

# AMERIKA SAMOA 3RD ANNUAL DISASTER RESILIENCE SUMMIT 2024



**OUR COMMUNITY. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

**September 3-6, 2024**

**Maota o Tupulaga Metotisi Hall  
Tafuna, Amerika Samoa**

Hosted By

**The Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM)**

in partnership with

**The Governor's Resilience Office (GRO)**

**The American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) - TEMCO**

**The Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA)**





# Amerika Samoa's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

- 8:00 AM **Arrival and Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM **Opening Remarks by Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega**  
Secretary of the Office of Samoan Affairs
- 9:10 AM **Opening Prayer by Senior Pastor Osasa Aukuso**
- 9:20 AM **Special Remarks by Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga**  
Governor of American Samoa
- 9:35 AM **Keynote Speaker by His Excellency Ratu William Toganivalu**  
Fiji Roving Ambassador to Pacific Island Countries and Territories and Agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
- 9:50 AM **Honorable Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen**  
Congresswoman, Delegate to the United States House of Representatives
- 10:05 AM **Mr. Basil Ottley**  
Associate Director of Policy, U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs
- 10:20 AM **Mr. Robert Fenton, Jr.**  
Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 10:35 AM **Ms. Felea'i Tau**  
Community Relief Liaison, Hawaii Office of the Governor
- 10: 50 AM **Group Photo**
- 11:05 AM **Mrs. Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown-Reupena, CEO**  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa
- 11:20 AM **Ms. Renise Bayne**  
Regional Disaster Officer, American Red Cross
- 11:35 AM **Panel I: Emergency Response Communication Coordination**  
ASTCA, BLUESKY, TEMCO-EOC, DPS
- 12:05 PM **Panel II: Supply Chain Challenges and Proposed Solutions**  
DPA, Matson, Fax Cargo, CSL, Swire Shipping, Peter E. Reid Stevedoring Inc.
- 12:35 PM **Lunch Power Hour – Pannel I and II Wrap Up Trivia.**
- 1:35 PM **Ms. Kathryn Lipiecki**  
FEMA Region IX Mitigation Division Director, USDHS FEMA

- 1:50 PM **Mrs. Evelyn Lili'o Satele**  
Director, Territorial Administration on Aging
- 2:05 PM **Mr. Frederick R. Jauss**  
Senior Counsel, Husch Blackwell
- 2:20 PM **Dr. Sabrina Suluai-Mahuka**  
Founder, Finafinau
- 2:35 PM **Mr. Jason Betham**  
President, American Samoa Chamber of Commerce
- 2:50 PM **Closing by Director Lisa T. Tuato'o**  
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

# Amerika Samoa's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

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- 8:00 AM **Arrival and Registration**
- 8:30 AM **Welcoming Remarks by Director Lisa T. Tuatoo**  
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management
- 8:40 AM **Opening Prayer by Director Rev. Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono**  
Governor's Resilience Office
- 8:50 AM **Special Remarks by Mr. Robert Pesapane**  
National Public Assistance Director  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 9:10 AM **Mr. Gun Kang**  
Deputy Territory Manager, Eastern Power Solutions
- 9:25 AM **Mr. Nickolas Emilio**  
Study Manager  
U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers-Honolulu District
- 9:40 AM **Ms. Vanitha Sivarajan**  
Ecologist, U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs
- 9:55 AM **Break**
- 10:10 AM **DMWR Director Taotasi Archie Soliai**  
**ASEPA Director Lefega Faamao Asalele**  
American Samoa Resilience Commission: Naumati Conservation – Polystyrene Ban Highlight
- 10:40 AM **Panel III: Food Security and Insecurity**  
ASDOA, ASCC – ACNR, Cost U Less
- 11:10 AM **Panel IV: Biosecurity**  
DOA, ACNR, Customs Division, Biodiversity Conservation Office, DOH
- 11:40 AM **Lunch Power Hour: Panel III and IV Wrap Up Trivia**
- 12:40 **Lauren Long**  
Environmental Specialist/Pacific Learning Services Coordinator, NOAA Coastal Management
- 12:55 PM **Mrs. Tialavea Molly Asifoa-Lagai**  
Extension Program Coordinator, 4-H Program Manager, ASCC ACNR Land Grant

