



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799  
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**PROCLAMATION**

**WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH  
"Celebrate Differences"  
APRIL 2025**

**WHEREAS,** autism is a diverse and complex neurological condition that affects individuals differently, enriching our families, workplaces, and communities in unique ways; and

**WHEREAS,** the prevalence of autism continues to rise, with 1 in every 36 children diagnosed in the US, highlighting the urgent need for early intervention, tailored education, accessible healthcare, and comprehensive support systems for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** despite their talents, skills, and immense contributions to society, autistic individuals continue to face barriers in employment, education, healthcare, and social inclusion, underscoring the necessity for increased awareness, understanding, and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government is committed to advancing policies that promote fairness and accessibility for individuals with autism, ensuring they have equal opportunities to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Health and the "Leo o Aiga" Center, in collaboration with community organizations, healthcare providers, educators, and advocates, is working diligently to improve early autism screening, enhance services for children with special healthcare needs, and provide vital resources to families and caregivers; and

**WHEREAS,** World Autism Acceptance Month serves as an opportunity to amplify the voices of autistic individuals, foster greater community awareness, and reaffirm our commitment to building a society where neurodiverse individuals are respected, supported, and empowered;

**WHEREAS,** the theme of World Autism Acceptance Month 2025 is "Celebrate Differences." It encourages us to see that each person is unique and our differences are normal. Instead of thinking of autism as a condition to fix, we should celebrate the differences autism brings;

Proclamation – “World Autism Acceptance Month 2025

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PULAALI’I NIKOLAO PULA**, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as “WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH” in American Samoa. I encourage all residents, churches, businesses, and organizations to join in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of individuals with autism, to promote awareness and understanding, and to advocate for the full inclusion of autistic individuals in all aspects of our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five.



**PULAALI’I NIKOLAO PULA**  
Governor