For Official Release PR001-08232024 Office of the Governor Utulei, American Samoa August 23, 2024



## Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga to Attend 53rd Pacific Islands Forum in Tonga with Full Support from American Samoa Legislature

Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga will travel to Tonga this weekend to participate in the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting. This meeting marks a significant moment for American Samoa as forum leaders deliberate on the Territory's application for Associate Membership in the PIF.

In a unified show of support, the American Samoa Legislature, including both the Senate and House of Representatives, has adopted House Concurrent Resolution 38-19 (HCR-38-19). This resolution emphasizes the importance of Associate Membership for American Samoa, acknowledging the Territory's deep cultural, historical, and social ties with other Pacific Island nations. It reflects American Samoa's commitment to a more active role in regional affairs and expresses strong endorsement of Governor Lemanu and the American Samoa Government's efforts to secure this key membership.

Governor Lemanu's application for Associate Membership, submitted on December 14, 2023, has undergone thorough review, confirming that American Samoa meets all the criteria established by PIF Leaders. His attendance at the PIF Leaders Meeting highlights American Samoa's dedication to contributing to a Pacific region characterized by peace, harmony, security, and prosperity. The Territory is prepared to collaborate with other member nations to advance these goals for the benefit of all Pacific people.

###