

U.S. CONGRESSMAN ENI F. H. FALEOMAVEGA

REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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FALEOMAVEGA, PRESIDENT CLINTON DISCUSS KEY ISSUES AFFECTING AMERICAN SAMOA, PACIFIC & ASIA

Recently, the Asia Pacific Congressional Caucus met with President Clinton in the Oval Office at the White House to discuss issues of national interest to members of the Asia Pacific Community.

At the meeting, I raised with the President three issues which are important to American Samoa and our region of the Pacific. First, I brought to the President's attention the lack of a point of contact in the White House for American Samoa and the other insular areas, except for Puerto Rico which has a designated point of contact within the White House. I asked the President to consider assigning the insular areas to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, currently headed by Assistant to the President, Mickey Ibarra.

The second issue I raised at the meeting was a request that the President issue a proclamation designating May as Asia Pacific Heritage Month. The Congress has already made this designation, and as such, I make it a point to speak to as many groups of federal employees as possible about the contributions persons of Asian and Pacific Island heritage have made to the United States. When the accomplishments of this group are listed together, it is rather impressive.

Finally, the President is scheduled to attend a meeting of the leaders of the APEC nations next year in New Zealand. *He has expressed a willingness to stop in American Samoa* during the trip, and it would be the perfect time to renew this country's ties to the Pacific. Specifically, I raised with him the possibility of holding a Pacific summit at the East-West Center at the Univer-



President Clinton and Congressman Faleomavaega during the recent meeting of the Asia Pacific Congressional Caucus held in the Oval Office of the White House.

sity of Hawaii as part of his trip.

Pacific Islanders are under the impression that the United States is no longer interested in the Pacific. A meeting with the heads of government from the Pacific would go a long way to reassure these leaders that the United States is a Pacific power, and will stay engaged in the Pacific. In the 21st century, I expect the value of the seabed minerals and other marine resources in the Pacific will play an increasingly important role in the global economy, and it is important that the United States participate in the regional development of these resources now, and not wait until it is too late.

FEILOA'IGA A PERESITENE CLINTON MA FALEOMAVEGA MA NISI O TA'ITA'I O LE KONEKERESI MO MATAUPU TAU ASIA MA LE PASEFIKA

E le'i mamao atu nei, na matou feiloa'i ai ma le Afioga i le Peresitene o Bill Clinton ma nisi e to'alima o Sui mai le Konekeresi. Sa matou fa'atasi ai i le Ofisa o le Peresitene i le Fale Pa'epa'e e talanoaina nisi o mataupu fa'avaomalo e aoga mo tagata Amerika e tupuga mai Asia ma le Pasefika.

I lea fonotaga, e tolu ni mataupu sa 'ou fa'atalanoaina i le Peresitene e taua mo Amerika Samoa aemaise o tatou matou tuaoi i lea itu o le atu Pasefika. Muamua, sa 'ou fa'ailoa manino atu i le Peresitene le le talafeagai o lea tulaga o le leai o se so'oupu patino i le Fale Pa'epa'e mo Amerika Samoa ma isi atunu'u o lo'o va'aia e lunaite Sitete (lea e ta'ua o insular areas). Sa 'ou talosagaina ai le Peresitene ina ia fefulisa'i lona finagalo ia tu'u atu Amerika Samoa ma isi insular areas i le Ofisa o Mataupufa'avaomalo lea e ta'ita'i e le Sui Lagolago i le Peresitene o Mickey Ibarra.

O le mataupu lona lua sa 'ou fa'ailoa i le Peresitene, o le faia lea o sana fa'asalalauga fa'alaua'itele ina ia aloa'ia ai le masina o Me, e ta'ua o le masina e fa'amanatu ai Tupu'aga mai Asia ma le Pasefika. O tausaga ta'itasi i le masina atoa o Me, e tele ona 'ou auai atu e lauga ma talanoa i fa'alapotopotoga eseese e fa'alauiloa ai le taua o le sao a nisi e to'atele o tagatanu'u o Amerika e tupuga mai i Asia ma le Pasefika. Ana mafai ona tu'u'afatasia uma lava le anoanoa'i o matati'a ua 'ausia e le to'atele o tagata Amerika e iai le toto Asia po'o le Pasefika, e mata'utia lo latou faitau aofa'i.

