



# SPECIAL INAUGURAL EDITION TAPUITEA

The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government

**American Samoa COVID-19  
Threat Level: CODE RED** page 2

✧ IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA ✧

✧ VOLUME 1 ISSUE 001 ✧

## TAPUITEA: A Look Inside the Executive Branch

In 2004, the original Tapuitea Newsletter was created under the Togiola-Faoa Administration. It provided news, information, and announcements from the Executive branch.

Former Governor Togiola wanted to format a publication that mirrored the original ASG Newsletter published by the Naval Administration called "Faatonu." Tapuitea disseminated updates on "island government at work."

Alamoapa of Leone submitted the name Tapuitea during a contest held by then-Governor Togiola.

Apa described his submission as, "Tapuitea is the morning and evening star that navigators used to guide their journey and

expeditions...ina ia manino le folauga." The runner-up submissions were "Le Upega" and "ASG Beacon."

Mr. Apa received \$200.00 and a commemorative book of American Samoa written by Robert Schaffer.


To pay homage to the work that has been done before, the Lemanu-Talauega Administration want to revive Tapuitea due to the large volume of activities being accomplished weekly and

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***"Island Government at Work."***



Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga addressed the Territory on February 27th, 2022, that the COVID-19 Threat Level will continue at CODE RED for another week. He has asked the Territory to work together to adhere to the restricted movement, getting vaccinated, wearing masks, and practicing social distancing.



**VOTE**

**ELECTION OFFICE  
REMINDER**

The Outside  
Absentee Request  
process began  
January 1, 2022

You can request  
your absentee ballot  
by clicking on the link  
[aselectionoffice.gov](http://aselectionoffice.gov)

**Download form E0-08**

# SPECIAL UPDATE

AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

# COVID-19 RISK LEVEL

# CODE RED

BEGINNING MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 22 UNTIL MARCH 9

- All businesses only allowed to operate 5 AM to 4 PM
- All air and sea travel will be suspended
- All ASG operations will be suspended except for first responders and essential employees
- No public gatherings
- All public gatherings will be prohibited: schools, daycare centers, churches, weddings, funerals
- Port Operations: Essential
- All persons, businesses, organizations, or agencies are required to mandate mask use inside of any building that is open to the public
- Families are encouraged to self-quarantine and designate one family member to go to the store
- All restaurants will be allowed to provide take-outs only. Dine-in services are prohibited
- Social distancing is highly encouraged


## Covid-19 Vaccination & Testing Drive-Thru

The Department of Public Health conducted a Covid-19 Vaccination & Testing Drive-Thru on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at the Pago Pago Intl. Airport (Tafuna) from 8:00am-2:00pm

## Covid-19 Testing Sites

The Department of Public Health is administering Covid-19 testing at the following sites on MWF from 8:00am - 2:00pm

Leone Health Center  
Tafuna Health Center  
Amouli Health Center

 Counts of Confirmed COVID19 Cases by Village, Am. Samoa COVID19 Response, Feb 26, 2022

Village	Count of Cases
Fagaalu	1
Fagasa	3
Failolo	1
Falenui	1
Ilili	6
Leone	11
Nuuuli	17
Pago Pago	1
Puapua	1
Tafuna	17
Vaitogi	2
Vatia	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63</b>

Data as reported by the American Samoa Department of Health by 8:30pm on February 26, 2022

# SPECIAL UPDATE

## AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

# COVID-19 RISK LEVEL

BEGINNING MIDNIGHT

# CODE RED

FEBRUARY 22 UNTIL MARCH 9



### LBJTMC Pharmacy Services

The LBJTMC is offering three options when needing Pharmacy Services:

1. Email [refill@lbj.as](mailto:refill@lbj.as)
2. Call or Text:
  - Bluesky carrier: (684)258-3462
  - ASTCA carrier: (684)782-3391 / (684)782-2296
3. Call LBJ Operator
  - (684)633-1222 and transfer to Pharmacy



### Visitors & Caregivers

- All visitation is suspended, and In-patient is allowed one (1) caregiver.
- The caregiver must be 18 years or older and must remain with the patient at all times. Once the caregiver leaves the hospital, he/she will not be allowed back to the unit.
- Please call Patient Care Director at (684)258-0608 for any questions



### Clinics Temporarily Closed

All Outpatient Clinics remain closed. However, the nursing staff will be available at the clinics to triage calls and answer any questions. Please call LBJ (684)633-1222 and ask for the appropriate clinic.



