

Governor's Message for the New Year 2006

The New Year offers a chance to start over, our spirits invigorated and our minds fresh. The coming of a new year is a time to take stock of our past, while we also plan for the future.

We make resolutions, develop projects and follow new dreams. Above all else, we hope to live life to the fullest and spread joy to those around us.

I would like so much for us to succeed in ensuring that respect, tolerance, and sharing—values that are so dear to my heart—prevail.

I hope that the New Year will bring us all peace, health, happiness, and prosperity, and that extra measure of harmony that makes each of our adventures in our Island Home so very precious.

As we embrace the New Year, I wish to thank you for the Old. We have learned so much in 2005: A wonderfully rich and rewarding experience.

Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi and Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia join me in wishing you, the people of American Samoa, all the best for a productive and happy 2006.

Ia manuia le Tausaga Fou.

TOGIOLA TULAFONO

Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
for immediate release – February 15, 2006

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono hosts reception dinner for Safelite Autoglass

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono hosted a reception and dinner at Hong Kong House in Nu'uuli on Tuesday night for the visiting business group Safelite Autoglass and Erie Management Group that was attended by over 100 guests made up of government officials and the business community.

Governor Togiola expressed his gratitude to Mr. Bill Cooney and Mr Stan Shumway and their delegation on behalf of the people and Government of American Samoa.

Governor Togiola in his speech said: American Samoa has been well-known for producing good football players and sometimes being the home of the largest producing tuna factory in the world. He said he was very proud of both exports and American Samoa is not afraid to welcome new visions and technology.

The Governor said American Samoa has been lagging behind the times, and we're not sure if we can ever catch up with the speed of globalization. Interestingly enough, technology has changed us quicker, and in estimation, for the better. Governor Togiola said before high technology and the information technology revolution, it was very uncertain if we could ever develop a viable economy without the tuna factories.

The Governor said technology has offered American Samoa the opportunity, and he believes, it is the only thing that is viable to replace a tuna manufacturing economy.

Governor Togiola said "We have tried some things and they have failed. The failure was not that the business was not good. The failure was because they were not the right businesses for American Samoa."

Governor Togiola told the visitors that technology-based business is the right kind of business for American Samoa. From that vision, we started to build an infrastructure with high hopes, great expectations and lots of prayers.

The Governor said he believed the Territory's prayers are being answered, and he was confident that our hopes and great expectations will soon materialize.

He said "American Samoa welcomes you with open hands and the one thing about us that you must believe in - - what you see, is what you get. The government is happy to partner with private enterprise to develop business opportunities for American Samoa. We want you to be

a profitable business, and we will support your venture to assure that you will have an excellent return on your investment. ”

Governor Togiola said “We have been working very hard to prepare ourselves to accept the new responsibilities we will face as more and more companies look at our islands as a venue for increasing world wide competition.”

He touched on the Territory having some excellent advantages to locating operations here. He said “Our unique status as a territory of the United States means we offer banking, legal systems, postal services, telephone dialing systems and the English language much the same as found in the U.S.” But, the thing we take the most pride in is our friendly people, and most of all, our wonderful young adults who are graduating with world-class skills.

In closing, Governor Togiola said ‘It is our prayer that you will become a part of our business landscape here for a long time to come.’

Mr. Bill Cooney, in his remarks said part of their trip was not just to see American Samoa to determine if the Territory meets their requirements for a proposed call center, but said in hearing the great and astounding news in the States that American Samoa, per capita had the highest participation in the U.S. Armed Forces. Mr. Cooney called it a great feat and spirit of dedication and commitment to serving one’s own country, and he wanted to see this place where that many soldiers came from. Mr. Cooney touched on Governor Togiola’s comment of American Samoa’s prayer and hopes of Safelite Autoglass doing business in American Samoa by saying: “We are praying the same prayer. That is also our prayer.”

Guests at the event included representatives of three branches of the government and members of the business community.

The evening consisted of a buffet dinner and entertainment was provided by island dance troupe - -Taupou Manaia.

On Wednesday, the delegation took part in many presentations by government departments and agencies and also from the business community, that included ASTCA and Bluesky at Tradewinds Hotel.

A cocktail reception Wednesday evening was hosted by Information Technology American Samoa at the Tradewinds Hotel. The business group will depart the Territory today, Thursday.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 5, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia holds monthly Cabinet meeting

(UTULEI) – Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele held a Cabinet meeting today Friday, May 5, 2006, that included discussions on the tsunami warning, government vehicles, and the trade mission from the Department of Interior.

Acting Governor Ipulasi said Cabinet members are on notice that any use of government vehicles not displaying proper licenses is prohibited. He said official ASG license plates are not to be removed from ASG vehicles, for any reason.

“These vehicles are not personal vehicles and any use in this manner is illegal and unethical,” Acting Governor Ipulasi. “The failure to comply will result in the impounding of the government vehicle at the agency’s expense in accordance with rules of the after-hour vehicle program.”

Acting Governor Ipulasi said the Road Marshal, Departments of Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and all appropriate officials will be actively enforcing this policy.

In regards to the tsunami warning as a result of the 8.1 earthquake with its epicenter in Tonga this past Wednesday, Acting Governor Ipulasi said report from the latest incident involving the tsunami alert indicate that our plans for such a contingency are in dire need of further development and fine tuning.

“The appropriate agencies are ordered to begin evaluation of our latest response efforts immediately. In order to ensure interagency cooperation, all agencies involved in emergency response must participate,” said Acting Governor Ipulasi.