- 1:15 PM **Mrs. Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown-Reupena and  
Mrs. Fesola'i Molly Faamanatu Nielsen**  
Environment/Disaster Management Training  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa
- 1:45 PM **Taulapapa William Sword**  
Pacific Energy Country Manager and Civil Engineer  
Pacific Energy
- 1:55 PM **Mr. Joe Reed**  
Chief Executive Officer, Mana Pacific Impact Company
- 2:10 PM **Mr. Namulau'ulu Tofilau Tavita Togia**  
Director, Governor's Biodiversity Conservation Office
- 2:25 PM **Ms. Liz Skillin**  
Senior State Director (Hawaii), Tidal Basin Group
- 2:40 PM **Ms. Alice Franco**  
Environmental Health Program Analyst, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
- 2:55 PM **Closing and Prayer by Director Lisa T. Tuato'o**  
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

# Amerika Samoa's 3rd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Thursday, September 5, 2024

- 7:30 AM **Arrival**
- 8:00 AM **Welcoming Remarks by Director Lisa T. Tuato'o**
- 8:10 AM **Opening Prayer by Director Rev. Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono**  
Governor's Resilience Office
- 8:30 AM **Dr. Salote Aoelua-Fanene**  
Director, Department of Youth and Women's Affairs
- 8:45 AM **Ms. Rosie Oneata Soi**  
Programs Manager, Intersections Inc.
- 9:00 AM **Community Outreach Booths**
- 3:00 PM **Closing Prayer by Director Rev. Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono**  
Governor's Resilience Office

## Amerika Samoa 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Program Friday, September 6, 2024

- 7:30 AM **Arrival**
- 8:00 AM **Welcoming Remarks by Director Lisa Tuato'o**
- 8:10 AM **Opening Prayer by Reverend Liaina Moti**  
Alofau Methodist Church
- 8:30 AM **Mrs. Selaina Tuimavave**  
Deputy Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
- 8:45 AM **Ms. Grace Felise**  
CZM Manager/ Environmental Planner, Department of Commerce
- 9:00 AM **Community Outreach Booths**
- 11:00 AM **Closing Remarks by Honorable La'apui Talauega E.V. Ale**  
Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa  
Secretary of State  
Governor's Authorized Representative,  
Chairman, The Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council  
Chairman, American Samoa Resilience Commission
- 11:30 AM **Closing Prayer by Reverend Liaina Moti**  
Alofau Methodist Church

# HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RATU WILLIAM **TOGANIVALU**

FIJI'S ROVING AMBASSADOR TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AND AGENCIES OF THE COUNCIL OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF FIJI TO SAMOA



His Excellency, Mr. William Toganivalu is Fiji's Roving Ambassador to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and Agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific.

Prior to assuming his diplomatic role, Mr. Toganivalu held the position of Adviser to the Country Director at GIZ Risk Management, overseeing the Philippines and the Pacific. His responsibilities included guiding Project Directors and GIZ personnel on risk mitigation and security measures.

Additionally, Mr. Toganivalu served as a senior non-commissioned officer in the British Army, gaining valuable experience in diverse countries and cultures. His service record includes deployments in Bessbrook, Northern Ireland; Basrah, Iraq; Lohatla, South Africa; Lash Kaghar, Afghanistan (2006); and Babaji, Afghanistan.

Mr Toganivalu who is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific, holding a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Management has extensive experience as a regional security and risk management advisor.

Currently, he is pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate in Security and Risk Management from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.



# HONORABLE UIFA'ATALI AMATA **RADEWAGEN**

CONGRESSWOMAN

DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Amata Coleman Radewagen, Republican, was elected as American Samoa's third Member of Congress on November 4, 2014. She is the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from American Samoa, the first Republican woman of Samoan descent in Congress and the most senior Republican elected federal office holder of Asian Pacific heritage.

Congresswoman Amata serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in a senior role as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee, as well as two of its Subcommittees: The Subcommittee on Health, her top choice of assignments for the Veterans of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

She has a similar senior role as a Member of the House Committee on Small Business, where she serves as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee. Her two Small Business Subcommittees include the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship; and the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access.

