



# Tapu itea



...ina ia manino le folauaga.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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## Governor Togiola leads two-day celebration of 109th American Samoa Flag Day



Governor Togiola Tulafono celebrated the 109th anniversary of the raising of the US flag on American Samoa soil by “reflecting, assessing, and reviewing if the Territory is heading in the right direction” as part of his Flag Day address.

Following is Governor Togiola Tulafono’s 2009 Flag Day Address:

Greetings and Talofa.

Flag Day celebrations are not new. Each Flag Day is an opportunity to reflect on another year of government. We count and assess the many ways in which we were blessed. And I ask you, fellow American Samoans, not to forget any of God’s wonderful blessings.

I want to pay a special tribute to our special guests: the Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa; Her Royal Highness Salote Mafile’o Pilolevu Tuita of the Kingdom of Tonga; the Honorable Foua Toloa and Mrs. Fesola’i Logo Faletese Toloa; the Honorable Jim Marurai, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands; the Honorable Pokotoa Sipela, Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Niue; the Honorable Caroline Bilkey, High Commissioner of New Zealand to Samoa; Lady Ala’ile’ula Tuku’aho of Tonga, Rear Admiral Eric Broderick of the United States Public Health Service, and Acting Administrator of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Colonel Joseph Lance, Commanding Officer of the 12th Marine Corps District, Western Recruiting Region, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego CA; and the US Marine Corps Band from Camp Smith, Hawaii; Colonel Clifton Takenaka, 9th Mission Support Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; and Lieutenant Commander Jason Neubauer, US Coast Guard, Hawaii. Welcome to American Samoa, and thank you for honoring us with your presence in these festivities.

Flag Day each year is also an opportunity to review our form and manner of governance. We measure how far we have traveled in the past year, and check to see if we are heading in the right direction.

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## 2009 Flag Day Address ... *(continued from page 1)*

It is a traditional exercise that started since our government was founded in 1900.

On Flag Day we thank all those who serve in the ranks of public service – traditional leaders, legislators, judges, cabinet members, and every public servant. Thank you for your services.

Another Flag Day tradition is a word of appreciation to the government of the United States of America, the President, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, and all the federal agencies, for the generous support and contributions to the development of our Territory. Thank you very much.

I said, it is the day when we assess our progress, review our goals as a government and our hopes as a people. You and I continue to witness improvements in our government efforts to upgrade our schools and health care services, improve roads, and build electric and water production, expand our public safety, and upgrade the skills training of our public servants.

We stand at the threshold of a new wave of economic development with the arrival of fiber optic services, and we are hard at work preparing to cope with additional needs in power and water supply, roads, schools, hospital, public safety and all other government services.

Progress and development has many costs – the most serious being in social changes. And the American Samoa Government (ASG) is rising to meet the challenge of new attitudes about family – the rising youth problems, and disturbances in the homes.

I spoke on these matters in my inauguration remarks in January, and I remind you, again, that they are real. President Obama recognized the same in his inaugural speech.

The hustle and bustle of development activities, however, should not lead us to forget that which remains unsettled — the search for a permanent political status — one where we may continue to exercise freedom to the fullest, enjoy all human rights, and which will allow the preservation of our culture and traditions, and all the continued pursuit of happiness on our own terms.

Two years ago, the Future Political Status Study Commission submitted its report to the Fono, as the law required. I am assuming the Legislature is planning to employ the upcoming constitutional convention as forum for discussing the report and its implications. That is fine with me.

As we await that event, let me briefly point out the major questions that need to be thoroughly considered by us all:

1. Shall we continue as a Territory of the United States? Or should we seek, or fashion, a new status, as other territories once administered by the US have done?

Time and again, the US Congress has indicated it is willing and prepared to consider with us a permanent status – whenever we are ready. I think that time is here, or it is fast approaching. Indecisiveness can only lead to confusion and insecurity. This is no time to procrastinate.

On Monday this week, President Obama spoke with feeling about the nation's economy, and reminded us of the story Jesus once told about a man who built his house on a rock. Storms came and failed to destroy it. The house built on sand was blown away. Let us find that rock now. Waves and storms have no mercy. They wait for no one.

Take note also of the cries of the modern generations. Continue to disregard them, and cries will become roars.

2. Let us also face the question of American Samoa citizenship. I believe we have a right to determine who shall be American Samoan citizens, and to establish conditions for extending that status to others. And then we need to fashion and structure its relation to the citizenship of the US. After all, many of our people, both here and abroad, have become US citizens.
3. Every time these issues are raised, concerns about sources of funding are always the first reaction. Does this mean we are going to give up US financial assistance? Can we manage without it? Do we have the knowledge and toughness to be our own?