Ma le mea mulimuli, o lo'o iai se faufuaga mo le tausaga o i luma, e o'o atu le Peresitene i Niu Silani i se fa'atasiga tele o ta'ita'i o malo o Asia ma le Pasefika o lo'o taumafai ma galulue fa'atasi mo le atina'e o le tamaoiga lautele, APEC. *Ua fa'aali mai sona finagalo e fia afea Amerika Samoa a'o aga'i atu mo lea faigamalaga*, ma e feauga foi le na ma taimi sili e toe fa'afou ai le so'otaga o le nei malo ma atumotu o le Pasefika. O le tasi mea aupito taua ia te a'u, sa 'ou talanoa ai mo se avanoa e fai ai se fa'atasiga tuma'oti o le Pasefika i le East-West Center i le lunivesite o Hawaii, ia ave'a ma se tasi o vaega o lana malaga lea.



Congressman Faleomavaega with (left) Rev. Malaki Tauiliili Jr. and Rev. Ulisese Ve'e. They discussed a variety of federal issues affecting Samoans living in California and other parts of the U.S. Sitting are pastors' wives, (left) Mrs. Sauifa Vaifanua-Tauiliili and Mrs. Eseta Ve'e.

E iai se lagona i le to'atele o tagatanu'u o le Pasefika, e le o toe manatu tele atu le lunaite Sitete i le Pasefika. O se fonotaga fa'atasi ma ta'ita'i o Malo 'ese'ese o le Pasefika o le a mafai ona fa'amausaliina ai i nei ta'ita'i, o lo'o tumalosii pea lava le lunaite Sitete i lana tautua i le Pasefika, ma iai pea le feso'ota'iga vavalalata i le Pasefika.

A'o tatou savalia le 21 seneturi o le lalolagi, oute manatu o le a si'isi'i le tau o minerale i le sami fa'apea ai figota ma alamanuia eseese mai gataifale o le Pasefika. O lea, oute lagona e iai le taua tele o le sao o le Pasefika ma ona motu 'aufa'atasi aua le tamaoiga atia'e o le lalolagi. O lea e taua ai fo'i i le lunaite Sitete ona feutaga'i ma atunu'u o le Pasefika i le aga'i i luma o nei alamanuia ma le atina'e o le tamaoiga lautele ae le'i tuai taimi.

NO OBJECTIONS TO RESTORING FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR ALIEN RESIDENTS

In March of this year, I wrote a letter notifying Governor Tauese of a decision by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Honorable Dan Glickman, to exercise USDA's waiver authority to allow American Samoa to provide benefits under its Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNA) to 1,200 legal residents of the territory who were denied these benefits under new welfare reform laws.

Secretary Glickman also sent identical letters of notification to the Committees on Agriculture and Resources of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Prior to Secretary Glickman's most welcome actions, I wrote a number of letters to several members of Congress including: *Senator Richard Lugar*, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and Ranking Democratic Member *Senator Patrick Leahy*; *Senator Frank Murkowski*, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and ranking Democrat *Senator Daniel Akaka*; *Congressman Don Young*, Chairman of the House Committee on Resources and Senior Democratic Member *Congressman George Miller*; *Congressman Robert Smith*, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, and Ranking Democratic Member *Congressman Charles Stenholm*; urging them to support Secretary Glickman's efforts to restore benefits for American Samoa's permanent alien residents.

I had also written to the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, informing him that among the foreign nationals living in American Samoa are approximately 1,200 elderly nationals of Samoa (formerly Western Samoa). Most of them have lived legally in American Samoa for decades. For the most part, they are married to American Samoans and their children are U.S. Citizens or U.S. Nationals.

