



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**  
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February 6, 2025

**GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 033 – 25**

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: Infrastructure and Improvement Project Emergency

American Samoa is in an emergency situation regarding the completion of vital infrastructure and improvement projects. We must complete all work funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in less than 24 months. If we fail to do so, American Samoa will need to return any remaining funds, and we may be required to pay back a portion of the money that has been spent.

Effective immediately, all ARPA funded projects are to receive your highest priority and consideration for processing within your departments. I will use all resources available to my office to ensure that personnel, services, and shipments of materials are made available to ASG and the private sector to support this effort. The Lieutenant Governor and I met with the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and senior leadership within the executive branch – ASG is united in this effort.

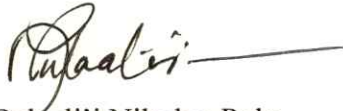
I have appointed Uti Gebauer to head up the ARPA office. I have also appointed a panel of advisors, headed by Faoa Aitofele Sunia, who will oversee all progress on these projects and help ensure they are moving forward.

Congress passed ARPA in 2021 to provide all of America and its territories much-needed funds to address the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This included the direct checks that residents received, as well as the Child Tax Credit and funding to assist with our pandemic response, like the repatriation program. In addition to this immediate assistance, Congress also provided funding to state and local governments, including American Samoa, to undertake broad measures to further alleviate the economic impacts of COVID and prepare us for the future. It is our responsibility to complete the work Congress intended.

To be absolutely clear, the law must be followed – no shortcuts. If a barrier is too large to overcome with in your workgroup, do not be discouraged. Escalate the issue within your agency or department, and work together to solve the challenge. When there are flaws that cannot be remedied, you are encouraged to contact the ARPA office and advisory panel.

This is a call to action, not a call for endless meetings and finger pointing. We will all work collaboratively with our colleagues to address this shared emergency. I am confident that we can make this work for our island home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pulaali'i', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula  
Governor