



OCTOBER 2022 | ISSUE 002

TAPUITEA

The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government

IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA

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Port Administration awarded \$2.12M federal grant for Aunu'u Wharf Reconstruction Project

On Friday, October 28, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced more than \$703 million to fund 41 projects in 22 states and one territory (American Samoa) that will improve port facilities through the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program. The funding, made possible by President Biden and Vice President Harris's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and additional Congressional appropriations, will benefit coastal seaports, Great Lakes ports, and inland river ports, helping improve supply chain reliability through increased port capacity and resilience, more efficient operations, reduced port emissions, and new workforce opportunities.

American Samoa's Department of Port Administration was selected as one of the recipients of the 2022 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant. This grant award will allow American Samoa's Port Administration to reconstruct the existing Aunu'u Wharf; perform structural repairs to the existing pilings; construct a new 80-foot-long extension to the wharf; repair and upgrade the existing ramp structure; dredge any excess material surrounding the wharf; and install a new fendering system, bollards, and cleats. The project will also comply with the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.



“We are grateful for the support of the federal government and we commend Director Christopher King and all those involved in applying for and securing this award. This investment marks a significant milestone in our initiatives to rebuild our critical infrastructure.” stated Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga

Delivering the Constitution to the People

On October 14, 2022, the Lemanu-Talauaga administration proclaimed October 17th as the “American Samoa Constitution Day”, and the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review & Federal Relations under the leadership of Director Tapaau Dr. Dan Aga, in partnership with DYWA Director Salote Aoelua-Fanene, hosted a Constitutional Day Carnival on Monday, October 17th, at the Su’igaula Utulei Park. The celebration began with its formalities, followed by fun activities by several youth representatives and ASG departments.

Highlighted at the Constitutional Day were the many efforts and events that have been prioritized and placed the constitution at the forefront of this administration, from the convening of the Constitutional Review Committee in February ([read more](#)), the Department of Education’s Student-Led Constitutional Convention in April ([read more](#)), the 6th Territorial Constitutional Convention of American Samoa in September ([read more](#)), the American Samoa Community College Constitution Week and DOE Student Referendum this past week.

Youth representatives charged games and educational booths that discussed the 11 proposed amendments for the midterm election, amongst them was the Tafuna High School’s JSA/Close Up Club.

“Our forefathers gathered at the first Constitutional Convention to create a historic document that has become the bedrock of our society,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “It has been a mission of this administration to raise awareness, to engage the public, but above all, to afford our people their right to be heard. Our democracy works when everyone is heard. Several members of our community with different walks of life deliberated during the Review Committee. The student-led events involved the youth in the democratic process and instilled in them that they too have ownership over our constitution. Much work has been done, however, the work is not complete. I encourage you all to exercise your right to vote on November 8, 2022.”

[Click here to access the main Political Status Website and the 2022 Constitutional Convention Transmittal Report.](#)



Pictured are various Constitution Outreach hosted by the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, and Federal Relations through churches, schools, and ASG.



ELECTION REMINDER

**Midterm Election:
November 08, 2022**

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"/>

Second Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting



Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Governor of American Samoa and Her Excellency Fiamé Naomi Mataafa, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa signing the Memorandum of Understanding as a result of the Second Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting.

Thursday, October 13th marked the official opening of the Second Atoa o Samoa with the Guard of Honor on the front lawn of the Samoa Government Building. Her Excellency Fiamé bestowed the highest of honor upon Honorable Lemanu as he was given the opportunity to inspect the Samoa police force during the opening ceremony. Immediately following was a prayer service with the opening prayer led by His Grace Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga and hymn by the Samoa Police Band. Concluding the opening ceremony was the exchanging of gifts between the two Samoas, this included fine mats, siapo, beef, and fish.

Soon after, delegations, observers and special guests held the official Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting at the Taumeasina Island Resort. In their special remarks during the first official Atoa o Samoa in July, both leaders highlighted a new beginning for the two Samoas to move forward independently and collaboratively in their government. In their remarks for the second meeting, they echoed the importance of forging the relationships to improve the lives in both Samoas. Similarly to the first executive meeting in July, key

issues that were discussed are as follows: Health, Economy, Education, Information and Communication Technology, Immigration, Agriculture and Fisheries, Finance, Environment, Climate, Weather & Geoscience. Additional issues were also discussed in the second meeting, which included transportation, customs, and intelligence sharing.

On Friday, October 14th, the final day of the Atoa o Samoa meetings, much was discussed and agreed upon for the benefits of both Samoas. To officially conclude the two-day meeting, the two leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding. “American Samoa has been very fortunate with the hospitality shown by the Independent State of Samoa” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “You have shared your wisdom with us, renewed our partnership in many of our efforts in our fight against climate change, preserving our culture and language, and by building up our workforce by allowing training through the school of medicine, maritime, and technical institute.”