### DHSS-BHSD Counseling Services

The DHSS BHSD office is closed until further notice. All counseling groups are on hold until further notice. Should you have any questions regarding your counseling plan or services, you can message through their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bhsd](http://www.facebook.com/bhsd)

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis or need someone to talk to, please call 988 or the American Samoa Suicide Mental Health Helpline. 988 helpline is free from any phone (mobile or landline) and is open 24/7.



### Price Gouging

If you suspect price gouging, you may report it to the Department of Public Safety at [tafunasubstation@gmail.com](mailto:tafunasubstation@gmail.com) or 633-111 or 699-1911. Important information to provide DPS:

- Name of business and location
- Name of items
- Current and previous price of product

If DPS confirms and has enough evidence to charge the reported business, the case will be referred DLA for prosecution.

Please contact DLA at [ag@la.as.gov](mailto:ag@la.as.gov) or (684)633-4163 for any questions

# SPECIAL UPDATE

## AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

# COVID-19 RISK LEVEL

# CODE RED

BEGINNING MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 22 UNTIL MARCH 9

## Department of Education Remote Learning Schedule



The Department of Education has implemented the Remote Learning Plan (RLP) to ensure continuous instructions under the Code Red Restrictions.

### Modes of Instructions:

Remote learning using technological devices that will be distributed to students accordingly.

### Meals:

Distribution of meals are currently suspended

### DOE Activities & Facilities:

All DOE academic and athletic competitions are suspended.

All buildings and facilities are Closed with an exception to device distribution purposes.

### Early Childhood Education Head Start

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00am-8:05am Literacy	8:00am-8:05am Literacy	8:00am-8:05am Literacy	8:00am-8:05am Literacy	8:00am-8:05am Literacy
8:06am-8:11am Mathematics	8:06am-8:11am Mathematics	8:06am-8:11am Mathematics	8:06am-8:11am Mathematics	8:06am-8:11am Mathematics
8:12am-8:17am Arts	8:12am-8:17am Social Studies	8:12am-8:17am Arts	8:12am-8:17am Social Studies	8:12am-8:17am Arts
8:18am-8:23am Lesson of the Day	8:18am-8:23am Lesson of the Day	8:18am-8:23am Lesson of the Day	8:18am-8:23am Lesson of the Day	8:18am-8:23am Lesson of the Day
8:24am-8:29am Choice Time	8:24am-8:29am Choice Time	8:24am-8:29am Choice Time	8:24am-8:29am Choice Time	8:24am-8:29am Choice Time
8:30am-8:35am Music & Dance	8:30am-8:35am Outdoor	8:30am-8:35am Music & Dance	8:30am-8:35am Outdoor	8:30am-8:35am Music & Dance
8:36am-8:41am Science	8:36am-8:41am Technology	8:36am-8:41am Science	8:36am-8:41am Technology	8:36am-8:41am Science
8:42am-8:47am Language	8:42am-8:47am Language	8:42am-8:47am Language	8:42am-8:47am Language	8:42am-8:47am Language
8:48am-8:53am Eng. Lang. Learning	8:48am-8:53am Eng. Lang. Learning	8:48am-8:53am Eng. Lang. Learning	8:48am-8:53am Eng. Lang. Learning	8:48am-8:53am Eng. Lang. Learning
8:54am-9:00am Clean Up	8:54am-9:00am Clean Up	8:54am-9:00am Clean Up	8:54am-9:00am Clean Up	8:54am-9:00am Clean Up

1 hour per day or 60 minutes per day.

