been approved and six have been rejected as voted on by the registered voters of American Samoa on November 8, 2022.

Referendum	Yes	No
	Votes	
Amendment 1	2,300	4,536
Amendment 2	2,743	4,106
Amendment 3	2,573	4,227
Amendment 4	3,338	3,409
Amendment 5	3,216	3,583
Amendment 6	3,893	3,008
Amendment 7	2,593	4,299
Amendment 8	4,094	2,663
Amendment 9	3,926	2,859
Amendment 10	3,932	2,831
Amendment 11	3,797	3,022

See page 3 for reference to referendum.

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM BALLOT – NOVEMBER 8, 2022 MIDTERM ELECTION

Instruction		Fa'atonuga	
Place a mark X or ✓ inside the circle corresponding to the answer of your choice.		Tusi se fa'aailoga X po'o ✓ i totonu o le pusa e feagai ma le tali ua e filifilia.	
DO YOU APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE 1967 REVISED AMERICAN SAMOA CONSTITUTION? E TE FAAMAONIA SUIGA NEI I LE FAAVAE TOE TEUTEU O AMERIKA SAMOA O LE 1967?			
#1	The Governor shall appoint the Chief Justice and Associate Justices subject to confirmation by the Legislature.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a filifilia e le Kovana le Faamasino Sili, ma Sui Faamasino Sili ae faamaonia e le Fono Faitulafono.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#2	The Secretary of Interior shall not have the power to change the decisions of the High Court of American Samoa.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a le toe iai se pule a le Failautusi o le Initeria e sui ai faai'uga a le Faamasinoga Mauuluga o Amerika Samoa.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#3	The Secretary of Interior shall not have the power to change the Legislature's override of the Governor's Veto.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a le toe iai se pule a le Failautusi o le Initeria e sui ai le faaleaogaina e le Fono le vito a le Kovana.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#4	This amendment shall add one (1) seat to Representative District – Ituau and, add one (1) seat to Representative District – Tualauta. The total number of Representatives would increase from 20 to 22.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a faaopoopo ai le Faipule e tasi (1) i le Ituau ma se Faipule e tasi (1) i Ma'upu (Tualauta). O le a sui ai le aofa'i o Faipule mai le 20 i le 22.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#5	This amendment shall include "Malaeimi" in Representative District No. 12 – Ituau."	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a aofia ai "Malaeimi" i le Itumalo Faafaipule o le Ituau.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#6	This amendment will give the delegate from Swains Island the right to vote in the House of Representatives.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a tuuina atu ai i le Faipule o Swains le aia tatau e palota ai i le Maota o Sui.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#7	This amendment will restore five (5) Senators to Manu'a. The total number of Senators would increase from 18 to 20.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a toe fa'ataoa ai le lima (5) o Senatoa o Manu'a. O le a sui ai le aofa'i o Senatoa mai le 18 i le 20.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#8	This amendment shall include an impeachment process of the Governor and Lt. Governor.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga e auiliili ai faagasologa e faatula'i ai le Kovana poo le Kovana Lutena.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#9	This amendment shall change the name "Government of American Samoa" to "American Samoa Government".	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai le "Government of American Samoa" i le "American Samoa Government".	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#10	This amendment shall change "Ma'uputasi" to "Ma'oputasi".	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai le "Ma'uputasi" i le "Ma'oputasi".	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#11	This amendment shall change "Leasina" to "Leasina ma Aitulagi".	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai "Leasina" ia "Leasina ma Aitulagi".	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

Lemanu-Talauenga Administration Urges Swift Action to Increase Federal Subsidies for Residential Internet Access in American Samoa

Governor Lemanu today announced his support for an effort by Broadband Offices of the Pacific Territories to increase federal subsidies for residential internet access in American Samoa and three territories of the Pacific.

Speaking of his letter to Assistant Commissioner Alan Davidson, Governor Lemanu said, “Affordable access to the internet is an important cornerstone of this administration’s plans for modernizing our territory’s economy and improving the lives of our people. While we appreciate our federal partners’ support for internet delivery to our households, including the Federal Communications Commission Affordable Connectivity Program, we all know that getting online is still too expensive for many residents. That’s why this administration, in a letter to Assistant Commissioner Alan

Davidson, is supporting our broadband offices in urging swift action to increase our subsidies to more closely match our true costs of internet service.”

As part of the broadband investment and expansion planning process, the Department of Commerce’s (DOC) Broadband Coordination team regularly meets with the Guam offices and the Northern Mariana Islands to explore collaborative opportunities and shared challenges. “We meet several times a month to discuss several issues that affect all three of our territories. We’re hopeful that this cooperation leads to bigger and better opportunities as we expand our focus on broader issues of digital equity and digital access for all of our communities,” said Petti Matila, Director of Commerce.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a program of the

Federal Communication Commission (FCC) offering a discount of \$30 dollars per month for internet service to qualifying households in American Samoa. Most American Samoa households qualify by receiving other forms of federal assistance. Upon being declared high-cost areas, the Governor’s office anticipates that this discount could be increased substantially or even doubled monthly. Residents are encouraged to inquire with their internet service provider if they are unaware of their current status under the ACP program.