In her third Committee, she serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and two of its Subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, her top choice for the islands of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

In her capacity on these committees, she legislates, conducts oversight of laws and Departments in the Administration, and proposes policies and programs. She is active on issues of health, education, welfare, political status, and all economic and social programs concerning the U.S. Territories: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), along with the Freely Associated States (FAS) of Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (RMI), in addition to overseeing policies affecting the 562 Federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States.

# BASIL OTTLEY

POLICY DIRECTOR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS



Policy Director Ottley coordinates OIA and federal policies for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association.

Together with OIA's Budget and Technical Assistance Directors, they are responsible for a budget of over \$650 million dollars for the insular areas. During his previous tenure at the Office of Insular Affairs, Ottley was instrumental in linking OIA's initiatives to address unsustainable energy cost in the insular areas with the U.S. Department of Energy's international partnership, Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN). This linkage has fostered the development of significant public policy and the investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

He also served as a special advisor to the U.S. Department of State on issues involving Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands that were before the United Nations. Ottley joined the Office of Insular Affairs in 2008 as the Virgin Islands Desk Officer, and later accepted the assignment of the Virgin Islands Field Representative in 2010 when Interior decided to reopen a field office in the territory.

# ROBERT J. FENTON, JR.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

FEMA REGION IX



Robert J. Fenton, Jr. is the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 9. Prior to 2015, he served as the Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of Response and Recovery at FEMA Headquarters and was responsible for coordinating the Federal response in support of States during major disasters. He coordinated and integrated Federal interagency all-hazards disaster planning and response operations; managed emergency response teams; and oversaw disaster emergency communications programs.

Mr. Fenton came to FEMA Headquarters in July 2009 to serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Response, where he was instrumental in crafting the reorganization of the Response Directorate and the Office of Response and Recovery, as well as leading the Response Directorate's focused efforts on whole community catastrophic planning, doctrine development, staff training/credentialing, and exercises. Mr. Fenton previously worked at FEMA Headquarters as the Acting Deputy Operations Branch Chief in 2007, leading the development and implementation of the Incident Management Assistance Teams.

From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Fenton served in the dual roles of Director of Disaster Assistance and Acting Director of Disaster Operations in the FEMA Region 9 Office. Mr. Fenton was responsible for the delivery and coordination of all hazards disaster planning, and response and recovery activities in the Region, which serves Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as Guam, American Samoa, the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia. Mr. Fenton also served as Chief of the Region 9 Response Branch, where he led interagency work groups in the development of the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework. He was also responsible for conducting interagency training, coordination, and exercises with Federal Emergency Support Function agencies in preparation for disaster response.

Since joining FEMA in 1996, Mr. Fenton has played a significant role in numerous large-scale response and recovery operations in the U.S. He has worked in various executive leadership roles at FEMA headquarters and was appointed the Region 9 administrator in July 2015. Mr. Fenton has also served as the acting FEMA administrator during two presidential transitions.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Fenton served as the Chief of Field Operations for Portable Water Supply System, based in Redwood City, California. In that capacity, he deployed to Central Africa as a lead member of the U.S. emergency response relief effort to bring lifesaving assistance to Rwandan refugees.

# ROBERT PESAPANE

DIRECTOR, RECOVERY DIVISION

FEMA REGION IX



Robert Pesapane is Director of the Public Assistance Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX office in Oakland, CA. As the Director of Recovery, Mr. Pesapane supervises the implementation of FEMA's Public and Individual Assistance Programs, including overseeing multi-million recovery grant programs for public infrastructure, disaster survivor temporary housing, debris removal operations, and federal assistance to disaster survivors.

Mr. Pesapane joined Region IX in December 2016 as the Director of National Preparedness and the Federal Preparedness Coordinator where he led the delivery of training, exercises, continuity of operations, planning and analysis technical assistance, radiological emergency preparedness, hazardous materials preparedness, and individual and community preparedness in support of state, territorial, tribal, and local stakeholders.

Mr. Pesapane is currently serving as the Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer directing operations for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. Over the last year, Mr. Pesapane led the establishment of the first in the nation federally supported Community Vaccination Centers as well as mobile vaccination outreach in partnership with community and faith-based organizations.