### Elementary Level Schedule

#### Level K5 - 2

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Read Well 8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20
2	Samoaan 8:25-8:45	8:25-8:45	8:25-8:45	8:25-8:45	8:25-8:45
Break/SEM ACTIVITIES	8:50-9:10	8:50-9:10	8:50-9:10	8:50-9:10	8:50-9:10
3	Math 9:15-9:35	Math 9:15-9:35	Math 9:15-9:35	Math 9:15-9:35	Math 9:15-9:35
4	Science 9:40-10:00	Science 9:40-10:00	Science 9:40-10:00	Science 9:40-10:00	Science 9:40-10:00
Lunch	9:50-10:00	9:50-10:00	9:50-10:00	9:50-10:00	9:50-10:00
5	Soc. Studies 10:05-10:25	10:05-10:25	10:05-10:25	10:05-10:25	10:05-10:25
6	Health 10:30-10:50	Music 10:30-10:50	Health 10:30-10:50	Art 10:30-10:50	P.E 10:30-10:50

20 minutes per period. 100 minutes per week. 1:40  
Office hours: 11:00-4:00

#### Level 3 - 5

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Read Well/Reading 8:00-8:25	Read Well/Reading 8:00-8:25	Read Well/Reading 8:00-8:25	Read Well/Reading 8:00-8:25	Read Well/Reading 8:00-8:25
2	Samoaan 8:30-8:55	Samoaan 8:30-8:55	Samoaan 8:30-8:55	Samoaan 8:30-8:55	Samoaan 8:30-8:55
Break/SEM ACTIVITY	9:00-9:15	9:00-9:15	9:00-9:15	9:00-9:15	9:00-9:15
3	Math 9:20-9:40	Math 9:20-9:40	Math 9:20-9:40	Math 9:20-9:40	Math 9:20-9:40
4	Science 9:45-10:10	Science 9:45-10:10	Science 9:45-10:10	Science 9:45-10:10	Science 9:45-10:10
Lunch/Break	10:10-10:35	10:10-10:35	10:10-10:35	10:10-10:35	10:10-10:35
5	Soc. Studies 10:40-11:05	Soc. Studies 10:40-11:05	Soc. Studies 10:40-11:05	Soc. Studies 10:40-11:05	Soc. Studies 10:40-11:05
6	Health 11:10-11:35 <i>*5th Grade only: Coding</i>	Music 11:10-11:35	Health 11:10-11:35 <i>*5th Grade only: Coding</i>	Art 11:10-11:35	P.E 11:10-11:35 <i>*5th Grade only: Coding</i>

25 minutes per period. 125 minutes per week. 2:10 minutes.  
Office hours: 11:40-4:00 p.m.

#### Level 6-8

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Reading 8:00-8:35	Reading 8:00-8:35	Reading 8:00-8:35	Reading 8:00-8:35	Reading 8:00-8:35
2	Samoaan 8:40-9:15	Samoaan 8:40-9:15	Samoaan 8:40-9:15	Samoaan 8:40-9:15	Samoaan 8:40-9:15
Break/SEM ACTIVITIES	9:20-9:40	9:20-9:40	9:20-9:40	9:20-9:40	9:20-9:40
3	Math 9:45-10:20	Math 9:45-10:20	Math 9:45-10:20	Math 9:45-10:20	Math 9:45-10:20
4	Science 10:25-11:00	Science 10:25-11:00	Science 10:25-11:00	Science 10:25-11:00	Science 10:25-11:00
Lunch	11:00-11:20	11:00-11:20	11:00-11:20	11:00-11:20	11:00-11:20
5	Soc. Studies 11:25-12:00	Soc. Studies 11:25-12:00	Soc. Studies 11:25-12:00	Soc. Studies 11:25-12:00	Soc. Studies 11:25-12:00
6	Health 12:05-12:40	Music 12:05-12:40	Health 12:05-12:40	Art 12:05-12:40	P.E 12:05-12:40

35 minutes per period. 175 minutes per week. 2:02  
Office hours: 12:45-4:00 p.m.