I honestly believe it was not the intent of Congress to exclude these residents from receiving food stamps under the modified American Samoa program. They are the functional equivalent of permanent residents of the United States, and I am pleased that Secretary Glickman came to the same



L. to R.: Su'a Edmund Pereira, Representative Charlie Tautolo and Michael Eliko Yandall. They met with Congressman Faleomavaega to discuss federal funding for Samoa's disabled community.

conclusion.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman for heeding our plea to restore food stamp benefits to this important segment of our community. I also want to thank Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the Members of Congress named above for their assistance. Finally, I would like to thank Governor Tauese Sunia who, during his most recent visit to Washington D.C., also met with officials from the Department of Agriculture to express his support to again provide food stamp benefits to these residents of American Samoa.

TOE MAUA FESOASOANI FOOD STAMP MO TAGATA NOFOMAU I AMERIKA SAMOA

I le masina o Mati sa 'ou tusi atu ai ia Kovana Tauese e tusa ma le fa'ai'uga a le Failautusi o Fa'ato'aga i le lunaite Sitete (USDA), le Afioga Dan Glickman e fa'aaoga ai le malos'i'aga i lona ofisa e fa'agafua ai nisi o mana'oga fa'aletulafono ua toe maua ai le fesoasoani i le polokalama a le ASNA mo tagata mai atunu'u ese ua nonofomau i Amerika Samoa. E tusa ma le 1,200 i latou sa le taliaina ina ua fa'afou tulafono mo fesoasoani lautele e ala i taumafa (food stamp). Na auina foi lea e le Failautusi o Glickman ni tusi se lua e tutusa lelei e fa'ailoa atu ai lea tulaga i le Komiti o Fa'ato'aga i le Maota o Sui fa'apea ma le Komiti a le Senate i Mataupu tau Enetia ma Alamanuia Eseeese.

Muamua, ae le'i maua mai le nei fesoasoani tele ile Failautusi o Glickman, sa 'ou mua'i tusi i nisi o sui o le Konekeresi e iai le Afioga i le *Senatoa o Richard Lugar*, o le Ta'ita'iaoa o le Komiti a le Senate i mataupu tau Fa'ato'aga ma Taumafa mo le Soifua Lelei, fa'apea ma le fa'a'uuluga ole vaega o Temokarasi i lea Komiti, le Afioga i le *Senatoa o Patrick Leahy*. Sa 'ou fa'afeso'ota'iina *Senatoa Frank Murkowski*, le ta'ita'iaoa o le Komiti o Enetia ma Alamanuia fa'apea le ta'ita'i o le itu Temokarasi i lea Komiti, le Afioga i le *Senatoa o Daniel Akaka*. Fa'atasi ma le *Afioga i le Faipule o Don Young*, le Ta'ita'i o le Komiti o Alamanuia ma le ta'ita'i o le itu Temokarasi i lea komiti, le *Faipule o George Miller*; faapea le *Faipule o Robert Smith*, le Ta'ita'iaoa o le Komiti o Fa'ato'aga ma le e ulu ai le itu Temokarasi o lea

Komiti le *Faipule o Charles Stenholm*; sa 'ou augani iai ia latou sapaapa le taumafaiga a le Afioga i le Failautusi o Glickman ia tumau le fesoasoani mo tagata mai atunu'u ese ua nonofomau nei i Amerika Samoa.

Sa 'ou tusi foi i le Failautusi o Initeria, Bruce Babbitt ma fa'ailoa atu iai o le to'atele o nei tagata ua nonofomau i Amerika Samoa e aofia ai le 1,200 tagata matutua o e na fananau i Samoa (Samoa i Sisifo.) Ua tele tausaga o aumau ma alala i Amerika Samoa; to'atele ua fa'aipoipo i tagatanu'u o Amerika Samoa ma o a latou fanau o sitiseni o Amerika po'o Nasionale foi. O lo'u talitonuga, e le'i iai se manatu i le Konekeresi ina ia aveesea i latou ia mai le polokalama e fesoasoani mo taumafa foa'ifua mo le lautele. E tutusa i latou ia ma tagata nofomau i le lunaite Sitete ma ua 'ou fiafia ina ua faia lea fa'ai'uga e le Failautusi o Fa'ato'aga, le Susuga a Glickman. O u t e fa'afetaia tele ai le tautua a le Failautusi o Dan Glickman i lona talileleia o la tatou fa'atalala'ula atu ina ia toe avatu le nei fesoasoani i lea vaega o le tatou atunu'u. E fa'afetaia foi le Failautusi o Initeria o Bruce Babbitt ma le mamalu o sui o le Konekeresi mo le agalelei mai. Ae fa'ai'u la'u fa'afetai i le Afioga i le Kovana o Tauese Sunia i le taimi o lana malaga taluai nei i Uosigitone, DC sa feiloa'i ai ma ta'ita'i o le Ofisa o Fa'ato'aga a le lunaite Sitete e fa'ailoa iai lona lagolagoina o le nei polokalama ia tumau mo tatou tagata mai fafo ua nonofomau i Amerika Samoa.