In addition, Mr. Pesapane has worked in the FEMA Region I and III National Preparedness Divisions as well as FEMA Headquarters within the Response Directorate Planning Division. Mr. Pesapane began his career as a regional planner for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency where he was responsible for all-hazard emergency planning. He was later promoted to R.I. homeland security exercise officer and was responsible for ensuring that the state's homeland security strategy was properly exercised across all first-responder disciplines.

Mr. Pesapane holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Salve Regina University as well as master's degree in International Relations.



## FELEAI TAU

COMMUNITY RELIEF LIAISON

HAWAII OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Born and raised in Nu'uuli and Utusi'a, American Samoa, Felea'i Siatu Tau is a dedicated public servant with a long-standing commitment to supporting communities across Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands. Currently serving as the Community Relief Liaison at the Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i, Felea'i brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles in government.

For the past 18 years, she served the people of Hawai'i in several capacities under the leadership of former Representative, Senator and Lieutenant Governor Josh Green. Her dedication to public health and community well-being was further demonstrated during her tenure as the Special Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor and Pacific Island Community Liaison.

Felea'i is also recognized for her leadership as the Co-Chair of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response, Recovery & Resilience Team, where she played a crucial role in coordinating community outreach efforts, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination drives. Her commitment to public health extends beyond Hawai'i, as she was part of the medical mission team deployed to Samoa during the measles pandemic. Most recently, Felea'i has been actively involved in serving communities affected by the Maui wildfires in Lahaina.



## KATHRYN LIPIECKI

DIRECTOR, MITIGATION DIVISION

FEMA REGION IX

Kathryn (Katie) Lipiecki is director of the Mitigation Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 office in Oakland, California. In this role, she oversees the regional implementation of mitigation programs, including the flood mapping program, Hazard Mitigation Planning program, multi-million-dollar disaster and non-disaster mitigation grants such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, floodplain management and flood insurance programs, and Environmental and Historic Preservation compliance.

Prior to joining Region 9 in 2020, Katie was the hazard mitigation division director in Puerto Rico, supporting recovery efforts for hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the 2020 earthquakes. In this role, she oversaw the implementation of various mitigation program areas, including the \$3.6 billion Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and supported the obligation of over \$115 million for 406 mitigations.

Katie started with FEMA Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, working in the Floodplain Management & Insurance branch and serving as the Risk Analysis branch chief. Before FEMA, Katie worked for URS Corporation, where she supported FEMA's flood map modernization program. She also volunteered on a local historic preservation commission in Haddonfield, New Jersey, providing guidance on compliance with historic district regulations.

She holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York City, where she concentrated in housing policy, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation and American Studies from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Command and General Staff Officers' Common Core course.



## RENISE BAYNE

REGIONAL DISASTER OFFICER

U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS

Renise Bayne was a volunteer with American Red Cross where she was a key local leader in developing teams throughout the Pacific Region for 13 years before joining the organization as Regional Disaster Officer. Bayne is a seasoned disaster manager who has served as plans and operations officer for the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management. She has also served as a disaster volunteer for the region, with key roles such as Pacific Region direct services lead (covering Hawai'i, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa) to oversee all client-facing activities (i.e., sheltering, distribution of emergency supplies, feeding, health, mental health, spiritual care, disability integration and client casework).

Bayne has deployed numerous times, in Hawai'i — during the 2018 Kīlauea eruptions — to the continental U.S. and throughout the Pacific. She has served as an Advanced Instructor for Disaster Response Services (“Train the Trainer”) and as a Community Disaster Education Presenter. Bayne is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University.

Renise was recognized as a hero for her dedication and hard work in humanitarian efforts and received top honors and awards in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Region and Division. She has been deployed to nationwide disasters to lead response and recovery teams to assist disaster-related, displaced families. She is considered a key local leader that is integral to American Red Cross’ success in responding to disasters and building their response and recovery teams across the Pacific Region.

## LEALAISALANOA FRANCES BROWN-REUPENA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown-Reupena is the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Lealaisalanoa’s public service through the Ministry of Natural Resources began in 2006. From 2014 to 2020, Lealaisalanoa served as the Ministry’s Assistant C.E.O. and Environment Sector Coordinator. She graduated with a Master’s in Public Policy and Politics from Deakin University in 2021 and is complemented by a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of the South Pacific.