# SPECIAL UPDATE

## AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

# COVID-19 RISK LEVEL

# CODE RED

BEGINNING MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 22 UNTIL MARCH 9

## Department of Education Remote Learning Schedule *Secondary School Level*

FAGAITUA HIGH SCHOOL  
BELL SCHEDULE & RLP  
SY 2021-2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:20am – First Bell	8:20am – First Bell	8:20am – First Bell	8:20am – First Bell	8:20am – First Bell
8:30am – 10:0am 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am – 9:40am 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am – 9:40am 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30am – 9:40am 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am – 10:0am 4 <sup>th</sup>
10:10am – 11:40am 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:50am – 11:00am 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:50am – 11:00am 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:50am – 11:00am 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:10am – 11:40am 5 <sup>th</sup>
11:40am-12:30 pm Lunch	11:00am – 11:50am Lunch	11:00am – 11:50am Lunch	11:00am – 11:50am Lunch	11:40am-12:30 pm Lunch
12:40pm -2:10pm 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00pm – 1:10pm 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm – 1:10pm 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm – 1:10pm 2 <sup>nd</sup>	12:40pm -2:10pm 6 <sup>th</sup>
	1:20pm – 2:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup>	1:20pm – 2:30pm 5 <sup>th</sup>	1:20pm – 2:30pm 3 <sup>rd</sup>	



LEONE HIGH SCHOOL Remote Learning BELL SCHEDULE  
SY 2021-2022



Time/Date (Monday & Friday Only)	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
8:30am – 9:40am 08:30 – 10:00am (M&F)	Period 1	Period 4	Period 2	Period 6	Period 4
9:40am – 09:50am 10:00am – 10:10am (M&F)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
09:50am – 11:00am 10:10am – 11:40am (M&F)	Period 2	Period 5	Period 3	Period 1	Period 5
11:00am – 11:10am 11:40am – 11:50am (M&F)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:10am – 12:20pm 11:50am – 12:50pm (M&F)	LUNCH	Period 6	Period 4	Period 2	LUNCH
12:30pm – 01:20pm 01:00pm – 02:30pm (M&F)	Period 3	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	Period 6
01:30pm – 02:30pm 02:30pm – 04:00pm (M&F)	Office hours	Period 1	Period 5	Period 3	Office hours
02:30pm – 04:00pm	Office hours	Office hours	Office hours	Office hours	Office hours



MANUA HIGH SCHOOL  
"HOME OF THE SEGALE"  
"Think, Transform, Thrive! (Helele, Falele) Ole A!"  
SY 2021-2022  
Bell Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15 am Breakfast	8:15 am Breakfast	8:15 am Breakfast	8:15 am Breakfast	8:15 am Breakfast
8:30 – 9:15am P.1	8:30 – 9:40am P.4	8:30 – 9:40am P.2	8:30 – 9:40am P.6	8:30 – 9:15am P.4
9:20 – 10:05am P.2	9:40 – 9:55 Break	9:40 – 9:55am Break	9:40 – 9:55am Break	9:20 – 10:05am P.5
10:05 – 10:15am Break	10:00 – 11:10 P.5	10:00 – 11:10 P.3	10:00 – 11:10 P.1	10:05 – 10:15am Break
10:20 – 11:05am P.3	11:10 – 11:40 Lunch	11:10 – 11:40 Lunch	11:10 – 11:40 Lunch	10:20 – 11:05am P.6
11:10 – 11:40am Lunch	11:45 – 12:55 P.6	11:45 – 12:55 P.4	11:45 – 12:55 P.2	11:10 – 11:40am Lunch
11:45 – 12:30 P.4	1:00 – 2:10 P.1	1:00 – 2:10 P.5	1:00 – 2:10 P.3	11:45 – 12:30 P.1
12:35 – 1:20 P.5				12:35 – 1:20 P.2
1:25 – 2:10 P.6	2:15 – 4:00 Office hours	2:15 – 4:00 Office hours	2:15 – 4:00 Office hours	1:25 – 2:10 P.3
2:15 – 4:00 Office hours				2:15 – 4:00 Office hours



SAMOANA HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK SCHEDULE 2021-2022

