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Governor Lemanu and Lt. Governor La’apui Grateful for the Passage of H.R. 6062 in the U.S. Senate

Pago Pago, American Samoa — Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga and Lieutenant Governor Laapui Talauega E. V. Ale expresses their heartfelt congratulations to Congresswoman Uifa’atali Radewagen and her team for their tireless efforts in championing H.R. 6062, which has successfully passed the United States Senate. This historic legislation restores the ability of the people of American Samoa to amend their territorial constitution without requiring further congressional action, marking a significant milestone in the territory's self-governance.

The bill, which has already passed the U.S. House of Representatives, now awaits President Joe Biden’s signature to become law. Once enacted, Governor Lemanu and Lieutenant Governor Laapui are committed to working closely with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Secretary of the Interior to implement the five amendments approved by the people of American Samoa in the 2022 referendum. These amendments represent the will of the people and signify an important step forward for the territory's constitutional development.

Governor Lemanu and Lieutenant Governor Laapui emphasize their gratitude for Congresswoman Uifa’atali’s steadfast advocacy on behalf of the territory. “We commend the Congresswoman for her leadership and commitment to ensuring the voices of American Samoans are heard at the federal level,” said Governor Lemanu. “This legislation is a victory for the people of American Samoa and a reaffirmation of their right to self-determination.”

Lieutenant Governor Laapui added, “This is a proud moment for our territory. With the passage of H.R. 6062, we are one step closer to taking greater ownership of our constitutional affairs. We eagerly await President Biden’s signature and are prepared to collaborate with Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to ensure a smooth and efficient process for enacting the 2022 constitutional amendments.”

H.R. 6062 repeals Section 12 of Public Law 98–213, eliminating the requirement for congressional approval of amendments to the American Samoa Constitution. This legislation

aligns with the principles of self-determination, granting the people of American Samoa the authority to chart their own path in matters of constitutional governance.

Governor Lemanu and Lieutenant Governor Laapui call on all American Samoans to join in celebrating this significant achievement and to look forward to the continued progress of the territory under local and democratic decision-making.

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