## FESOLAI MOLLY FAAMANATU NIELSEN

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Fesolai Molly Faamanatu Nielsen is Assistant Chief Executive Officer at the Disaster Management Office of the Samoa National Emergency Management Office (NDMO) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Firmly believing that training is key to disaster risk reduction, Molly serves as a resource person for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, where she shares the Samoan disaster risk reduction experience and equips learners with practical skills to help them lead gender-inclusive and community-based disaster risk reduction management.



## VANITHA SIVARAJAN

ECOLOGIST

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

Vanitha Sivarajan is an Ecologist for the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs, where she works on climate change, natural resource, and cultural resource issues impacting the US Territories and Freely Associated States. Vanitha is the lead at OIA for all BIL/IRA programs and grants for the Territories under the Administration. With BIL Ecosystem Restoration funding, she is leading the coordination and facilitation of biosecurity funding and training for the Territories as a priority invasive species issue. Prior to working at OIA, Vanitha worked in the Policy Analysis Office in the Office of the Secretary, coordinating climate adaptation activities across the Department, as well as coordinating with the Alaska Native Villages on their relocation needs in response to sea level rise and coastal erosion.



## NICKOLAS EMILIO

STUDY MANAGER

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – HONOLULU DISTRICT

Nick is a planner and economist for the Hawaii-Alaska Regional Planning Team (HARP-T), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this position, he assists with planning and economic analysis for feasibility studies related to navigation, flood risk management, and coastal storm risk management in Hawai’i, Guam, and American Samoa. Nick came to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District in March 2022 and transitioned to the HARP-T in May 2024. Nick graduated in 2019 from the University of California, San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a focus in International Relations. In 2021, he completed a Master of International Affairs at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy where he focused on international economics. He comes from a family of contractors and briefly worked in commercial construction as an assistant superintendent before attending college.



## FREDERICK G. JAUSS, IV.

SENIOR COUNSEL

HUSCH BLACKWELL

For more than 15 years, Fred has guided energy clients around the globe through sophisticated supply regulations.

Fred enjoys assisting clients in both the oil and gas sector and the electricity industry on navigating complex regulatory issues. He represents wind and solar electricity generators, oil producers and refiners, shippers, marketers and consumers – among myriad other energy clients – on matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), state public utility commissions, and state and federal courts.

In Fred’s oil and gas regulatory practice, he helps clients at all phases of the supply chain from upstream companies producing crude oil, to midstream clients handling pipeline fields, and downstream clients refining and distributing petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. In assisting clients in the electricity sector, Fred advises on issues related to cogeneration, small power production and regulatory compliance, as well as selling excess power and acquiring new power plants. Clients appreciate his deep experience in the industry and his ability to provide efficient and cost-effective business-to-business solutions customized to client goals.

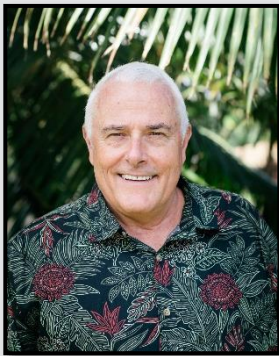


## LIZ SKILLIN

STATE DIRECTOR-HAWAII

TIDAL BASIN

Liz Skillin is a Vice President at Tidal Basin Group, currently managing the Hawaii market in several areas, including disaster response, recovery, and resiliency efforts. Liz is highly sought after for her strategic advice on new approaches to challenges often experienced before, during, and after disasters. Her advice and connections to resources have allowed her to take projects from concept to delivery. Prior to joining Tidal Basin, Liz worked in State Government helping to manage the COVID-19 response across multiple disciplines of the State's effort.



## JOE REED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MANA PACIFIC IMPACT COMPANY

Joe brings over 35 years of leadership experience in a diverse range of operational and business development executive positions. This includes over 14 years of specific U.S. government federal contracting programs serving a range of Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and joint intelligence and law enforcement activities. Specific efforts also include surveillance and networking solutions for Secure Border Initiatives, Drug Enforcement Agency, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Joe has also taught executive leadership at both West Point and Santa Clara Universities. His experience includes roles as CEO/Founder of a technology startup, COO, VP of IT, VP of Sales, VP of Programs and numerous managerial and director level roles.