Monday		Tuesday	
8:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Bell	8:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Bell
8:30-10:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30-9:45	4 <sup>th</sup> Period
10:05-11:35	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:50-11:05	5 <sup>th</sup> Period
11:35-12:35	Lunch	11:05-11:55	Lunch
12:40-2:10	3 <sup>rd</sup> period	12:00-1:15	6 <sup>th</sup> Period
2:30-4:00	PD/Staff Meeting/Dept. Meeting	1:20-2:30	1 <sup>st</sup> period
Wednesday		Thursday	
8:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Bell	8:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Bell
8:30-9:45	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	8:30-9:45	6 <sup>th</sup> Period
9:50-11:05	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	9:50-11:05	1 <sup>st</sup> Period
11:05-11:55	Lunch	11:05-11:55	Lunch
12:00-1:15	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:00-1:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
1:20-2:30	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:20-2:30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
Friday			
8:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Bell		
8:30-10:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Period		
10:05-11:35	5 <sup>th</sup> Period		
11:35-12:35	Lunch		
12:40-2:10	6 <sup>th</sup> Period		
2:30-4:00	Staff Meeting, PD's, .....etc.		

TAFUNA HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE  
SY 2021-2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>First Bell 8:20</b>	<b>First Bell 8:20</b>	<b>First Bell 8:20</b>	<b>First Bell 8:20</b>	<b>First Bell 8:20</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Period 8:30 – 10:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Period 8:30 – 9:40	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 8:30 – 9:40	6 <sup>th</sup> Period 8:30 – 9:40	4 <sup>th</sup> Period 8:30 – 10:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 10:10 – 11:40	5 <sup>th</sup> Period 9:50 – 11:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 9:50 – 11:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Period 9:50 – 11:00	5 <sup>th</sup> Period 10:10 – 11:40
LUNCH 11:40 – 12:30	LUNCH 11:00 – 11:50	LUNCH 11:00 – 11:50	LUNCH 11:00 – 11:50	LUNCH 11:40 – 12:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 12:40 – 2:10	6 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:00 – 1:10	4 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:00 – 1:10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 12:00 – 1:10	6 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:40 – 2:10
	1 <sup>st</sup> Period 1:20 – 2:30	5 <sup>th</sup> Period 1:20 – 2:30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 1:20 – 2:30	
Assembly/Tutoring/Staff Developments & In- Services 2:20 – 4:00	Assembly/Tutoring/Staff Developments & In- Services 2:40 – 4:00	Assembly/Tutoring/Staff Developments & In- Services 2:40 – 4:00	Assembly/Tutoring/Staff Developments & In- Services 2:40 – 4:00	Assembly/Tutoring/Staff Developments & In- Services 2:20 – 4:00

Striving for Excellence ~ Finafinau i Mea Lelei

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school principle or Deputy Director Dr. Roxanne Salave'a at (684)782-6163 or by email: [roxanne.salavea@doe.as](mailto:roxanne.salavea@doe.as).

## Disaster Emergency Communication Group (Emergency Communications Committee)

The Department of Homeland Security Director Samana had called an emergency meeting to include all the partners involved in the Territorial Emergency Communications Committee, which handles the preparation, execution, and maintenance of disaster emergency communications during an event or incident.

Governor Lemanu has tasked this group with finding a solution to the issues with the current Tsunami warning system. He stated, "There is enough knowledge and talent in this room to come up with a plan to improve or upgrade the current system." ✨



Governor Lemanu and members of the Disaster Emergency Communication Group in Fagatogo.

## Department of Public Works Dedicates New Road

Contracted to Paramount Builders, Route 013 Road Reconstruction-Malaeloa Village Road Project begins from the junction of Route 001 main corridor, extending 7,000 Linear Feet (1.30 miles) into the village



First Lady Ella Mauga cuts the ribbon at the Route 13 Road Reconstruction Dedication

looping around to Route 001. The route is a two 10 ft wide lane (20 ft wide concrete pavement), 8 inch Thick Portland Cement Concretes (PCC) pavement, a 4 ft wide sidewalk (including standard curb and gutter), and drainage system improvements to connect to the existing open channel. Other features of this project include but were not limited to, bus pullouts, driveways, and road improvements that were necessary for the completion of this project.

Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Although the project was completed under the current administration, Governor Lemanu is grateful for the previous administration for initiating these efforts. The goal for the Lemanu-Talauaga administration is to improve the infrastructure to better serve and assist the people of the Territory. The original contract amount was \$3.6 million, however, the final total will be announced in a later report. ✨

## Opening of NGA Winter Session: Zoom with President Biden

The National Governors Association's 114th annual Winter

Meeting was scheduled on Jan. 28-31 in Washington, D.C. Governors have meet to discuss best practices and bipartisan collaboration on leading policy issues, including infrastructure, computer science education, and cybersecurity well as the importance of bipartisan leadership.

The Governors joined Cabinet secretaries and leaders from business, academia, and philanthropy for solutions-driven conversations around the top issues in states and territories, including those raised or underscored during the public-health challenge that began in early 2020. ✨



Governor Lemanu attends virtual Zoom meeting with President Biden regarding the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

## Governor Submits Administrative Bills for FONO Consideration

The Lemanu-Talauaga Administration submitted the following Administrative Requests before the 37th Legislature, 3rd Regular Session:

Administrative Request for Implied Consent Testing of Impaired Drivers.

Currently, our laws only provide for implied consent testing of breath for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases. Current

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testing procedures only account for the detection of alcohol in the breath of a suspected driver. This creates a challenge in prosecuting drivers who are driving while impaired by drugs.

This Administrative Request is for a bill that provides implied consent testing of drivers' blood to confirm the presence of drugs that impair their driving or those involved in severe accidents. This bill is an important measure to combat drug abuse in our Territory.

The Administrative Request to Establish the Office of Property Management Laws regulating the management of government property was adopted in 1983. The American Samoa Government's property management needs have changed significantly since that time in terms of type, volume, and value of property managed. Executive Order 01-1998 established the Office of Property Management and separated the function of property management from the Office of Procurement but did not give the Office of Property Management authority to promulgate rules.

This bill establishes the Office of Property Management as a separate entity from the Office of Procurement and allows the Office of Property Management to promulgate administrative rules. Granting them this authority will increase compliance and accountability of federal funds.

Administrative Request to Grant Rulemaking Authority to Department of Human Resources

The Administrative Request is for a bill to specify rulemaking authority for the Department of Human Resources. Current law does not clearly give this authority, and the Department of Human Resources needs to make rules to

effectively carry out its functions of managing matters relating to government employees.

While the majority of American Samoans speak Samoan as their home language or their first language, American Samoa does not have an official language designated in the statute. The Samoan Language Commission bill will establish a Samoan Language Commission and declare that the

Samoan Language be designated as one of the Official Languages in American Samoa and is recognized as of equal importance as the English language with regard to education, government, the economic and social life of the people of American Samoa. The purpose of the bill is to ensure the Samoan language remains vibrant in support the survival and development of the fa'aSamoa. ✨

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## The USS Sampson (DDG 102) Receives Cultural Gifts from Governor Lemanu

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On January 16th, the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer of the United States Navy, USS Sampson (DDG 102), pulled into American Samoa for a brief resupply visit.

The current COVID-19 Emergency Declaration and the State of Emergency for the Territory did not allow any Sailors to come ashore, nor did it allow any civilians from American Samoa to board the US Navy vessel.

In an email correspondence between the USS Sampson's Commanding Officer CDR Adam Soukup and Governor

Lemanu, Mr. Soukup recognized how "impressed" he was of everyone's "spot-on performance" in getting them the services that they required. Governor Lemanu reminded Mr. Soukup of the rich US Naval history here in American Samoa. He was regretful that the USS Sampson's crew could not come to shore and be welcomed to American Samoa in the traditional Samoan way. Governor Lemanu remarked, "I wished that American Samoa could have honored the USS Sampson's presence here in

*Continued on pg. 11*



*The Governor's Residence overlooks the USS Sampson (DDG 102) docked at Pago Pago Harbor.*

# Department of Port Administration Receives ARPA Funding



*The Department of Port Authority has been vital to the local economy and the maintenance and improvements of the air and sea port facilities ensures its continued economic impacts.*

As the only ports of entry into American Samoa, the Airport and Seaports have undergone many operational changes due to the restrictions put in place by the COVID-19 pandemic. This however has highlighted the lack of space and adequate facilities, to accommodate the additional operations needed.