AMERICAN SAMOA'S SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES RECEIVE 25,000+ BOOKS

More than 25,000 books, collected from the Library of Congress's book surplus program and county libraries and school systems in the Washington DC area, arrived in American Samoa in mid-February. The books were made available to schools in Tutuila and Manu'a.

This is part of my on-going effort to provide additional reading materials to our youth, and to upgrade school and public libraries in our territory. These

books include school text books, fiction and non-fiction books, and range in difficulty from primary grades to adult.

Teachers from throughout the island attended our initial bookfare in December. Their positive response to this event led us to initiate this second shipment, which was received by local teachers and librarians with equal enthusiasm.

TAUNU'U UTA LONA LUA O TUSI FAITAU MO FANAU

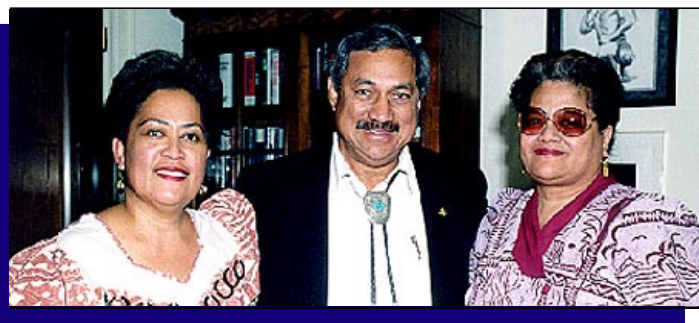
E tusa ma le 25,000 tusi faitau na aoina i Uosigitone, DC sa mafai ona auina atu i Amerika Samoa i le masina o Fepuari ma fa'aaogaina mo a'oga i Tutuila ma Manu'a. O se tasi lea vaega o la'u taumafai ina ia fa'aopoopoina tusi faitau mo a tatou fanau, ma fa'aleleia atili ai faletusi i a'oga ta'itasi fa'apea faletusi lautele o le teritori. O nei tusi e aofia ai tusi a'oga, tusi faitau o tala

moni ma tala fatu, e mafai ona faitauina ma fa'aaoga e fanau mai vasega laiti e o'o lava i e matutua.

O lenei uta lona lua na auina atu i pusa uta tetele e lua e ta'i 20-futu le maualuluga, na mafai ona fa'atinoina i le lagolago mai a le kamupani i'a a le StarKist Samoa. Oute fa'afetaia ai le agalelei o le StarKist mo le auina atu mamao o nei tusi faitau mai Uosigitone e o'o atu i le atunu'u. E le'i mafai ona fa'atino lenei fesoasoani tau tusi i Samoa pe ana le seanoa le lagolago mai o le StarKist i tulaga tau tupe. E momoli atu ai le fa'afetai tele i le Pule Sili o le StarKist i Amerika Samoa, le Susuga a Barry Mills fa'apea le Tofa Taeaoafua Meki Tavita Solomona mo le fesoasoani. Fa'apea a'i ma Chris Lichewsky o le ofisa tutotonu o le StarKist i Amerika nei, o le na galuega malos'i atu i lenei itu mo le auina atu o tusi i Samoa.