Of special concern to the administration is the access to the roads in such an emergency, as well as the need to move the hospital to higher ground in a swift and responsible manner.

Acting Governor Ipulasi encouraged all directors to support and participate in the Trade Mission from the Department of Interior in the coming week.

“This trade mission is sponsored by DOI, ASG and the local private sector. It’s an opportunity for ASG to put its best foot forward and sell American Samoa as a locale for business ventures for interested companies and corporations,” said Acting Governor Ipulasi. “All participating agencies are instructed to take advantage and participation by all is greatly encouraged.”

Governor Togiola Tulafono will arrive this Sunday night after attending meetings of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and Section 936.

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 5, 2006)

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 8, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola celebrates National Nurses Week: “Strength, Commitment & Compassion”

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today honored American Samoa’s nurses as part of the National Nurses Week celebration.

In an opening ceremony at LBJ Chapel this morning, Governor Togiola, on behalf of the people of American Samoa, expressed deep and sincere gratitude to the nurses of the Territory for their major contribution to the health and well-being of American Samoa.

The following is the official text of Governor Togiola’s remarks to the nurse of American Samoa:

“I wish to salute all of you nurses across the Territory and offer my deepest and sincere thanks on behalf of our island community for your strength, commitment and compassion to your profession. I describe it that way because it embodies what it truly means to be a nurse today.

You need the strength to care for patients during difficult times. You need the commitment to remain caring and involved through a lifetime of dedication to your job. And you need the compassion to provide hands-on patient care performing the work of love and mercy.

It is very important to take time this week to thank all our nurses for what they do and to remind us all on just how vital the Territory’s nurses are to patients, their families and our island home, and the major contribution of all of our nurses to the health and well-being of American Samoa.

I have a proud admiration for you nurses. I am delighted to see our veteran nurses still in the workforce and lending a hand to the newer nurse that are making the same commitment. You are a special breed that is hard to find. I look at our young people and wonder why they shy away from your caring and loving profession, and then I concluded that it probably is because our young people realize and have accepted that the nursing profession is a difficult job and it is founded on love.

Thank you for performing your duty. A community duty of compassion and your love for your fellow man through the great work you do.

I am so thankful for you, our nurses, and I ask myself what it is that is written in Micah 6:8 “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” It is very clear what God requires of you, the nurses of American Samoa.

I am delighted to see our veteran nurses sit along side our younger and newer nurses. We have all gotten older and wiser. As senior nurses, you have grown with your job. I want you to know that your presence in your profession here in American Samoa can be compared to a totem pole and the markings that decorate it. The totem pole is found in many places in the Pacific and Polynesia and around the world in many cultures.

The markings are there on the totem pole only for remembering history and telling stories because these markings tell the unique history and stories of a people, of a culture, of traditions, and of a profession. And once you are aware of it, you realize they are not just markings. They are symbols. Symbols that share stories and teaches lessons and truths of a proud past. It's wonderful how these symbols on a totem pole tell stories of accomplishment.

To you our wonderful nurses of American Samoa, you are indeed a symbol of the wonderful stories of mercy and love and compassion. And for our island community, those symbols teach many lessons and tell wonderful stories about our history as a people and the health care that you happily provide day by day.

Thank you for performing your duty for your people and your country because it is your duty to God. I commend your strength, commitment and compassion. I thank all of your families for supporting you as you carry out your career in nursing.

I wish to say to the public, if you meet a nurse this week, give them a sei or an ula and say "I love you, Nurse!"

May God give you the strength to truly live a happy and fulfilled life. Thank you and God bless on your special week and always.

Soifua ma ia manuia."

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release / May 16, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces \$150,000 DOI technical assistance grant for DBAS

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono today announced that the Department of the Interior (DOI) – Office of Insular Affairs has approved a Technical Assistance Grant of \$150,000 for the Procurement of Audit Services to assist the Development of American Samoa (DBAS).

Governor Togiola expressed his appreciation for the much-needed funds that will assist DBAS produce audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005 for submission to US Federal Agencies and American Samoa Government.

“I wish to thank DOI and Director Nikolao Pula of the Office of Insular Affairs for these funds because it enables DBAS to seek new sources of funding from U.S. Federal Agencies and improve operational performance of the bank,” said Governor Togiola. “This award of funding is a great benefit to DBAS and the Territory and I also especially appreciate the funds because it will ensure that the positive and quality work that is being done at DBAS by President Utu Abe Malae and his staff will continue with this help to procure audit services.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 18, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola said Tsunami Exercise tests ASG joint emergency response capability

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono said Tuesday’s Tsunami Exercise conducted by the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office and emergency first responders was designed to challenge participants with a high consequence scenario in order to better assess the effectiveness of existing response plans.

“It is very important to be prepared for a massive earthquake and tsunami wave because it is a real situation, and the question is, when?” said Governor Togiola. “A successful response is determined by how our advance response actually is.”

The exercise scenario that was created involved a seismic event in Chile, South America that triggered a massive tsunami heading west in the South Pacific and to American Samoa.

Governor Togiola said the challenges of responding to catastrophic disasters tests the Territory’s capabilities of coordinating, planning and how united American Samoa’s joint response is managed.