Additionally, Joe has served on the Board of Directors for three separate companies. These companies have focused on power generation from alternative energy sources, as well other innovative technology solutions related to renewable energy Living in Pleasanton, California. His hobbies include golf and obstacle course adventure racing (Spartan, Tough Mudder, Rugged Maniac, etc).

Reed finished a full career as a U.S. Army officer as a lieutenant colonel commanding both American and British military units including combat operations worldwide and assignments on military operations, training, and doctrine staffs. With a ranger and parachutist qualification, his service spanned the globe, including Cuba, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Panama, and several European countries. He received a B.S. with a concentration in Nuclear Engineering and Physics from West Point and an MBA with a focus on leadership from Long Island University.

## LAUREN LONG

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, PACIFIC LEARNING SERVICES COORDINATOR

NOAA OFFICE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT



Lauren Long is an Environment Scientist and Pacific Learning Services Coordinator for NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (OCM). She has been with OCM for 16 years and sits in Honolulu, Hawaii connecting Pacific partners with OCM learning resources based on their interests and bringing needs back to the national office to inform product development and delivery. Lauren also supports OCM's national nature-based solutions portfolio of learning products and services.





## DR. SALOTE **FANENE-AOELUA**

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Dr. Salote Fanene-Aoelua's currently serves the American Samoa Government under the Lemanu P.S. Mauga-Talauega E.V. Ale Administration as the Director of the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs. She also serves as the Co-Chair of the Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council-Prevention Committee and is a member of the American Samoa Statistical Council. She is the Co-Author of Research Capacity Strengthening in American Samoa: Fa'avaeina le Fa'atelega o le Tomai Sailiili i Amerika Samoa and the Executive Director of the Aoelua Family Reading Program. Dr. Fanene-Aoelua is also a US Navy Veteran with her Doctorate Degree in Organizational Leadership. Dr. Fanene-Aoelua serves at her church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pago Pago West Stake Music Specialist. Her extensive background consists of serving as an Education Consultant for the American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, serving as a Community Liaison for the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, serving as a Legislative Assistant for the late Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin. She also worked as a Youth Correctional Office for Public Safety and in the US Navy, she was a Cryptologic Technician Operator.



## SELAINA VAITAUTOLU **TUIMAVAVE**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Selaina Vaitautolu Tuimavave is the Deputy Director for the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources where she has been employed for about 20 years. She received her BS in Fishery Biology from Colorado State University and a Master's in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University. Upon completion of her studies, she returned home to serve her community and implement her passion to protect the island's fragile marine resources. She works with village communities to develop effective resource management and serves as the bridge between science and traditional management of these unique resources.

## AILEEN ELISAPETA **SOLAITA**

ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Aileen Elisapeta Solaita, Administrator / Chief of the American Samoa Department of Health, Environmental Health Services Division. Worked for the ASDOH, for 20 years now and have led the EHS Division since 2021. An ordinary woman who has brought about a change in the sanitary conditions of food establishments and non-food establishments in the Territory like never before. She is a strong-willed and determined individual who likes to make things happen for the betterment of the people of American Samoa as a Public Health professional.



## GRACE L. FELISE

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/MANAGER

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Grace L. Felise is employed in the American Samoa Government as an Environmental Planner and Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Manager under the Department of Commerce. She oversees a staff of 15, manages land use permitting, and monitors and preserves coastal resources and special management areas. Her fundamental responsibilities as CZM Manager include overseeing programmatic development and administration of federally approved programs and grants, including proposal preparations, required reporting, and performance evaluation reviews. Ms. Felise maintains an active voice advocating for American Samoa's interests on local, regional, and national resource management issues as they affect the Territory's economy and the value of coastal resources. Ms. Felise holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Computer Information Systems from Texas A&M - Commerce University, and an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts from the American Samoa Community College.



## DR. SABRINA SULUAI-MAHUKA

FOUNDER

FINAFINAU

Sabrina Suluai-Mahuka, 2021 Territorial Teacher of the Year for American Samoa, is the sole proprietor for Suluai-Mahuka Consulting and currently serves as the principal for South Pacific Academy. Sabrina was the first American Samoan to win the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the US Environmental Protection Agency for Region 9 and she was also the first Pacific Islander to win an EE 30 Under 30 award for the North American Association for Environmental Education. Since 2019, Sabrina represented American Samoa at various Young Pacific Leaders events such as the general conference, the YPL Small Grants Program, the YPL Civic Engagement Program, the YPL Tech Camp, and the YPL inaugural Marine Sustainability Workshop. Hence, she is the first chairperson of the Young Pacific Leader's Alumni Network. Sabrina is the founder of the nonprofit organization, Finafinau, which focuses on youth advocacy for the environment. With student chapters in five districts of Tutuila, Sabrina works as the organization's Executive Director with over 300 youth each year to coordinate coast clean-ups, tree planting, and school outreach visits, with the hope of promoting environmental conservation and resilience.