Those questions go to the heart of the issue. We will never have the answers if we do not begin the process.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2009 Flag Day Address ... *(continued from page 2)*

4. The there is the immovable rock – our culture: Our Land. How will it be affected by this political status search? Our culture has been the target of many criticisms recently, most by our own people whose knowledge and appreciation are incomplete. Let me say to you now. Our Fa'asamoa is not an antique, nor it is just a 'stage culture' displayed and performed only for tourists. Our culture is a living culture. It is our way of life. To seek to change it is to attempt a change in our systems of mataiship, land tenure, and social interaction. There is not a person alive today that is smart enough to do that.
5. The duality of democracy and our traditions – as basis for our governance has so far worked. Voices are heard calling for full democracy in our Legislature by electing the Senate, and giving the power to veto override. Well, the question of veto override was decided in the recent election. Supporters of the override continue to argue there was not sufficient public education.
6. It has been 32 years since we elected our governor. How do we feel about the granting of authority to our local leaders? I, for one, am not concerned about ability to govern. There is a growing pool of young educated Samoans. They will rise to the occasion. But, this is still a part of the overall permanent political status that we must consider.

These and other questions, I believe, will come before the constitutional reviewers late this year. There is a need for a realistic program of public education, for it is one thing to hear about them all he time, it is something else when you ponder them deeply and move to decide. It may be that the convention will want to set up a permanent office or agency for an extended consideration of a status. That is fine. Bear in mind, a journey of a thousand miles must begin with the firs step. Let's take that step now.

The Fono has the power to establish a permanent office for status work, research, contacts with federal agencies, and develop a framework for public education.

Our Constitution surely needs a review. The present document was approved in 1967 with a provision for a 5-year review. It has been 42 years. There have been two conventions, but its work failed approval for one reason or another. Let's try to make sure this new review will fare better.

Look at the facts:

- ◆ In 1967, population of American Samoa was less than 40,000. Today, it is about 69,000.
- ◆ ASG had an annual budget of less than \$100 million. This year, the budget is over \$300 million.
- ◆ In 1967, we had only two high schools and no community college.
- ◆ There were no long lines of new cars on the roads, and only a few families had palagi houses.
- ◆ At the passage of this constitution, only a handful of families had TV sets in their homes. Computer, internet and email were not in our language.

My final thoughts on the issue of status, concerns our fellow Samoans from Upolu and Savai'i. Statistics show that almost half of the American Samoa population today was born in Samoa. Many have been here all their lives – married to us, serving our aiga, churches and government. The numbers keep growing as we continue on the path of modern economic development.

I raise this question with the utmost care, for I am aware of local feelings on this issue. In addition, we have resident from other nations who have become permanent residents through marriage. But, the case of Samoa is different -- For we are one in heart, one in spirit, one in blood.

That's my Flag Day address for this year. I ask every American Samoan to ponder the questions I have raised today. Pray on them. Ask for Divine Guidance as we maneuver our way through these difficult times.

Continue your prayers for our sons and daughters in the military services of our country, especially those deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the close of these celebrations, Lieutenant Governor Faoa Sunia will speak to convey our thanks to all those who contributed to the preparation of Flag Day this year.

Let me just say a word of congratulations to our Flag Day 2009 Committee – to Chairman - Secretary of Samoan Affairs High Chief Tufele Li'a, all the departments of our government, our Army Reserve, our churches, our schools, our community organizations, and our private sector – Thank you very much for all the great work that you continue to do for American Samoa and our annual Flag day celebration. Fa'afetai. Soifua.

## Governor Togiola says Commission to lead in managing population growth

Governor Togiola Tulafono, on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, said if population pressures in American Samoa are left unchecked and not properly managed, there is not a man, woman or child in the Territory that will escape the harmful effects of population growth.

Speaking at the Population Pressure Commission meeting at the Commerce Department, Governor Togiola said population growth is a burden to the Territory's natural, economic and social resources and he look to the Commission to share ideas, develop key actions and activities, and implement a strategic approach to this issue.

"Population pressure is a tremendous challenge facing our small islands and it will affect our quality and way of life," said Governor Togiola. "Our resources, in some areas, already stretched too thin, will continue to diminish. The problems associated with this growth are inevitable and must be appropriately managed."

Governor Togiola said if population growth is not addressed and managed properly, the alternative will be unbearable.

"We do not want the uncomfortable reality of population pressures because if it is not controlled, this threat will cause more strains on our social and economic resources, more cars choking on our already busy roads, more children than our limited schools can adequately accommodate, more trash than our waste removal resources can handle, more patients seeking services at our hospital and health clinics, less housing opportunities and a greater burden for our infrastructure to handle," said Governor Togiola.