“All emergency exercises assist us to improve our capacity to manage extreme events and test the effectiveness of our coordination in responding to any and all disruptions caused by the emergency,” said Governor Togiola. “Doing these exercises is a new thing for us and we fully expected that the exercise will show us lessons that we are definitely going to have to correct, improve and exercise again in order to perfect a sustainable plan for these kinds of emergencies. I am sure today’s exercise will yield those lessons and there will be a period of reporting, analysis and re-writing of the plan.

Governor Togiola said he hopes that the Territory will be able to work these things out before we have to actually do it in a real emergency.

“I hope it never happens to us, but it does not mean that we do not have to practice. We must,” said Governor Togiola.

“For me and my family, it was determined that Maugaoalii was above the 100 foot mark, so we went up there. We felt safe enough. I had lived through a tsunami before in the 1960s when I was living in Vatia with my parents. I know what it looks like and understand what it can do. Although it was nowhere devastating like the Indonesia waves, they were still very threatening when the water comes over the shoreline and into the Samoan fales in those days,” added Governor Togiola.

“I truly hope our people will take these exercises seriously and learn where they should go and how to get there quickly and safely when a warning is announced. It’s very important that we take the exercises seriously. It’s not only important for preparing for this kind of emergency, but also for other natural and man-made disasters that will require evacuation,” concluded Governor Togiola.

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 22, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono discusses UN decolonization Committee Pacific Seminar and shipping and trade possibilities with Tokelau

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today said the American Samoa Government awaits information from the United Nations Decolonization Committee Pacific Seminar that is to convene this week in Dili, Timor-Leste, formerly East Timor, Indonesia.

The UN Decolonization Committee, formally known as the “Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,” holds an annual seminar to assess the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories and “their constitutional evolution towards self government and self-determination.”

Governor Togiola said he was not sure if the meeting this week was going through or not because he had been waiting for a final agenda, as there were some concerns that needed to be ironed out with the Timor government, before it would proceed, according to the notice sent to him about the Pacific Regional Seminar in Dili, Timor-Leste, as it is called now.

“There were concerns earlier by the Committee in regards to reduced resources and arrangements being reassessed due to budgetary constraints,” said Governor Togiola. “I was very interested in reviewing the progress in how the Committee plan was being implemented and offer our input.”

On another matter, Governor Togiola also talked about shipping and trade links between Tokelau and American Samoa.

“Trade is very much on our minds and something to be discussed between American Samoa and Tokelau,” said Governor Togiola. “We have assets that can support such a venture, and could very well inspire the some serious trade. I do believe there are mutual benefits we can realize from trading with the Tokelau government. Not only that, many of our own residents have roots in the Tokelau islands, and this can give them an opportunity once again to visit the islands, or even become part of the trading themselves.”

Governor Togiola said ASG is going to continue discussions regarding shipping and trade with Tokelau.

“We will definitely have discussions, but first I hope to be able to travel to Swains island to review the possibility of a landing strip there and a wharf. If at all possible, I might then continue on to the Tokelau Islands to continue these discussions and take a look at their infrastructure so I can have a better grasp of the situation in order to formulate my own thoughts about these matters. I hope it will be some time soon and before hurricane season.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 22, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola says U.S. House Interior Committee expects AS congressman to offer briefing on both sides of Utulei Beach Park issue

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today issued a statement in regards to the language of the recent U.S. House Interior Committee report urging greater accountability of ASG funds awarded to ASG, which includes discouraging the commercial development of Utulei Beach, and the Committee position “because this site has such high recreational and natural values, and it has enjoyed funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program which indicates that this park land should be dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity.”

The following is the official statement of Governor Togiola Tulafono:

“The report did, indeed, contain language that was negative towards the McDonald’s use of Utulei Beach. The staff of this committee was given these negative comments by our Congressman as a complete summary of the issues involved.

The reasons for any alternate opinions were never offered to them by our Delegate to Congress. However, the committee staff, expect the Congressional representative of the Territory to brief them on both sides of any issue. But our Delegate Eni only disclosed the views he agreed with, giving the committee the impression that there were no other judgments supporting the proposed project.

This lack of professionalism in failing to see to it that Congressional committees are briefed on both sides of any issue, indicates that we have a Delegate that has been in Congress too long now, and has lost respect for his job, and has become a law unto himself, feeling free to manipulate as if his position in Congress is all about his own personal views.

A Congressman has every right to express his own opinion, but only after he has fairly presented the issues on both sides of any proposal to the Committees responsible for our well being. The Committees depend on this even handed information. Our Congressman does not do this anymore. Familiarity has bred contempt for his responsibilities. He makes it clear, with every passing month, that it is time for him to retire. He has been in Congress for so many decades now, it is apparent that he feels his job is all about himself, and his thoughts and his needs, and his own benefits. Our people, with all our varied and often robust and conflicting ideas, are not being served by a professional anymore. Eni should think of retiring, and hopefully soon.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 23, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola says UN Pacific Regional Seminar in Timor-Leste has been postponed to August

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that he received word yesterday of the postponement of the United Nations Pacific Decolonization Seminar in Dili, Timor-Leste, formerly East Timor, Indonesia.

The message sent on behalf of Ambassador Julian R. Hunte (St. Lucia), Chairman of the Committee of 24, to all participants, and received by the Office of the Governor, reads:

“Dear Seminar Participant:

The purpose of this communication is to advise you of the delay in convening the Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonisation, originally scheduled for 23rd to 25th May 2006 in Timor Leste.

The governments of the Special Committee on Decolonisation were fully prepared to travel to the session as originally planned, having received the assurances from the Government of Timor-Leste that preparations were in place for the session.