The DOC Broadband Coordination Office, in partnership with the Governor’s Offices’ Broadband Core Working Group, continues to lead efforts to ensure equal and affordable access to the internet for all in American Samoa. For more information, email bcord@doc.as.gov.

Dedication of New Building for Samoana High School

The Department of Education held a dedication ceremony for the new two-story classroom and administration office school building for Samoana High School on November 23, 2022. The Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauuga delivered his special remarks.

“Due to the effects of the COVID-19, it took two years to finish this project. Therefore, on behalf of the Government of American Samoa, Lieutenant Governor Talauenga, and members of the Cabinet, I convey our sincerest appreciation for all of you who have contributed to the completion of this building,” said Governor Lemanu. “This structure will house the future of American Samoa, and it is just as important to continue to maintain and upkeep our building structures,” he continued.

During his special remarks, he recalled that Samoana High School

opened its doors in 1946 and was first called the High School of American Samoa. The ribbon cutting to officially open the doors of the new Administrative Office and JROTC Classrooms was conducted by First Lady Ella Mauga.

Those in attendance included the Director of the Department of Education, Dr. Talauenga Samasoni Asaeli, Acting Director of Public Works Faalavai Taase, and contractor Happy Trucking. Members of the community included Reverend Catechist Tomasi and Wendy Taavili, faculty of the Samoan High School. The Master of Ceremony was Vice Principal Julie Ekeroma Faalogo and the hymns were sung by the Samoana Swing Choir.

The contract was awarded to Happy Trucking, and construction began in November 2020 during the Lolo-Lemanu Administration.



MV Lady Samoa IV



MV Lady Samoa IV makes its maiden voyage to American Samoa.

On November 18, 2022, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Pago Pago Inter-Island Terminal in Fagatogo, to officially launch the MV Lady Samoa IV Passenger Ship services, and to celebrate the ship's maiden voyage to American Samoa. The Honorable Olo Fiti Afoa Vai, Minister of Samoa Shipping Corporation Limited, and the Consulate General Fata Brian Kaio hosted the reception. "I would like to commend the Honorable Prime Minister Naomi Fiame Mataafa and the Independent State of Samoa, Minister Olo Vaai and other Cabinet Members, and GHC Reid Company. Thank you for your foresight in making this possible; may this vessel continue to bridge our support for one another," stated AG Fainuulelei during his special remarks. The cutting of the ribbon was conducted by Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega, Secretary of Samoan Affairs, and a tour of the vessel followed immediately. Clergymen, members of the Fono, ASG Cabinet members, and the management team of Starkist Samoa were some of the distinguished guests present at the ceremony.



MV Lady Samoa IV is a Ro-Ro Passenger ship that consists of three decks, seating for 297 passengers, and VIP special cabins. The vessel will take over the Apia-Pago Pago route previously serviced by the MV Lady Naomi.



Department of Commerce Hosts BizFest for Local Entrepreneurs



The Department of Commerce team poses for a picture before the BizFest program started.



In celebration of the National Entrepreneurs Month - November 2022, the Department of Commerce hosted a BizFest for Local Entrepreneurs at the OMV in Tafuna on November 19, 2022. Over 45 retail and food vendors set up shop to showcase their products and services. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga and First Lady Ella Mauga visited with many of the business owners. “It was an opportunity to meet with some of our new entrepreneurs who are just starting out. We witnessed a lot of creativity and talent in many of the products,” stated Governor Lemanu “I commend Director Petti and the Department of Commerce for organizing this event to help new and veteran entrepreneurs promote their businesses,” he continued. The BizFest was well attended by the public; and by the end of the event, many vendors had sold out of their products. Director Petti Matila announced that there will be a Trade Show in 2023, and she has invited all entrepreneurs to sign up for next year’s event.



In the Community

Constitutional Wave



On November 7, 2022 all of the American Samoa Departments, Agencies, and Authorities joined the wave led by the Office of Political Status Constitutional Review and Federal relations to encourage the public to exercise their rights to vote.

Episcopal Ordination Ceremony



Bishop Kolio Tumanuvao's Episcopal Ordination at Holy Family Cathedral Fatuoai

Veteran's Day Family Day



The Office of Veteran's Affairs and the Office of the Governor held a Family Day in honor of the brave men and women who have selflessly served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces.



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NOVEMBER PROCLAMATIONS

- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- National Entrepreneurship Month

NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE ORDER

- Reinstate Pay Increment Increases

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2- TAOA Christmas Gift Giving
- December 4-10 - ASG Christmas Caroling
- December 7- FatuOAiga, Hope House, TCF Gift Giving
- December 7-TCF Luncheon