Na mafai ona auai le to'atele o faia'oga i le ulua'i tufatufaina o tusi na faia i le masina o Tesema i le tausaga ua mavae. O lo latou talileleia o lea taumafaiga ua ala ai ona a'e se lagona e toe aoina nisi tusi ma avatu ai i le uta lona lua taluai nei, lea na talia mai e faia'oga o le atunu'u ma nisi o e galulue i faletusi. Fa'atasi ai ma le lagolago mai o le StarKist, o le uta muamua na mafai ona fa'ataunu'uina ona o le foa'i tau tupe mai le Afioga i le Senatoa o Lealaifuaneva Peter Reid, Jr. ma le kamupani la'u uta o le Polynesia Shipping Company. Faapea foi se fesoasoani mai i le kamupani suau'u o le Mobil Company.

O nei tusi na aoina sa fa'ameaalofa mai i a'oga maualuluga ma faletusi i Uosigitone, DC fa'apea le sitete o Maryland ma le sitete o Virginia. E aofia ai fo'i ma le foa'i mai le Faletusi Tele o le Konekeresi e ta'ua o le "Library of Congress".



Congressman Faleomavaega and (right) Mrs. Brenda Epati-Tanoi, chief coordinator, Office of Students Services, in ASG's Education Department, and Ms. Diana Ameperosa, program coordinator of the same office. The two ladies met with Congressman Faleomavaega to discuss student services for American Samoa.

POLYNESIAN AIR OFFICIALS VISIT WASHINGTON D.C.

I recently met with Polynesian Airlines Chief Executive Officer Richard Gates to discuss ways to improve air transportation to all of Samoa. He was accompanied by Deputy Executive Officer George Vaeau and Leaupepe Sanerivi.

The Polynesian Air officials expressed to me their desire to work with the leaders of American Samoa to improve overall air service between the Samoas. I strongly suggested that it is critically important that their management work with Hawaiian Airlines and formulate a plan designed to provide better air service not only within the Samoas, but also with major destinations outside of Samoa such as Hawaii, the U.S. Mainland, New Zealand, Australia and other island nations in the South Pacific.

It has been established over the past several years that American Samoa can currently support two flights a week from Hawaii during most of the year. However, if Hawaiian Air and Polynesian Air were to work together and provide an additional flight per week, and both airlines were to serve both Samoas, there would be additional travelers to and from the Samoas.

I have been seeking a legislative remedy or a change in federal regulations for some time now to address the problem of inadequate air transportation between American Samoa, Hawaii, and the U.S. Mainland.

Both Governor Sunia and Prime Minister Tofilau Alesana

ASIASI MAI TA'ITA'I O LE KAMUPANI VA'ALELE O LE "POLENISIA"

I nai masina ua mavae sa matou feiloa'i ai ma ta'ita'i o le kamupani va'alele o le "Polonesia". Le alii Pule Sili o Richard Gates fa'apea le Afioga ia Leaupepe Sanerivi Muliaumasealii, o le Pule Sili Lagolago, ma le Afioga Letelemaaana George Vaeau, o le o lo'o gafa ma le Malo ma mataupu fa'avaomalo i le kamupani.

Sa fa'ailoa mai e ta'ita'i o le "Polonesia" lo latou naunauta'iga e fia galulue fa'atasi ma ta'ita'i o le Malo o Amerika Samoa ina ia fa'aleleia atili tulaga o femalaga'iga i le va o Samoa e lua. Na 'ou fautuaina malosi ai lea i latou, e taua tele lo latou limalima fa'atasi ma le kamupani va'alele a le "Hawaiian Airlines" e fa'amautuina se tonu e fa'aleleia ai femalaga'iga e le gata i Samoa e lua, ae fa'apea isi taunu'uga autu ese atu ma Samoa, e iai Hawaii, Amerika autu, Niu Silani, Ausetalia, ma motu tuaoi o le Pasefika i Saute.

Ua iloga i tausaga ua mavae atu nei, e mafai e Amerika Samoa ona gafatia malaga e lua i le vaiaso e malaga mai Hawaii. Peita'i, afai e galulue fa'atasi le "Hawaiian Air" ma le "Polonesia" ma fa'aopoopo ai se tasi malaga mo le vaiaso i Samoa e lua, lona uiga o le a fa'aopoopoina ai fo'i e feoa'i ma femalagaa'i i le atu Samoa.