Notwithstanding these assurances, it was recommended by the United Nations Secretariat that the seminar be delayed pending a briefing by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in early June on the situation in the host country.

After deliberations, the Bureau of the Special Committee reluctantly agreed to defer the convening of the session for a date certain in August. The venue will remain Timor Leste.

The new dates for the seminar will be transmitted to you as soon as we have completed our discussions with the host government on the most suitable time in August.

Sergei Cherniavsky
Secretary
Special Committee of 24”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TOGIOLA T. A.
TULAFONO
GOVERNOR

Pago Pago, American Samoa
96799

IPULASI AITOFELE SUNIA
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

19 May 2006

Serial #: 67 6

Mark B. Dunkerley, President and CEO
Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.
P.O. Box 30008
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820-0008

Dear Mr. Dunkerley:

Earlier this year, we sent you a letter directly requesting cost justification for the excessive fares and discriminatory fees and penalties that have come to be imposed on our people under your leadership at Hawaiian Airlines. Hawaiian is operating a de facto monopoly air service between this U.S. Territory and its nearest U.S. access point Honolulu, Hawaii. This route has been deemed an essential air service for the people of this U.S. Territory, by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Air service is the only form of transportation possible for the people of this Territory to the mainland of the United States to which it belongs. This air service has to go through Hawaii, and unfortunately for our people, they are currently confined to using Hawaiian Airlines.

Your lengthy response of February 17, 2006 clearly exhausts the possibilities you have for using costs as your justification for Hawaiian's air fares being 100% higher from Honolulu to Pago Pago, than from Honolulu to West Coast cities of equal distance.

We looked carefully at the five explanations you offered. The obvious lack of substance in each was telling. Your letter accomplished our purpose in eliciting from you in writing what substantiation there might be, if any, for these fares being excessively more than you charge from Honolulu to West Coast cities.

The details needed to respond, have resulted in a lengthy rendition. Because this is in response to your letter, we have kept the letter format. The contents here will be reissued in a formal report to the concerned offices at the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Interior, and the Civil Rights Division and Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice.

. Reviewing in detail the contents of your letter of February 17, 2006, my staff and their industry advisers have confirmed to me that a statement by statement analysis of your five proffered

explanations shows that you have, in fact, no economic costs compelling these higher fares than those charged for your Honolulu- West Coast sectors.

In your failing to provide rational support for these fares, upon being given a formal opportunity to do so, the only conclusion available is these high fares imposed under your leadership are opportunistic and discriminatory. They have no basis other than being a straight forward expression of economic aggression against the people of this small U.S. Territory, made possible by our lacking sufficient size to support a consistently competing air service. We see this combined with an ethnic attitude that sees no need for respect and restraint.

Let me report to you the evaluation of your five explanations, as developed by staff and their airline industry advisors:

- 1) To justify the difference between Los Angeles and Pago Pago destination fares from Honolulu, you write: "our Pago Pago route has the lowest seat occupancy in our system." This is obviously true and obviously meaningless. As is well known to you, an entire industry of airline employees, travel agents, airline crews and endless service personnel on nominal or inconsequential fares, are filling your empty seats between the major population centers on the West Coast and a major tourist destination of Hawaii. Your use of "seat occupancy" as a criteria for revenue route comparison occasioned a sad reflection on what we are dealing with at Hawaiian Airlines.

On an analysis of revenue per aircraft mile, the Pago sector generates more net revenue per aircraft mile than any route you have going to the West Coast. Everyone in the industry who has looked at this, has so advised. Your statement that "Pago Pago is the most costly long haul route we fly" does not stand up to scrutiny, and is of the same misleading caliber as the disingenuous act of offering "seat occupancy" as a measure of revenue route comparison.

To help you understand the value to Hawaiian Airlines of the Pago/Honolulu route, our industry advisers suggest that you fully analyze the scenario of your complete withdrawal from this route.

As you contemplate your withdrawal, add up the total revenue lost to Hawaiian Airlines from passengers and cargo, from all your Pago route surcharge fees, excess baggage fees, no show fees and blanket refund refusals. Include all the lost revenue on your West Coast flights of passengers and cargo that are thru ticketed from or to Pago, variously estimated at 25% or more of the Pago boardings. This will be lost as there will be no reason to choose Hawaiian on these joining flights when you no longer serve our islands.

Then list the actual expenditures that you will cease to have, once you are removed from this route. Will you return an aircraft to your Lessors? Doubtful. You fly at night to Samoa, at a time when more than 80% of the aircraft you otherwise need, are idle.

Will you furlough people in your administrative office" in your reservations section, in your Honolulu Airport operations, in your marketing department? You do not spend money in marketing Pago, as you do for other destinations. Add up the real out of pocket operating expenses on the Pago route, ground and flight, which you will actually eliminate and save on leaving this route. Apart from actual operations related costs, there would be no reduction in expenses of any consequence to Hawaiian upon its ceasing air service to American Samoa. You will then find that our Pago/Honolulu route generates more net cash per aircraft mile flown, than on any Honolulu/West Coast route which Hawaiian operates.

Evaluating the real net cash loss to Hawaiian as a consequence of your withdrawal from the Honolulu/Pago route will demonstrate how, in common parlance, this route is a "cash cow" for Hawaiian, notwithstanding all your bluster and posturing to the contrary.