Last year in September, American Samoa hosted the first ever Territorial Population Summit and, according to Governor Togiola, the outcomes from the Summit serve as the basis for the American Samoa Government to effectively develop and implement policies and enforcement procedures.

"Our developing policies will make clear to the public as a whole what the population situation is, what the future is likely to become, and how the problems of today will be managed or alleviated by proactive measures as a single government, and a single community," said Governor Togiola. "Proactive government measures are needed to alleviate these problems and one of the major suggestions from the Summit was the creation of a Population Commission, which will assist administrations to prepare collaborative projects, plans and programs to address our management needs."

Governor Togiola also said policy development will provide the framework for identifying the specific roles that each ASG department can play to implement the proposed policies and strategies. The Governor said population growth is a big issue today, and it needs big solutions now.

"This issue is bigger than you, it is bigger than me, and it is bigger than my administration. It is each our problem and it is a problem for now and the future as well," said Governor Togiola. "However, I am sure that we can come together to create real world solutions. It is time for each of us to address this issue seriously, to help ensure that American Samoa moves towards a sustainable, healthy future for ourselves and all of the generations that will follow."

The Population Pressure Commission meeting provided an overview of the population issue and the establishment of a Population Commission in developing a strategic list for the Population Commission process through the adoption of a framework detailing how the Commission intends to operate.

A video, originally shown at the Summit, was viewed and it offered a thorough overview of the population issues facing American Samoa, background information and statistics and showed why the Population Pressure Commission is so important.

The meeting was a preamble to the development workshop for a Territorial Population Policy scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup> in coordination with Population and Development Specialist Arthur Jorari of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Participants at the meeting included Senator Utu Abe Malae, Senator Lemanu Peleti Palepoi Mauga, Commerce Director Faleseu Eliu Paopao, Youth and Women's Affairs Directors Le'iataua Leuga Ala'ilima Turner, Human Resources Director Evelyn Vaitautolu Langford, LBJ Hospital CEO Patricia Tindal, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency Community Outreach Coordinator Leota Vaea Ainu'u, Chamber of Commerce President and Economic Advisory Council Co-Chairman David Robinson and Department of Commerce staff.

## ASCC Announces Spring 2009 In-House Scholarships

(Press Release) A group of American Samoa Community College (ASCC) students who do not have access to the financial aid available to most of their peers received welcome assistance recently in the form of the College's In-House Scholarships. The ASCC Student Services Division has announced the recipients of In-House Scholarships for the spring 2009 semester. These awards go to students not eligible for the same Pell Grant resources that most students in the Territory have access to.

Students born in American Samoa automatically qualify for the Pell Grant, a federal source of funding that covers tuition, books, fees, and supplies, and even a portion of the student's living expenses. However, young men and women born outside the US and its territories sometimes cannot meet the strict requirements for Pell awards, and two ASCC In-House Scholarships, the Presidential Merit Scholarship and the Saili le Atamai Scholarship, help the best of these students meet the costs of their attendance at the College.

The ASCC Student Government Association sets aside a portion of the student activity fee to fund the Saili le Atamai Award of \$250 per recipient, which this semester will go to Ms. Luatimu Toilolo, Ms. Akenese Lealamanua, Mr. Felix Penalosa, Ms. Fa'apopo Liua, and Ms. Yieje Lee. The Office of the ASCC President provides funding for the Presidential Merit Scholarship, a \$500 award which goes this semester to Mr. Lawrence Fernandez, Mr. Galo Tuiolosega, and Mr. Phillip Anthony Iosefo.

The ASCC Student Services Division, under the leadership of Dr. Emilia Le'i, encourages students who do not receive the Pell Grant to apply for the In-House Scholarships, and also invites any private organizations, businesses or individuals who might have an interest in establishing a scholarship at the College to contact Dr. Le'i to discuss this possibility. While the Saili le Atamai Scholarship has been designated solely for the benefit of students who do not qualify for the Pell Grant, students who do qualify for the Pell may also apply for the Presidential Merit Scholarship.

## Governor Togiola announces \$345,000 to support Highway Safety Programs

Governor Togiola Tulafono, on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, announced that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the US Department of Transportation has awarded American Samoa a total of \$345,384 in funding to support highway safety programs.

Governor Togiola said the funding award is from the State and Community Highway Safety Grants as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which focus on specific national safety priorities.

"This is great news in improving the well-being of our island community by keeping our drivers safe on our roads. The road safety programs, such as, 'Click it or Ticket' to increase safety belt use, and 'Over the Limit, Under Arrest', to decrease the number of impaired drivers, help educate our people about proper highway safety and preventing injuries and saving lives," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola expressed his sincere gratitude to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on a great job in satisfying the eligibility criteria that has resulted in the funding award.