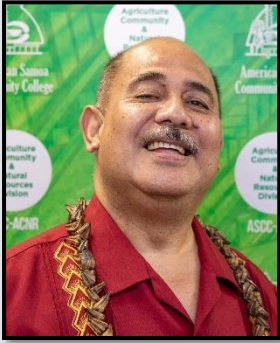


## OLYA REYM

PROGRAMS MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

MANA PACIFIC IMPACT COMPANY

Olya has over twenty years of program management experience across a range of industries: financial services, mortgage, wellness, energy efficiency and energy resilience. Olya has immense practical knowledge working in a start-up environment. Grounded in agile methodologies, she brings projects to life by taking a team-building approach. Experienced working with all levels within an organization and with various stakeholder groups, she guides information discovery and transparent reporting. An effective communicator across all levels, from industry executives, government representatives, and community stakeholders, Olya has a proven record of establishing successful working relationships in challenging environments. She is experienced in organizing complex projects from the beginning stages of strategy development to successful execution with a clear focus on success factors and meeting milestones at every step.



## AUFA'I APULU ROPETI ARETA

DIRECTOR

ASCC, COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION – LAND GRANT PROGRAM

Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta is currently the Director of the Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR) Division (Land Grant Program) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). Prior to the aforementioned position, Aufa'i served as the ASCC-ACNR Associate Director (2010-2015), and worked in Extension in various capacities for more than 25 years. Aufa'i received his Master of Agriculture degree in Agriculture Extension Education from Colorado State University (CSU) in 2004. His Master's Thesis work focused on The Attitudes of American Samoa's Farmers toward the Logic Model. Aufa'i also graduated from the University of California at Davis (UCD) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences and Management in 1984. Additionally, Aufa'i is currently a member of the American Samoa Government Resilience Commission.



## FALELIMU CHUCK LEOTA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AMERICAN SAMOA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

Falelimu Chuck Leota is a seasoned technology and telecom executive in the emerging economies of Polynesia. A son of American Samoa, Mr. Leota has been involved in network development, technology, capacity building and business development in American Samoa, Samoa, and the Cook Islands for almost twenty years; of which four (4) years he lived in Apia as part of the earlier BlueSky executive team that oversaw and managed the acquisition of Samoa Tel in 2011-2015. Often recognized for his performance record and reputation for his unrelenting focus and sometimes difficult demeanor in pursuing improved outcomes and increased productivity, Mr. Leota is widely known for allowing individuals to shine from their success and also for allowing them to fail, believing mistakes provide the most significant opportunity for learning and self-improvement. He believes in cross-functional leadership, training, and mentoring to build Samoan capacity in technology and engineering. Today, Mr. Leota is the Chief Executive Officer for the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, entrusted with overseeing the telecommunications needs of the territory, the Hawaiiki branch unit submarine cable, and the recent launch of the Samoan archipelago's first 5G mobile network. Mr. Leota considers his most significant accomplishment to be convincing his wife of 20+ years to marry him and being a father to four loving children. Mr. Leota is also a deacon and secretary for his church.



## DANIEL MYUNG

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/FOUNDER

EASTERN POWER SOLUTIONS

Daniel Myung brings 20 years of leadership, management and operations expertise. Mr. Myung's responsibilities include partnership management and execution of large-scale solar projects.

Daniel has extensive experience building collaborative teams and consulting on complex business processes for global government and commercial clients.