- 2) To justify the difference between LAX and PPG destination fares ex HNL, you continually attempt to focus on the costs incurred by Hawaiian Airlines in the incidents of June 13, 2003 and June 23, 2003, whereby your aircraft suffered on each date FOD damage in both engines on landing at Pago Pago Airport. You have publicized these damages as costing "millions of dollars" in your words, and you put the blame on both incidents on our airport condition, and this is, in your view, entitles you to declare the operating costs being so high on the Pago Pago route that you are justified in doubling the fares to Pago, over the identical route distance to Los Angeles.

We have had these incidents subsequently investigated, and reviewed by Boeing Company experts, and experienced pilots of the particular Boeing 767 aircraft that incurred this damage. Their conclusion is that this damage was caused by your operating pilots failing to keep the aircraft engines out of high reverse thrust at slow forward speeds, i.e. below 45 knots.

On both dates both engines suffered FOD damage. One Boeing Vice President, an expert on FOD damage, said that the chances were astronomical that both engines on both dates would happen to ingest FOD material. And the dynamic that caused this damage would have nothing to do with a random encounter with loose ground materials. They pointed to an operational mishandling of the aircraft as the only realistic cause.

Below approximately 45 knots aircraft speed, engines in reverse create a forward high pressure air sweep of areas beyond runway side limits causing a scrubbing of off runway areas inducing FOD damage. We were told, and advised that this is the only reasonable cause for FOD occurring simultaneously in both engines as happened on both occasions ten days apart. Boeing advises in its Flight Crew Training Manual that "During Taxi the use of thrust above reverse idle is not recommended due to the possibility of foreign object damage and engine surge." (Boeing references taxi speed as the speeds from those used to exit high speed taxi ways down to walking and less.) So if the crew maintained high amounts of reverse thrust during a slowing forward speed, they easily could have induced

the FOD damage to engine turbine blades by ingesting loose materials.

The Boeing 767 Flight Crew Training manual further states: "Maintain reverse thrust as required, up to maximum until the airspeed approaches 60 knots. At this point start reducing the reverse thrust so that the reverse thrust levers are moving down at a rate commensurate with the deceleration rate of the airplane. The thrust levers should be positioned to reverse **Idle** by taxi speed, then to full down after the engines have decelerated to idle."

Further indicating the possible use of high reverse thrust at speeds below 60 knots in these incidents, we have eye witnesses on both occasions telling us that both flights landed long down the 12,000 ft. runway, particularly the flight of June 23rd. Experienced pilots know this end of the runway faces an ocean area that is black at night New pilots landing long need experience with this. You may find it of interest in reviewing the names and experience of your crew list for these flights. It is pointless to seek self-serving confirmations from the operating personnel on these flights, there being no other observers.

Accordingly, this unbiased examination points to pilot error and Hawaiian's possible deficiency in pilot training. It explains how it was possible for both engines to have sustained FOD damage at the same time. This duality of damage tells us what was the most likely cause.

We have not published this later investigation in response to your media effort at the time to publicly blame American Samoa for these incidents. We will do so, however, if you ever bring this up again, as a justification for your high cost scenario for the Pago route and your exorbitant air fares. We will explain that the unbiased view of experts with no agenda as you have exhibited, view these incidents as a problem with Hawaiian's operation, and not of American Samoa's airport facility. .

In concluding analysis, the "millions of dollars" in damage you claim Hawaiian suffered in these incidents was self-inflicted by your flight operations exceeding recommended limits on use of reverse thrust in the final phase of a landing run. This is the assessment of experienced Boeing 767 operators and FOD experts. Your failure to search for and have these obvious assessments made, and to seek operations training improvements on these issues, does not speak well for Hawaiian's ability for critical self evaluation under your leadership. .

The fact that you felt free in your letter to declare our airport at Pago Pago to be "dilapidated" is not untypical of your mean spirited approach to our community. You copied this letter to everyone here and in Washington, with this statement that can best be described cleanly and simply as "stupid". Before feeling free to volunteer a gratuitous statement meant clearly to demean, a more responsible executive would have avoided such a characterization, until he had the facts well in hand and it was useful to express. To

our knowledge you have never visited our airport. The main operating areas of the airport have all been refurbished or newly built in the last 5 years. The operating area where the Hawaiian aircraft suffered FOD damage in 2003, was a just newly built runway extension less than four years before these two incidents. Avail yourself of an opportunity to speak to the FAA Airports Division Chief, as to whether your description of "dilapidated" fairly describes their work at our airport. Further, our new \$10 million Fire-Rescue Facility at Pago Pago International Airport was described at a recent conference of a national Airport Management Group, as the envy of Los Angeles, O'Hare and Atlanta Airports. The fact that Hawaiian Airlines continues to allow itself to have a CEO capable of this level of critical judgment is not a good sign for its own future, nor for its future with this community.

You make an effort to comment in your letter regarding Hawaiian's supposed higher maintenance costs in Pago Pago due to the difficulty of obtaining a replacement engine should you need one at Pago Pago Airport. Hawaiian's leadership for the almost 20 years prior to your arrival, have dealt with this. They successfully planned in advance for this rare occurrence. They never used this as an excuse to raise airfares.

However, under your leadership a number of years ago, there was an unnecessarily high cost engine replacement in Pago Pago. The details are instructive. Your own mechanics, we were told at the time, complained that this engine had issues before it was dispatched on an aircraft to Pago, and apparently better maintenance attention by management would have substituted this aircraft. Then; after the engine failed on arriving in 'Pago, you had no plans in place to obtain a replacement. Scrambling, you had to charter a distant high cost cargo aircraft to bring an engine down to PPG.