Governor Lemanu remarked, “The Atoa o Samoa meeting is an opportunity to address these social

and economic challenges with our neighboring country. I would like to thank Her Excellency Fiamé Mataafa and the Ministers of Samoa for your foresight and strengthening our partnership for the future of the two Samoa. We’ve forged relationships, and now the real work will begin. The ASDOE will work closely with the National University of Samoa to coordinate career pathways and workforce development training. These training will afford our people the ability to receive their certifications closer to home in specialized professions such as nursing, engineering and pilotage. The ASDOC will look into hosting regional trade shows to expand businesses and for both Samoas to sell their locally made products. There’s much to be done, but with the signing of the MOU, and the provision of our leaders, our goals will be met.”



[Click here to access Atoa o Samoa Official Memorandum and Outcomes](#)

ODAPM Holds First Annual Disaster Resilience Summit



Pictured (L-R): FEMA Region IX Recovery Division Director Robert Pesapane, ODAPM Director Lisa Tuato'o, Acting Governor Fainu'ulelei Falefatu Utu-Alailima (Photo Courtesy: HB Media)

On September 27, 2022, the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) held an opening ceremony for the First Annual Amerika Samoa Disaster Resilience Summit at the Rex H. Lee Auditorium in Utulei. Special Remarks were delivered by Acting Governor, Honorable Fainu'ulelei Falefatu Alailima Uti: "On behalf of Honorable Governor Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, and Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega Eleasalo Vaalele Ale, it is my honor to help launch the first Disaster Resilience Summit in American Samoa. I give a warm welcome to Mr. Robert Pesapane, Director of FEMA Region IX Recovery Division, our federal and local partners, and everyone here today. Disaster Resilience is not a matter of choice, but it is a matter of survival. Our people are naturally resilient and we do not take that for granted. Through earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, COVID-19 outbreak, king tides, recent marine volcanic activities and tremors, Samoan people are resilient because everyone plays an impressive role during these critical times, The Governor and Lieutenant Governor thanks ODAPM Director Lisa Tuato'o for hosting this

Summit. Summits like this keep us vigilant in times of crisis. Lives will be saved because of the work that you all do, we express our profound gratitude, and send our best wishes for a successful summit." The Disaster Resilience Summit was a three day summit focused on strengthening American Samoa community preparedness, response and recovery efforts to ensure safety and resiliency during all hazard disasters. "This year's theme is 'Bridging the gap between Government and Communities.' The goal is to generate a dialogue between the government and the

people, and provide an opportunity for both to share information in this capacity," stated Director Lisa. Over twenty outreach educational booths and training sessions from local and federal partners, departments, and agencies were set up around the auditorium site to engage students, members of the community, and government leaders in their emergency support functions, roles and responsibilities in times of disasters. A Memorial Prayer Service was also held on September 29, to commemorate those who have lost their lives 13 years ago during the 2009 Tsunami disaster.

American Samoa Government Benchmark Trip to South Korea

Governor Lemanu's Benchmark Trip to South Korea, specifically to Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, a small island government of South Korea, was an effort to learn more about the critical infrastructural development of Jeju Island with respect to sustainability and adaptation. Jeju is a world leading small island nation in the areas of renewable energy, electrical vehicles, and

information technology. Jeju is well known for its tourism, service, construction and infrastructure industries.

I believe Jeju Province to be the global standard in being environmentally conscious while still supporting responsible commercial development," stated Governor Lemanu.

(continue on page 6)

ASG Benchmark Trip to South Korea Cont.'d

He continued, “I hope to apply the successes of Jeju Province to not only the people and environment of American Samoa, but to other neighboring Asia and Pacific Island Countries.” This trip was a follow-up meeting as a result of meetings Governor Lemanu had during the US Department of Commerce SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington DC a few months ago. Other state governors have also returned from South Korea on their fact-finding missions to attract business and investments to their states.

American Samoa is also in a position to delve more into public private partnership opportunities to attract more business opportunities on island with the overall goal to create more jobs and improve the quality of life across the territory. On Monday, September 26th, the American Samoa Delegation arrived in Incheon, Seoul, South Korea at 5:00 pm (KST). Tuesday, September 27th, an Orientation was held at the Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) in Seoul, following a series of meetings and presentations on Solar Energy, Electric Car Infrastructure, and Response to Global Warming. The delegation then visited the Korean War Memorial Museum where Governor Lemanu signed the Korean War Guestbook. “To witness names of the fallen Toa o Samoa as a result of the Korean War-bloodshed and devastation, is unfathomable. We honor the brave soldiers who answered the call to aid South Korea in their time of crisis, and to protect the peace and security in the Pacific,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “Although our debt to them can never be fully repaid, their ultimate sacrifice has ensured our freedom for generations to come.”