# JASON MARIST BETHAM

CHAIRMAN

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jason Marist Betham, Sr., MBA currently serves as the Chairman of the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce. He is the State Director of the American Samoa Small Business Development Center Network. His background includes serving as the Chief Financial Officer of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority from 2014 to 2017. He also served as the Acting Preside/Vice President of the Development Bank of American Samoa from 2005-2014. Mr. Jason Betham served as the Lead and FEMA Point of Contact for DBAS during the Recovery Phase for the tragic September 29, 2009 declared disaster, American Samoa Earthquake, Tsunami and Flooding, FEMA-DR-1859-AS.

# JUSTIN TUIASOSOPO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BLUESKY COMMUNICATIONS



Justin Tuiasosopo is the CEO of Bluesky Communications, and a member of the Board of Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa. He has been serving in his current position for 3 years now, with previous experience in various financial leadership roles. He earned his MBA with a concentration in Accounting from Chaminade University of Honolulu. And he is proud to call Fitiuta, Manu'a his home.

# LEFEGA FA'AMAO O. ASALELE

DIRECTOR

A.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



Lefega Fa'amao O. Asalele Jr. is the Director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA). He has held this prominent leadership position since 2018. Mr. Asalele has worked at the AS-EPA for over 20 years in various executive and technical roles. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve with two deployments to Iraq with the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Regiment. He has a Bachelor's degree from Chadron State College in Nebraska and Master's degree from San Diego State University.

# MULIVANU AIUMU

ADMINISTRATOR

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY-TEMCO



My name is Mulivanu Aiumu and I am the current Administrator for the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO) under the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS). I am a 2006 graduate of Tafuna High School and I am from the villages of Pago Pago and Sa'anapu (Samoa). After high school I enlisted in the ARMY and served for 6 years as an Artilleryman and was also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) during this time. After the service I relocated to Orlando, Florida where I pursued a higher education and was able to earn my Associate's and Bachelors of Science degrees in Criminal Justice at Everest University-Orlando.



## ROBERT HARDMAN

COUNTRY MANAGER

SWIRE SHIPPING

Robert Hardman was born in Seattle, Washington. He is married to Moeroa Hardman from Rarotonga, Cook Islands and is a proud father of two sons who were both born at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. Hardman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Washington. From 1986 to 1991, he served as a Legislative Aide to Senator Daniel J. Evans in Washington D.C., providing assistance transportation, judiciary, and defense issues. From 1991 to 2005, he served as Owner's Representative for Polynesian Line, Ltd. For Samoa and American Samoa. He later became the Operations Manager for Polynesian Line at the head office in California. From 2018 to date, Mr. Hardman serves as the Country Manager for Swire Shipping, American Samoa.

## SOLIALEALOFIOTAGALOA I.T. MUTINI

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Mr. Solialealofiotagaloa I.T. Mutini currently serves the American Samoa Government under the Lemanu P.S. Mauga-Talauuga E.V. Ale Administration as the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Director Mutini is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces-Army and holds a Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Management/Research with an emphasis in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Food Security/Import and Export and represents American Samoa on the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.



## TAOTASI ARCHIE SOLIAI

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND WHILD LIFE RESOURCES

Taotasi Archie Soliai currently serves as the Director for the American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources, and the Governor's POC for the US Coral Reef Task Force. Most of his professional career has been in the private sector, most recently employed as a Senior Manager at Starkist Samoa Co. Mr. Soliai's career spans through all three branches of government, and has extensive leadership and policy experiences. He was an elected member of the local House of Representatives for his district for many years. His administrative skills, coupled with his policy experience, have allowed him to successfully serve in leadership capacities in both public and private entities and organizations. He is passionate about preservation and sustaining our natural resources for future generations. Mr. Soliai is also, an avid volunteer and community leader, having served in various positions such as the Chair of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Chair of the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce, President of the Lions Club of Pago Pago, Chair of the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Member of the Shriners Club of Pago Pago, Member of the Rotary Club of Pago Pago Secretary for the CCCAS Church in Nu'uuli and the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Korea in American Samoa.

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Mr. Basil Ottley, U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs

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Mr. Robert Pesapane, FEMA Headquarters, FEMA Public Assistance Director

Mr. Robert J. Fenton Jr., FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator

Ms. Kathryn Lipiecki, FEMA Region IX Director of Mitigation Division

Mr. Nickolas Emilio, US Army Corp of Engineers, Honolulu District

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Ms. Felea'i Tau, Community Relief Liaison, Hawaii Office of the Governor

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