



For Official Release  
PR002-03252025  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
March 25, 2025

# PRESS RELEASE

## Celebrating the young artistic talents of American Samoa - The 2025 Malofie Congressional Arts Competition.

Every spring, members of the United States House of Representatives sponsor a nationwide arts competition. Known as the Artistic Discovery Competition, this event highlights and nurtures artistic talent across the country, including individual Congressional Districts.

In American Samoa, it is called the Malofie Congressional Arts Competition, organized through the Office of Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata, a dedicated advocate for the young artists of our island home, in collaboration with the Department of Education (DOE) and the Arts Council. These organizations play a vital role in advocating and nurturing the young talented artists of our territory.

Attending on behalf of the Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula and Honorable Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. was Chief of Staff Taito Ali'itasi Afuola-Mauga. Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, District Director for the Office of Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata, speaking on behalf of the Congresswoman and her office, extended congratulations to all participants:

“The Congresswoman extends her heartfelt congratulations to our local talents. While she deeply regrets not being able to attend in person, she sends her sincerest apologies and wishes to express how much she genuinely cares for our children. She commends each participant for sharing their God-given talents, and it is an honor to witness their creativity. She also extends her gratitude to the parents for their unwavering support and encouragement, fostering their children’s artistic growth and success.”

District Director Uta also acknowledged the Arts Council and DOE for their support and for providing the venue for students to showcase their work to the public.

Last year’s winner, Talanoa Lagafuaina, delivered brief remarks reflecting on his experience and expressing gratitude to the Office of the Congresswoman for the opportunity to travel and see the monuments firsthand. He described the trip as a life-changing experience, highlighting the privilege of meeting individuals at congressional offices. He hopes that every aspiring artist will have the chance to experience this incredible opportunity.

Every state and territory in the U.S. hosts its own Congressional Arts Competition as part of the nationwide event. The winners of these competitions will travel to Washington, D.C., in June to attend a formal dinner hosted in their honor. Congress, in initiating this competition, recognizes art as a powerful form of communication that resonates deeply and speaks to the soul.

The first-place winning artwork will represent American Samoa and be displayed for an entire year in the tunnel connecting the congressional offices to the U.S. Capitol. The second-place artwork will be showcased in the Congresswoman's office in Washington, D.C., while the third-place winner's piece will be displayed in the Congresswoman's District Office in Fagatogo.

The panel of judges, all esteemed local artists, included Executive Director for the Arts Council, Mr. Ammon Fepulea'i, Mr. Trevor Kaitu'u, and Mr. Voloti Malietoa from the Department of Education. Speaking on behalf of the judges and announcing the winners, Mr. Voloti Malietoa expressed his gratitude to Congresswoman Uifa'atali and her office for their continued support of this competition for local students. He noted that while the competition had been a longstanding tradition, it was discontinued in 1999. However, thanks to Congresswoman Uifa'atali's efforts, it was reinstated in 2015, once again providing students with a platform to showcase their artistic talents. He congratulated all participants and encouraged them to continue pursuing their artistic journeys.

District Director Uta and Chief of Staff Taito had the privilege of handing out the prizes to all the artists.

Presenting our winners:

1. Deborah Vai'otu (Tafuna High School) – First Place
2. Talanoa Lagafuaina (Tafuna High School) – Second Place
3. Talanoa Lagafuaina (Tafuna High School) – Third Place

A total of twenty-five (25) entries were submitted to the arts competition from five (5) public and private schools in American Samoa. To recognize their talent and dedication, all participating artists were awarded prizes.

For more information please contact the American Samoa District Office in Fagatogo.

###

## OUR CONTACT:



[www.americansamoa.gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)



[comms@go.as.gov](mailto:comms@go.as.gov)



Executive Office Building  
Office of the Governor  
Third Floor, Utulei  
Pago Pago, Am. Samoa 96799