The Department of Port Administration had applied for grant opportunities from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Funding was sought to address the need for new facilities, to allow adequate space that would provide efficient, effective and safe operations to continue during the pandemic.

Funding was also sought to improve travel and cargo supplies to Aunu'u and the Manu'a islands.

On December 28, 2021, the Department of Port Administration received award letters from the ARPA Oversight Office Director Keith Gebauer, for three project grants: (1) Airport Terminal Reconstruction for \$15 Million (2) Seaport Building and Container Yard Reconstruction for \$20 Million

(3) Inter-Island Vessel Acquisition for \$6.5 Million. A total of \$41.5 Million for the Department of Port Administration.

Procurement has begun for the demolition of the old seaport building, with work expected to start on site in late February.

Bids for Designers for the projects will be advertised in February 2022. ✨

## AS EPA RECYCLING PROGRAM

The AS-EPA's "Recycle Today for a Greener Tomorrow" Recycling Program continues throughout the high schools across the island territory. Participating schools were awarded recycling bins by the AS-EPA to collect aluminum cans on campus. Each school will be responsible for collecting and transporting bags of recycling items to the recycler on island. In exchange, schools will receive compensation from the recycling hauler based on the measured weight of the recycling bags. Thus far, high school students have collected more than 300lbs of aluminum cans.

In addition to collecting aluminum beverage cans on campus, the recycling program strives to improve the quality of life on island by fostering green behavior among students across the territory. ✨





# THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK





The Tongan Community of American Samoa gathered at the Afioga Tufele Liamatua Tufele Sr. Cultural Center, at the Suigaula o le Atuvasa Beach in Utulei, for the opening of the Lemanu-Talauega "Fesoasoani mo Toga" Humanitarian Relief Fundraising Drive.

## TONGA RELIEF EFFORTS RAISED OVER \$500K

The Lemanu-Talauega Tonga Goodwill Initiative to provide humanitarian support for the island nation of Tonga was spearheaded by the Office of Samoan Affairs. The event was six days in the span of two weeks which began on Wednesday, January 26th, 2022. This event followed a Tel-A-Thon format, where callers called in to a hotline and pledged their donations, or online through PayPal at American Samoa Government website.

The Office of the Governor and ASTCA had set up the Tufele Cultural Center guest house as the center for the relief efforts. The Call Center was opened from 8am - 3pm daily from January 26th-28th and again from February 2nd-4th. The hotline was opened from 7am - 3pm on January 29th and again on February 5th.

*Continued on pg. 11*



Chief of Staff Tuimavave T. Laupola received a \$2,000.00 donation on behalf of The Office of the Governor and the Office of Samoan Affairs, from the LBJ Tropical Medical Center for the "Fesoasoani mo Toga" Humanitarian Relief Fundraising Drive at the Suigaula o le Atuvasa Beach, Utulei, American Samoa.



**American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities**

**Flag Day Performing Arts Festival**

**April 6-8, 2022**

**633-5613/4490**

## Tonga Relief Efforts Cont.'d

At the close of the collection effort, ASG collected over \$500,000.00. More donations are collected daily and a final amount will be reported shortly.

Other types of donations received were clothes, non-perishable goods, cases of water, and cases of dried foods. One significant contribution was by StarKist Samoa where they donated nearly \$30,000.00 worth of canned tuna.

A live stream recording of the event can be accessed at the KVZK TV facebook page or youtube channel. ✨



Governor Lemanu remarked, "The fautasi race is a long-standing, time-honored tradition that has been put on display for over 100 years to help commemorate the Annual American Samoa Flag Day celebrations. We are excited for the Matāsaua and her crew to enjoy a new home here at Pago Park, where all the other fautasi are housed and maintained." He continued, "I also want to thank the district of Manu'a for your prayers and support during this project. The future crews of the Mātasaua will now have a home away from home." Pictured above, Governor Lemanu and To'oto'o Malaepule.