Your letter refers to the high cost of having an aircraft delayed and out of service due to an engine failure. Yet a considerable delay was incurred on this incident by your own failure to adequately prepare for this problem in advance, neglecting to have a pre-designated engine transporting facility, and then failing to have pre-arrangements to have funds in place for the urgently chartered aircraft. It was then explained to us that this chartered aircraft had to refuse service and delay its departure for days until you finally managed to make this payment.

Considering your record, to this day we do not believe that you have any written directive in place to prevent aircraft with possible maintenance issues from being deployed to American Samoa, or that you have learned from your experience and have in place an efficient plan to obtain a replacement engine, even though it has been over 20 years a rare occurrence. Today, you are operating to the higher maintenance standards of an ETOPS two engine over water operation. We should assume that there would be fewer such engine failures with these stricter operating and dispatch standards.

Hence, your discussion of the high cost of maintenance at Pago Pago are issues having more to do with Hawaiian operation dispatch and planning failures than with the location

of our airport. Were your points here to be blindly granted, you still fail, as you always have, to put precise; testable numbers on the table to determine to an exact extent how these costs would raise the fares per passenger. On this you are, of course, silent

- 3) As justification for the more than twice the airfares on charged on your PPG/HNL sector than on the same distance routes from Honolulu to the West Coast, you explain that "the price of fuel is higher in Pago Pago than anywhere else we fly."

To test the credibility of this statement, found lacking in your previous explanations attempting to justify the excessive PPG/HNL airfares, here, again we reviewed the facts.

The fuel you purchase at our Pago Pago airport has averaged during the past months of approximately 9000 gallons per departure at \$2.24 per gallon. While you decline to disclose your cost of fuel at your other points of departure, we are advised that best case, it is in the \$2.10. range per gallon at Los Angeles, and now probably higher. Los Angeles is a focus of your fare discrimination since it is an identical distance to the HNUPPG route.

The difference of a lower 14 cents per gallon at LAX means an added cost to Hawaiian of \$1260. per round trip in purchasing 9000 gallons of fuel at PPG instead of at LAX. Using a below average revenue load of 200 passengers, this is a higher fuel cost of only \$6.30 per passenger flying round trip from Pago Pago to Honolulu, compared to the round trip fuel cost between Los Angeles and Honolulu. So we have a \$6 dollar explanation for the more than \$1000. round trip PPG/HNL/PPG airfares, the only airfares that our people can conveniently access, that exceed more than twice what you charge for your Honolulu/Los Angeles sectors of an identical distance. The explanation fails.

- 4) Similarly, as justification for the more than twice the airfares on these identical routes, you offer the explanation that "There are a range of fees and charges levied in Pago Pago that are above what we pay elsewhere." You cite landing fees "that are roughly double the rate at other airports."

Again testing the credibility of this statement, the facts show the opposite to be true in real cash cost. There is a landing fee at Pago Pago that has not changed in ten years or more. It is about \$7.00 per passenger based on a 200 passenger load which is low. At HNL and LAX the landing fees can be less but only as a condition of your paying out substantial monetary contributions to these airports' infrastructure as a signatory carrier. Accordingly, the PPG landing fees are considerably less in actual cash costs than what Hawaiian pays out in totality for its use of the Honolulu or Los Angeles Airports each year.

We have fees for aircraft operations at night that pays overtime for Custom, Immigration, and Agriculture employees after 4 pm. These fees are of Hawaiian's choosing to incur. Hawaiian will not give American Samoa daytime flights like they offer to their West Coast cities. Hawaiian will only provide Pago Pago service at night when all their aircraft have finished their West Coast runs. Then American Samoa, which is at the bottom of the

list of Hawaiian's service priorities, is given an aircraft which otherwise would have remained grounded and unused during the night at Honolulu Airport.

The price of this advantage to Hawaiian is that they must pay night overtime costs at Pago Pago Airport to government service employees after 4 pm. This is a small price to pay for the great advantage of being able to serve a revenue producing route with an aircraft at a time that it would otherwise have no utilization.

Custom overtime fees at PPG of \$7.50 per hour per employee could total \$330. Agriculture Inspector fees at \$15.00 per hour per employee could also total \$325. Immigration Inspector fees at various overtime rates could also total \$320. These charges vary but would be around \$1000. per transit, or roughly a total expense to Hawaiian of \$5.00 per arriving passenger based on a 200 passenger deplanement.

Using these small airport fees as a reason for your excessive fares at PPG, lacks the same candor and truthfulness, as your prior attempts at an explanation. In any event, these overtime fees are avoidable if you would give us the same daylight service that you give your West Coast destinations.

- 5) For your final justification for the more than twice the airfares on the PPG/HNL airfare over the identical route of LAX/HNL, you cite the cost you endure in providing medical screening services for patients to be emplaned from our local hospital. This screening service entails a submission by our hospital of a patients condition to MEDLINK and then receiving in return a single page noting approval for air travel or not. This precautionary exercise over and above our own Hospitals certification by the attending physician, is an appropriate device to protect Hawaiian Airlines in the event an incident or a lawsuit arises.

This is a minor expense relative to the revenue you generate flying people in medical need. It belongs in the category of an accepted cost of doing business. This fitness certificate enables you to obtain this additional source of revenue, which is not insignificant.

