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American Samoa Delegation Attends the Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FestPac) Ecumenical Service at the Stan Sheriff Center

[PICTORIAL] The FestPac 2024 Ecumenical Service (*ekalesia*) was held at the Stan Sheriff Center in Honolulu, HI, on June 9, 2024. The *Ekalesia*, highlighted the rich spiritual heritage and diverse cultures of the Pacific Islands. This gathering honored the profound spirituality that thrives in the countries of the Pacific, representing the spiritual core of Pacific cultures. It

provided a collaborative opportunity for group worship and the celebration of shared faith. An elaborate program of hymn singing, readings, prayers, and meditations highlighted the spiritual ties and cultural diversity shared among the Pacific Islands. Choral performances delivered by choirs from various Pacific Island countries enhanced the atmosphere of the ceremony.

EFKAS Kanana Fou's Reverend Elder Falelua Lafitaga delivered the opening prayer, setting the tone for the service.

The American Samoa Choir, led by Pati Pati Jr., showcased opening song Le Alii e, Ua Ou Faalogo - A Samoan Methodist Hymn Book #65 arranged by T. Mata'u.

The second song selection was sung by the entire delegation, Lota Nuu Moni LMS Book #353 arranged by Reverend Letupu Mata'utia and Ending by Pati Pati. The Hawaii Aloha Ku'u One Hanau version by Lorenzo Lyons (1807-1886) was sung prior to Lo Ta Nuu as tribute to the Host Country, the State of Hawaii.

After the ecumenical service concluded the Bishop Museum hosted a luau (toana'i) for all the attendees. The event featured live music performances that resonated with the spirit of the islands, offering a harmonious blend of traditional and contemporary Hawaiian melodies. Guests enjoyed a rich cultural experience, marked by the joyful atmosphere and communal celebration. The luau not only showcased Hawaii's unique heritage but also fostered a sense of unity amongst the diverse crowd.

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