## The USS Sampson (DDG 102) Cont.'d



our Samoan way. Unfortunately, due to scheduling and COVID-19 restrictions, on behalf of American Samoa, I welcome you and Sailors of the USS Sampson virtually."

Cultural gifts were presented to CDR Soukup. A tanoa, fue, and to'oto'o were delivered onboard by Chief of Staff Laupola and DOH employees to the USS Sampson quarterdeck. As well as a framed Samoan Warrior warclub for Mrs. Soukup.

CDR Soukup had assured Governor Lemanu that the gifts would be displayed onboard the USS Sampson to remind everyone of their visit here. ✨



The USS Sampson (DDG 102) docked at the Pago Pago Harbor to make preparations to return underway and head south towards Australia. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson (DDG 102). Sampson is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability with alliances and partnerships while serving as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

AMERICAN SAMOA  
 **EPA**   
**TROUBLE CALL**  
**OFFICE: 633-2304**  
**CELL: 733-6149**  
 EPA 24HR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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**Phone: (684) 633-5816 or**  
**email requests to [barstowlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:barstowlibrary@yahoo.com)**

## Tapuitema: Executive Branch Cont.'d

highlighting the great work of the American Samoa government.

“I want Tapuitema to continue. Tapuitema will be a great guide to for producing quality news and information on all ASG activities. We are moving at a historic pace in building infrastructure, fighting COVID-19, and improving the financial health of families and communities. So it is important for everyone to stay informed,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I want to recognize the Naval Administration in starting this type of platform for sharing information, as well as the Togiola-Faoa Administration in revitalizing this effort. Let Tapuitema guide you on your journey through the American Samoa Government as you learn about your island government at work.”

The Office of the Governor expects a significant amount of online subscriptions, and Tapuitema will launch its first digital edition this month. Tapuitema will also have a Samoan translated version shortly. It will be made available at [www.americansamoa.gov/tapuitema](http://www.americansamoa.gov/tapuitema).



Students participate in the Security Reaction Force B (SRF B) class with Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray aboard USS Sampson (DDG 102). Sampson is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability with alliances and partnerships while serving as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Tristan Cookson)



Pictured here (from L-R) Good Lady Marian McGuire-Ale, Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale, Susuga Faiifeau Tonga Mavae'ofa, Susuga Faiifeau Tonga Tevita Paea, Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, and First Lady Ella Mauga. Full Story on Page 5.



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# LBJTMC Pharmacy Services

The in-person pharmacy waiting area will be closed. Alternate pick-up instructions will be given via telephone to all patrons who call for refills for next-day pickup. Please call pharmacy for further arrangements.



**OPTION 1: EMAIL [REFILL@LBJ.AS](mailto:REFILL@LBJ.AS)**

**OPTION 2: CALL OR TEXT:**

**PATIENTS WITH BLUE SKY PHONES  
(684)-258-3462 OR (684) 258-4153  
PATIENTS WITH ASTCA PHONES  
(684)-782-3391 OR (684)-782-2293**

**OPTION 3: CALL LBJ OPERATOR**

**(684)-633-1222 AND ASK TO TRANSFER TO THE PHARMACY.**

**CODE  
RED**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PHARMACY STAFF ON PRESCRIPTION PAYMENT AND PICK UP OPTIONS



## LBJ Tropical Medical Center Outpatient Clinics



In line with the American Samoa Government's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

**All Outpatient Clinics remain closed during CODE RED. You can call the OP clinic for updates on appointments and rescheduling.**

**Outpatient Blood works are on hold. You can still use the same Lab request when services resume.**

For patients that require RHD monthly Bicillin shots during the Code Red Lockdown. Please ring the hospital clinic (Medical/Pediatric) to get your scheduled time/date to stop by to receive your shot.

For those needing scheduled wound care dressing changes during the Code Red Lockdown- Please call the Surgical/Ortho Clinics for more information.

Please remember only 1 caregiver ( if needed) may accompany you to your scheduled appointment.

**MAIN HOSPITAL SWITCHBOARD - 684-633-1222**

COVID-19 RISK LEVEL **CODE RED**

Stay home. Stay safe.  
#StopTheSpread

COVID-19 RISK LEVEL **CODE RED**