You note you are doing us a special favor, contributing to the community by paying this medical screening expense, and you make your point by stating that you do not pay for this screening at any other destinations that Hawaiian serves; and we, therefore should be grateful. We are always grateful when an air carrier performs its expected service.

However, it is clueless for you not to show any understanding that you do not have to pay for this medical screening service elsewhere, because it is simply not needed elsewhere. All your other destinations have ready access by road to different hospitals that patients may need to enter. Our community has just one hospital. Air service is required to access others. This is a unique revenue opportunity that our community provides for an air

carrier. You get it by paying a small fee to have your own guarantee of a patient's capability of being transported, so that you can obtain this revenue without risk.

That you would cite this as a reason supporting the doubling of airfares for our people from Pago Pago to Honolulu, is shameless audacity, chutzpah of a kind that this office seldom encounters.

Finally, you end your letter speaking generally of your record in helping the community. This is normal for any air carrier, and what is done should be, and is appreciated. However, Hawaiian's record of help to our community has never been substantial. Prior carriers in our service, from Pan American, American, Continental, SPIA, Arrow, etc. all have provided free transportation for the Doctors and Nurses from the Honolulu Shriners Hospital for crippled children, to come out to the islands and collect kids for treatment in Honolulu. Not so Hawaiian.

This is the end of any effort to reason with you. Our people have suffered enough economic abuse and discrimination under your leadership at Hawaiian. We will tolerate no more.

Since you have been President of Hawaiian Airlines, we, as a people, have been discriminated against by Hawaiian Airlines at Pago Pago with imposition of extraordinary higher fees than you charge at other American points, involving not only airfares but also for reservation changes, no show fees, excess baggage fees, and now your new and unconscionable policy of no refunds whatsoever on all fares paid at Pago Pago.

These are all cash harvesting moves made possible by your monopoly position at Pago Pago, that are not available to you in the competitive environment of Los Angeles. No restraint is evident here that would normally come with a concern for showing decency and respect towards the people of American Samoa. Your technical excuse is that our people are international passengers who can, therefore, be treated differently at will. This is false on its face. . Your right to fly to Pago is based on a U.S. DOT domestic license, the same as Los Angeles. The fact that we go thru Immigration and Customs at Honolulu and Pago Pago does not make us international passengers for your purposes. This is only an inter agency arrangement between departments of the same U.S. Government. Hawaiian Airlines calling us international passengers, and then using this label to charge us higher fees than our fellow citizens, is outright discrimination, made easily apparent when the label is removed.

This discrimination is actionable. We will be asking the Civil Rights Division and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice to take action to file suit against Hawaiian in its abuse of its monopoly position to create discriminatory fares, fees, penalties and no refund policies, and to prosecute the airline to the full limits of the law.

Further, I have been seeking advice with respect to filing a class action suit against Hawaiian to recover all the discriminatory fees and penalties, it has ever charged to anyone of our

American Samoan passengers differing from the lesser fees charged its other passengers at Los Angeles. We are including your new no refund policy on all fares charged on this route. This government will support such a class action as a lead plaintiff, seeking reparation and retribution for Hawaiian's offensive aggression against our population. This will be a large number.

We will show how the discriminatory nature of your airfares, fees and charges is characterized and confirmed by other acts of ethnic discrimination directed under your leadership. We have first hand reports of ethnic discrimination on board your flights to and from Pago. Inflight personnel announce that Samoa passengers may not use their personally owned headsets for movies without paying a \$5.00 fee. The Stewardess when questioned admitted that this restriction is only on the Pago flights. Similarly when a local businessman asked to rent a small screen player that Hawaiian provides on its other flights for a \$10 fee, he was told by your inflight personnel that Hawaiian does not allow these sets to be rented by passengers on its Pago flights. His money was refused.

It is well known and constantly remarked, how palpably different are the inflight service .attitude and the check-in counter attitude at Honolulu Airport. Hawaiian Airlines' personnel lack the welcoming attitude and willingness to provide personal attention that are given to customers on your other routes. The stories are legend. The tone and content of your letter of February 17, 2006, reflect this same dismissive attitude, indicating that there is a Serious need for reform and re-education that begins at the top.

At this point, my responsibility as Governor is to draw the line. Our people have had enough abuse from Hawaiian Airlines under your leadership. We see little prospect for voluntary improvement as long as you remain in the CEO position.

I am going to set forth requirements that must be met I am acting on behalf of the United States Government, as their administrator caring for its responsibility for the people of these islands, this U.S. possession. When I need extraordinary help, the highest levels of the United States Government will step in to solve serious problems. This is such a problem.

The problem is whether or not you will comply with the following remedies within the next 45 days from the date of this letter:

- 1) Reduce all round trip fares on the Pago Pago/Honolulu route to \$500.USD or less; and cancel your unconscionable no refund policy imposed on all fares on this route.
- 2) Eliminate the International category for fees, charges and penalties which you have imposed on passenger and cargo shippers on the Pago Pago/Honolulu route and bring all these fees, charges and penalties exactly in line with what you charge other American points of service, such as Los Angeles/Honolulu passengers and cargo shippers. .

Mark B. Dunkerley, President & CEO, Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.

~ 19 May 2006

Page 10 of 10

- 3) Put all your Honolulu based personnel that deal with passengers on the Pago Pago/ Honolulu route through at least a one day course on how to behave with courtesy, competence and caring towards American Samoan passengers, instructing them to eliminate restrictions on this route that are not equally in place on Hawaiian's other routes.