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, began with a visit to the Water and Sewage Treatment Facility at the Korea Engineering Main Office (Seoul) and the Lotte Tower,

known as the 5th tallest building in the world. Afterwards, the Delegation attended a meeting and luncheon hosted by the Honorary Chairman of Dongwon Industries (parent company of Starkist Co.) Kim Jae-Chul and executives. Also in attendance was the Starkist Samoa General Manager Injoo Ha.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited another Sewage Treatment Facility/Desalination Facility at the Taeyoung Construction Main Office. Later that evening, they departed from Gimpo International Airport in Seoul to Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

On Thursday, September 29th, Governor Lemanu met with Honorary Oh Young Hoon, Governor of Jeju at the Jeju Provincial Office, where the two exchanged diplomatic gifts. Afterwards, Deputy Governor Ko Young-kwon hosted a luncheon for the delegation. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Environmental Resources Recirculation Center, and the Dodu Sewage Treatment Plant. On Friday, September 30th, Governor Lemanu and his delegation met with Honorable Chairman Kim Kyung Hak of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Council. Soon after, Governor Lemanu and

American Samoa delegation visited the World Cup stadium Convergence Charging Station. In the afternoon the American Samoa delegation visited the Carbon Free Island (CFI) Future Hall of Energy, and the Uhoongaeng Water Purification Plant. On Saturday, September 31st, Governor Lemanu and his delegation traveled from Jeju to Gimpo to Pyeongtaek, where they had a special luncheon with the sons and daughters of Samoa stationed at Camp Humphrey. “This trip has afforded us the opportunity to meet with fellow soldiers from Samoa. We thank you for your continued service to keep America safe, but most especially your Island home.” As a retired soldier, Governor Lemanu reflected on the difficulties and struggles of being away from Samoa and especially family. In the afternoon, the delegation traveled to Incheon and went on the Incheon Songado International City Tour before departure. Accompanying Governor Lemanu was Chief of Staff Loa T. Laupola, ASPA CEO Wallon Young Fong, Department of Public Works Director Faleosina Voigt, Department of Commerce Director Petti Matila, Territorial Energy Office Director Misipati Salanoa, and Governor’s Office-Hawaii Director Tuiafono V. Sua Jr.



Honorable Oh Young Hoon, Governor of Jeju Special-Self Governing Province, and Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Governor of American Samoa.

The Ronald Reagan Shipyard's Ongoing Success



Undocking of Hong Xin No. 112. (First Asian commercial fishing vessel to be dry-docked in almost 8 years)

The government owned shipyard in Satala as overseen by the American Samoa Shipyard Authority has resolved major hurdles that existed at the start of the Lemanu-Talauuga Administration. In just under two years, Executive Director Carlos Sanchez and his team have been able to revive and transform the once closed Ronald Reagan Shipyard. The shipyard has acquired a full line of equipment and tools and is currently able to dry-dock two vessels at the same time, with future plans of dry-docking an additional 1-3 vessels.

Apart from the economical and revival success, the shipyard has created an incredible force of efficient workers. The majority of the shipyard's employees have been cross-trained; each member has been taught and trained to be more versatile and be able to perform in different work positions.



On Friday, October 21, 2022, the American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority tested its capabilities and successfully undocked two fishing vessels during one tide. One of the vessels repaired and undocked was the Hong Xin No. 112. "This is the first Asian commercial fishing vessel to be drydocked at our shipyard in almost 8 years," remarked Director Carlos Sanchez. He continued, "This is a testament to the confidence that vessel owners have in our shipyard's capabilities. They are coming back to do business in American Samoa and all the credit goes out to the entire shipyard team."

On Monday, October 24, 2022 the Manu'atele was drydocked using the same experimental techniques as last Friday's undocking. With the success of the two-vessel undocking, the American Samoa Shipyard Authority will proceed with its plans to drydock two vessels on the same tide. The Ronald Reagan Shipyard is currently working with a California group of engineers who will be building a replacement upgraded electrical panel for the shipyard's system.

The American Samoa Shipyard Authority has been a success story for the last two years and continues to carry out its motto of "Serving the Largest, Safest, and Busiest Port in the Pacific."

In the Community

The month of October was filled with family oriented community events.

Lions Park Block Party



The Lions Park Renovation Project was initiated to provide a safe and beautiful space where families can enjoy recreational activities. On October 7, 2022, all ASG departments, agencies, authorities, and offices hosted a Block Party to commemorate the new and improved Lions Park, and a early White Sunday treat for all of American Samoa.

Halloween Festivities



Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga and Lt. Governor Talauega E.V. Ale along with their families welcome trick-or-treaters.



**SUBMIT YOUR
DEPARTMENT'S
UPDATES AND
STORIES TO
US TODAY!**

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PHONE: 633-4116

OCTOBER PROCLAMATIONS

- Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- National Arts and Humanities Month
- American Samoa's 62nd Constitution Day
- First Responders Day

OCTOBER EXECUTIVE ORDER

- Governor's Youth Council

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 8- Election Day
- November 10- USMC Birthday
- **November 11- Veterans Day Holiday**
- November 19- DOC Biz' Fest
- **November 24- Thanksgiving Holiday**
- November 25 - Island wide Cleanup