

For Official Release
PR 001-09232023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
September 23, 2023



Lemanu-Talauega Administration Leads Successful Government-Wide Suicide Prevention Awareness Training

Theme: "There is help, there is hope. Be the one to take action."



The Lemanu-Talauega Administration is proud to announce the completion of a Government-wide Suicide Prevention Awareness Training program, held September 18-22, 2023. This initiative saw an incredible turnout, with a total of 4,626 dedicated government employees; approximately seventy five percent (75%) of the Executive workforce.

The week-long training program consisted of four sessions per day, each lasting 45 minutes, and was led by the Department of Health. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, in his impassioned remarks at the opening ceremony on September 18th, 2023, highlighted the significance of this

endeavor: "This training serves as a crucial reminder of the collective responsibility we all hold in preventing suicides and preserving lives. One life lost to suicide is one too many." He further remarked, "Thus, it is important that the leaders of American Samoa take a proactive role in the prevention of suicide to reduce stigma and care for those in crisis."

The training imparted government employees with crucial information regarding suicide statistics in the region, recognizing risk factors and warning signs, and equipped them with valuable resources needed to take action and provide guidance. The Lemanu-Talauega Administration remains dedicated to fostering mental health awareness and providing essential support to the people of American Samoa

Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale expressed: "Through education and increased awareness among the 4,600+ employees, this initiative will have a ripple effect in their families, their communities, and our territory. Governor Lemanu and I extend our sincerest appreciation to the esteemed leaders for ensuring the attendance of their staff. Together, the American Samoa Government reaffirms that one life taken by suicide, is indeed one too many."

Acting Governor Talauega commends the Department of Health and the Department of Human Resources for their collaborative efforts. ASG Employees in Manu'a will receive the same training in the near future.

###





