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DMWR Celebrates Milestone with Christening of RV Puna'oaolevasa at Malaloa Marina

Today was a historic day for the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) as they conducted a christening ceremony for the "RV Puna'oaolevasa" at Malaloa Marina. DMWR Director Taotasi A. Soliai welcomed guests to this special occasion, with the opening prayer led by Reverend Sio Opeta of CCCAS Atu'u. In his remarks, Reverend Opeta emphasized our role as caretakers of what has been entrusted to us: "May we use this vessel to manage, preserve, and protect God's creations."

Lt. Governor La'apui Talauega E.V. Ale attended the ceremony and express gratitude to DMWR for their foresight in building resources that support the department's mission and vision. "We now have another asset or tool to continue our work," stated Lt. Governor La'apui. He also highlighted a proud achievement: the vessel was constructed locally in American Samoa by local people. "One of the most important aspects is that we built this vessel ourselves, and the benefits for our people will now be multiplied. This highlights our capability to create our own resources," he added.

In his remarks, DMWR Director Taotasi highlighted several key uses for the vessel, including enhancing data collection, sustaining marine ecosystems, and advancing our understanding of marine species. He also mentioned that the vessel's name, "Puna'oaolevasa," was chosen through a competition within their department, meaning "The wealth of the Ocean."

Lieutenant Governor La'apui had the honor of christening the vessel and marked the beginning of its service to American Samoa.

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