E le'i mamao aso o le matou feiloa'iga ma ta'ita'i o le "Polonesia", ona auina atu ai lea o la'u tusi aloa'ia i le Peresitene o le "Hawaiian Air" le Susuga a Paul Casey, ina ia maua mai se fesoasoani e tusa ai ma le nei mataupu. Na tali mai le Susuga a Casey e fa'apea, "o le mea tonu lava ia, e naunau tele le "Hawaiian Air" e fa'atalanoaina lenei mataupu ma le "Polonesia" ina ia galulue fa'atasi e fa'aleleia le tautua tau

HTC FILOITUMUA MALUIA JOINS FALEOMAVEGA STAFF

I am pleased to announce that High Talking Chief Maluia Filoitumua of Nu'uuli, has joined our staff in American Samoa. For over 30-years, HTC Maluia has served the government in the Department of Agriculture and worked his way up in the ranks culminating with the position of Director in 1996.

Chief Maluia is a highly respected leader in our community and a leading orator of our times. He holds one of the significant High

GALUE LE TOFA MALUIA FILOITUMUA I LE TATOU OFISA I AMERIKA SAMOA

Ua matua'i fa'afiafiaina a'u ina ua mafai ona galue le Tofa i le Fofoga o Taumalofi, Maluia Filoitumua mai le alalafaga o Nu'uuli, i lo tatou ofisa i Amerika Samoa. E silia ma le 30-tausaga o tautua le Tofa Maluia i le Malo o Amerika Samoa e ala i le Ofisa o Fa'ato'aga ma i'u ina fa'aeaina ai i le tofi Ta'ita'i Aoa o le tausaga 1996. O le Tofa Maluia o se tasi o ta'ita'i iloga ma o se fofoga fetalai ta'uta'ua i upu fai o le atunu'u. Ua ia umia se tasi o suafa maualuga o tulafale ali'i mai le itumalo o Ituau; o lona silafia fo'i o le tele o tulaga eseese



Pictured in the Capitol Statuary Hall, Congressman Faleomavaega with officials of Polynesian Airlines, the flagship of the Independent State of Samoa, Mr. Richard Gates; Afioga Letelemaa'ana George Vae'au; and Afioga Leaupepe Sanerivi Muliaumaseali'i.

have expressed an interest to me in jointly promoting tourism to both Samoas, and this can only be established by providing adequate air transportation.



Congressman Faleomavaega pictured with (left) Mr. Barry So'oalo, a third-year law student at the University of the District of Columbia School of Law. He is the son of Elia & Sami So'oalo of Honolulu, Hawaii and works part-time in administrative duties for the Congressman. On the right is former intern to the office of the Congressman, Toetasia Fue Tuiteleleapaga, son of High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Peseta & Rufo Tuiteleleapaga of Leone. Tasi is presently serving as the American Samoan Special Assistant in the office of U.S. Senator Fofogao Samoa Daniel Inouye. They discussed legislation being worked on by the two legislators.

femalaga'iga i le 'ea i le va o Samoa e lua."

Ua fa'ailoa mai fo'i e Kovana Sunia ma le Afioga i le Palemia o Tofilau Eti Alesana, lo la'ua agaga e fia lagolagosua i le fa'alauloaina atu o Samoa e lua i le lalolagi atoa.

Talking Chief titles of the Ituau district and his expertise in our Samoan culture will be invaluable in our office.

I will rely on his advice on a variety of matters affecting the welfare of our community. As a former Director of Agriculture, Chief Maluia brings to our office a wealth of experience and knowledge of our agricultural interests — an area which we intend to pursue vigorously.

i lo tatou aganu'u o le a avea ma fesoasoani taua i lo tatou ofisa. O le a 'ou fa'amoemoe i lana fautua aemaise o le lagolagoina o a'u i mataupu e aoga mo si o tatou atunu'u ma ona tagata. E tusa ma lona tomai ma le agava'a na iai i le ta'ita'iina o le Ofisa o Fa'ato'aga, o le a mafai ai e le Tofa Maluia ona fa'ailoa mai vaega aoga ma le taua i mea tau fa'ato'aga ma atina'e aua le aga'i i luma o le atunu'u — o se tasi lea o mataupu e taua ia te a'u e fia su'esu'eina mae'ae'a mo le lelei o le atunu'u.