"I want to thank Commissioner Tualo and his department, especially Traffic Safety and the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, for promoting safety belt use, impaired driving and motorcyclist safety," said Governor Togiola. "We have all seen the billboards and heard the public service announcements, and we are very happy that these funds continue to be used for intensive local enforcement of our traffic safety laws through the extensive media communication to inform the public."

### **SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER**

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.  
Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

**Harry Stevens** ([harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov](mailto:harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or  
**Tialuga Vince Iuli** ([vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov](mailto:vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov))

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On April 18, 1892**, "Parcel No. 3," the Wellman estate in Pago Pago Harbor, consisting of "Mauga O'Ali'i, Sogalau [sic] and Fagaone, Seumale [sic], Faga Faga [sic]," (a total of 7.70 acres) was purchased from its executors ("J.K.C. Hobbs, et al.") by the United States Government for \$977.50.

**On April 18, 1970**, the Apollo 13 spacecraft, containing astronauts James A. Lovell, Jr., John L. Swigert, Jr. and Fred W. Haise, Jr. splashed down in American Samoan waters.

**On April 19, 1953**, American Samoa's Director of Public Safety, Mr. Beryl M. Johnson "resigned from his position, and was replaced by Captain E.J. Hitchcock of the Honolulu Police Force, who likewise resigned shortly thereafter." On May 22, 1953, the Public Safety Director's duties were assigned to the Attorney General.

**On April 20, 1942**, the U.S. Marine Corps' 2nd Defense Battalion "completed the installation of all its weapons when the last five-inch battery was installed on the North Coast [of Tutuila]."

**On April 20, 1960**, a convention met "with the use of the Samoan language throughout," to draft a constitution for American Samoa. "Each of the 68 members of the convention, representing the ranking leadership of every section of the territory and selected by village and district councils according to custom and tradition, spoke and debated on the issues facing the convention."

**On April 21, 1844**, the London Missionary Society established its Samoan headquarters at Malua, 'Upolu.

**On April 21, 1941**, Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb, Commandant of the Marine Corps, authorized the organization of the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The Battalion's strength was limited to 500 men.

**On April 21, 1958**, a special session of the Fifth Legislature of American Samoa was convened to consider proposed amendments to the Code of American Samoa submitted by Governor Peter Tali Coleman and incorporated as House bills, all of which were tabled in the Senate during the regular session. All bills were passed by both Houses.

**On April 22, 1916**, a new branch dispensary was opened at Leone, American Samoa, at a cost of \$2,300.

**On April 22, 1931**, Lieutenant Commander Arthur Tenney Emerson relieved Commander James Sutherland Spore and became American Samoa's 20th naval governor (acting: until July 17, 1931).

**On April 22, 1947**, Captain Vernon Huber relieved Captain Harold Alexander Houser and took office as American Samoa's 34th naval governor (until June 15, 1949).

**On April 22, 2002**, US Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton named attorney David B. Cohen as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs at the US Department of the Interior. "David Cohen's outstanding business skills and heritage make him especially qualified to serve the special needs of US islands or insular areas," Norton said.

**On April 24, 1900**, "the commandant [Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley] appointed Chief Boatswain Henry Hudson, United States Navy, as customs officer for the United States Naval Station, Tutuila, including the islands of the Manu'a group. Pago Pago was made the only port of entry."

**On April 24, 1960**, the American Samoa flag, designed by Sotoa Unifareti, an art teacher at Samoana High School, was officially approved by the Legislature of American Samoa.



## Free Design Assistance for Compliant Piggeries

Want a piggery that complies with local regulations? Interested in alternative piggery designs that convert pig waste into agricultural fertilizer? Need help getting a Land Use Permit application for your piggery? Contact the American Samoa EPA Water Program today!

With funding from the American Samoa Soil and Water Conservation District and the Administration for Native Americans, AS-EPA has an engineering consultant available for a limited time to provide free design services for proposed piggery projects. This is a valuable opportunity for farmers to start their piggery projects, but you must contact AS-EPA before July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Build a piggery that reduces odors and sets a positive example in your community. Protect our streams, beaches and coral reefs. Protect your family from diseases such as Leptospirosis. Preserve our island traditions. Contact AS-EPA Water Program or Technical Program at 633-2304 today

## Community Calendar / Bulletin

*The Office of the Secretary of American Samoa will be offering a course on Notary Public Law and Ethics on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th at the American Samoa Community College. All those interested may register for the course by contacting Melesete or Tuna at the Office of the Governor, 633-4116 or visit [americansamoa.gov](http://americansamoa.gov) and click on box "NOTARY Secretary of American Samoa"*