MISCELLANEOUS

Conan Alailima appointed to West Point

I am pleased that one of my nominees, **Conan Ala'ilima** has been offered an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point for the class entering this summer. The approximate value of this four-year education is \$220,000. Meeting the physical and academic standards set by the academies is not an easy task and I give a lot of credit to Conan, his teachers, and especially his parents. Conan, a graduate of Marist Brothers High School, is the son of Birdsall and Marlene Alailima of Tafuna.

American Samoa's commercial banks to be included in Federal Home Loan Bank System.

On February 23, 1998, American Samoa's two commercial banks were included in the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Hopefully, this initiative will allow local banks to provide much needed **low-interest home loans** to residents of American Samoa. The banks will still have to apply for membership with the federal bank. To obtain a loan, a home owner will have to be a good credit risk, but the biggest obstacle to home ownership, the lack of low-interest-rate funding, has been solved.

Final Postal report on theft of drugs released

We finally received a report from the **U.S. Postal Service** regarding last year's theft of \$300,000 worth of drugs from the local Post Office. As a result of a federal investigation prompted by an inquiry I initiated, the Postal Service has assured me that internal security at the Fagatogo Post Office has been improved. Also, Postal Inspectors in Hawaii have been reminded in no uncertain terms that American Samoa is under their jurisdiction and they are to respond to requests for investigations as promptly as they would to any other area under their jurisdiction. We also inquired into the problems causing delays in delivery of air mail from the U.S. to American Samoa and have received assurances that the delays are now under control.

Legislation calling for authorization to mint twenty-five cent coins with design commemorating American Samoa introduced in Congress

Legislation was recently introduced in Congress to authorize the minting of a special **twenty-five cent coin with a design commemorating American Samoa** on one side of the coin. The legislation would add American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands to the 50 State Commemorative Coin Program



Educators and students from the American Samoa CloseUp group meet with the Congressman on the Capitol steps as part of their official visit to Congress. Educators are Galu Satele Jr., Lagitao Lagitao Jr., Fa'aifo Satia, Randall Baker, Atilua Mageo, Paul Tauillili & Savali Vaeao.

Act. This is one of the initiatives on which Governor Tauese and I are coordinating efforts for American Samoa's centennial commemoration. I am pleased to report that this one step has been taken.

Department of State announces new fee schedule for Passports and Visas

The U.S. Department of State has changed the **fees** it charges to obtain a **passport** and certain **visas**. The fee for **first-time passport** is \$60 (old fee - \$65); **passport renewal** for an adult is \$40 (old fee - \$55); **Child's passport** (under 15) is \$40; and the charge to **expedite service** (guaranteed 3 days or less) is \$35. An additional fee for **one-parent national applications** is now \$100. Responding to a request from me, I have been informed by the State Department that American Samoans fingerprinting services (required for those applying for U.S. Citizenship) can now be performed at the U.S. Embassy in Western Samoa. Previously, our people were required to travel to Hawaii or New Zealand to obtain this service.

O NISI O MEA O LO'O TUTUPU

Ua 'ou fiafia lava ina ua taliaina se tasi o fanau na 'ou fa'auluina lona suafa, o **Conan Ala'ilima**, i le kolisi fa'apitoa a le Vaega'au a le Malo Tele i West Point. O le tau aofa'i o le nei a'oga mo le fa'ausaga e tusa ma le \$220,000. Oute fa'amalo atu ia Conan ma ona faia'oga aemaise ona matua, ina ua mafai e ia ona 'ausia tulaga o togi e ulufale ai fa'apea tulaga fa'atapula'aina ole malosi ole tino. O Conan, o se tasi ole 'au fa'au'u '98 mai le A'oga Mauuluga a Marisi i Malaeloa, o le alo o le Afioga Leiatua Birdsall ma Marlene Jahnke-Alailima o Tafuna.

I le aso 23 o Fepuari, na mafai ai ona a'afia faletupe e lua i Amerika Samoa i le polokalama o tupe-nono mai le Malo Tele mo maota e fia fausia. O le fa'amoemoe, o le a mafai ai ona avanoa tupe-nono i faletupe mo tagata o le atunu'u o lo'o fia nono tupe e fausia ai o latou maota, i se tupe tului maualalo "**low-interest home loans**". E ao lava i faletupe i Samoa ona talosaga le auai i lea fa'alapotopotoga ma ua mautinoa e le lautele, e tataua lava ona lelei le tala'aga o le togiina o au loans mai tausaga ua mavae. Ae ua mafai ona fesoasoani fale tupe e tusa ai ma tupe tului maualalo i nei vaiata (low-interest rate funding.)

Ua 'ou maua mai se ripoti mae'ae'a i le ofisa autu o Fale Meli a le lunaite Sitete (**U.S. Postal Service**) i le gaoiina o fuala'au fa'asaina e tusa ma le \$300,000 le tau pe ana fa'atauina, lea na toeseina mai le fale meli i Amerika Samoa. O le fa'ai'uga o ia su'esu'ega e tusa ma la'u talosaga, ua fa'amausaliina mai e le Fale Meli Tele ua fa'aleleia atili le va'ava'aiga ma le puipuiina o le fale meli autu i Fagatogo. Ua uma fo'i ona fa'atonuina le 'ausu'esu'e o Fale Meli i Hawaii ia iloga le a'afia o Amerika Samoa i lalo o la latou pule'aga ia vave tali mai i so'o se talosaga fa'avave mo su'esu'ega e pei ona faia i isi nofoaga o lo'o i lalo o la latou va'ava'aiga. Sa 'ou fesiligia le ala e tuai so'o ai le auina atu

o le meli mai Amerika aga'i i Samoa. Ua maua mai foi le upu o le a taumafai e fa'a'aititia le tuai atu o le meli i le atunu'u.

Ua fa'auluina se talosaga e fa'atulafonoina ai e le Konekeresi le fausia fa'apitoa o se **seleni (25-sene) e fa'amanatu aloa'ia ai Amerika Samoa** i le tasi itu o le seleni. O le talosaga ua fa'auluina e fa'aopoopo atu ai Amerika Samoa, fa'apea le aai o DC (District of Columbia,) o le motu o Guam, Puerto Rico, ma motu o le US Virgin Islands i le polokalama fa'apitoa mo fa'aailoga fa'amanatu o sitete e 50 (50 State Commemorative Coin Program Act.) O le tasi leni o taumafaiga ia te a'u ma le Kovana o Tauese mo le fa'amanatuina o le seneturi o Amerika Samoa. Ua 'ou fiafia ai lava e fa'aailoga atu le aga'i i luma o nei taumafaiga uma.

Ua suia e le Ofisa o Mataupu Faavaomalo (U.S. State Department) le togi mo le faiga o tusifolau ma visa. O le tau mo e fa'ato'a faia tusifolau e \$60 (o le tau tuai e \$65); o le fa'afouina o le tusifolau mo le tagata matua e \$40 (o le togi tuai e \$55); o tusifolau o fanau (i lalo ma le 15 tausaga) e \$40; o le togi e fa'avave ai ona maua (3 aso pe itiiti ifo) e \$35. O le tau fa'aopoopo mo e talosaga tusifolau e i lalo o le tulafono mo le **matua e to'atasi na fanau i Amerika Samoa poo Amerika e \$100**. Ua maua mai foi se tali e tusa ma la'u talosaga, o le a mafai ona faia fa'aailoga o tamatama'i lima (fingerprinting) e i latou o loo i Amerika Samoa (o e talosagaina le ave ma sitiseni o le lunaite Sitete) e mafai ona fa'ataunu'uina i le ofisa autu o le lunaite Sitete i Samoa i Sisifo (US embassy). O aso ua mavae na malaga mamao ai o tatou tagata i Niu Silani poo Hawaii e faia ai nei fa'aailoga fa'apitoa i tamatama'ilima (fingerprinting).

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