If this is not done, then I shall proceed to have an interagency group formed with the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Interior, and Civil Rights Division and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, to deal with this problem, to enforce the needed remedies.

Your thoughtless misjudgments in creating this hurtful discrimination to our people will become, as it should be, a matter of more wide spread public concern. Upon your refusal to respond, there will be a strong and pointed media campaign to inform the national public of the discrimination our people have suffered under your leadership as President of Hawaiian Airlines.

We recognize that you have had no prior experience working for a U.S. airline before you were made President of Hawaiian in 2002. You should be made aware that the United States Government will not stand by and let Hawaiian Airlines cut down the people of one of its Territories, cut them off at the knees economically, while its CEO is arrogantly posturing that he is carrying the white man's burden in providing an air service that is predatory and impoverishing our people.

Sincerely,

cc: Hon. Gale Norton, Secretary, US Department of the Interior
Hon. Faoa I.A. Sunia, Lt. Governor of American Samoa
Hon. Lolo M. Moliga, President of the Senate, Legislature of American Samoa
Hon. Matagi R. McMoore, Speaker of the House, Legislature of American Samoa
Hon. Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, American Samoa
Delegate to US Congress

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – May 24, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola takes critical look at Hawaiian Air justification of high cost air service to the Territory

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today released a copy of his letter to Hawaiian Air CEO-President Mark Dunkerley where he requests justification of the Honolulu-based carrier's high cost of providing air service to American Samoa.

Copies of Governor Togiola's letter were also sent to all members of the Hawaiian Airlines Board of Directors.

Attachment is entire ten-page letter that is dated May 19, 2006.

(SEE ATTACHMENT)

*****END*****

Governor Togiola Tulafono
Memorial Day Address
May 29, 2006
Satala Cemetery

I read something recently that really caused me concern. I read that the “memorial” in Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us who are beneficiaries of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Often we do not observe the day as it should be, a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice. It’s sad but true. I think too many people just take this day for granted and it’s just a holiday for them.

In Samoa, we have extended the significance of this day to remember our own non-military relatives by decorating their graves and placing beautiful flowers on them. I am glad, and I encourage this extended tradition we have developed in remembrance of Memorial Day, as long as we do not forget the real reason and the necessity to maintain the connection of this significant day to its high honor.

NEED TO RECONNECT

In an Army statement I read recently, it states: “Memorial Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives for the ideals we cherish.”

Two things to me stand out in that statement:

(1) We cannot fully appreciate the deep meaning of this remembrance without understanding and appreciating our history with it.

(2) That it is an appropriate honor that we do not squander the gifts. And the only way we can honor that sacrifice, is to continue to embrace and live by the “core values” that has sustained this great nation.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Army history provides that: “More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this nation fought since the first colonial soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each person who died during those conflicts was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the nation.”

And we know and understand that only too well right here in American Samoa. Many of our own families have lost a father, mother, husband, son, daughter, sister or brother in one of those wars and conflicts, as well as the conflicts of present days.

MEMORIAL DAY YESTERDAY AND TODAY

It is said that: “The observance of this day was born of compassion and empathy in 1863.” It all started with grieving mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and other loved ones that were cleaning their confederate soldiers’ graves, when they noticed nearby the union soldiers’ graves, were dusty, overgrown with weeds. The statement continued “Grieving for their own fallen soldiers, the confederate women understood that the dead union soldiers buried nearby were the cherished loved ones of families and communities far away. They cleared the tangled brush and mud from those graves as well as their own soldiers’ graves and laid flowers on them too.”

“Soon the tradition of a ‘Decoration Day’ for the graves of fallen soldiers spread. On May 5, 1866, when the Civil War was over, Henry Welles of Waterloo, New York, closed his drugstore and suggested that all other shops in town also close up for a day to honor all soldiers killed in the Civil War, union and confederate alike. It was a gesture of healing and reconciliation in a land ripped apart by conflict.”

Sixteen years later, in 1882, the nation observed its first official Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember and honor the sacrifice of those who died in all our nation’s wars.

As I understand it in the past on Memorial Day, stores closed and communities gathered for parades and other celebrations with a patriotic theme. So few pay attention to the importance of this day anymore, even in our own Territory.

Fortunately, in some places, some ceremonies do continue, as we are doing here today.

with their history. For a growing percentage of the

And we do this every year in order to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day. We come together to pay tribute and honor our fallen heroes, and the ideals and values they stood for and died defending.

American people, Memorial Day has come to mean simply a three-day weekend or a major shopping day. Families might still gather for picnics, but for many of them, the patriotic core - the spirit of remembrance - is absent."

"We are living in a time of economic prosperity, when threats are not well understood. Many young people have no personal connection to the military, and are not inclined to join the military." Gladly for us in American Samoa, we do not share this growing apathy and ignorance that the Army claims to be happening in our nation. We continue to be represented well in our armed services. But you know with that high number of representation, the price has been the highest per capita loss of life in present conflicts around the world. It behooves each and every one of us therefore, to do all that is necessary to keep the connection alive and active.

What can you do, as one individual, or as a community?

[We can make a Difference on Memorial Day]

As Margaret Mead once said so well, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

First of all, I want you to understand that we are doing an important duty today, making a difference, by participating in this event today. We are saying to our people and to the world that we are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen.

Many good people are doing things also that makes a difference in reconnecting our nation to its history and to the sacrifice of our men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. People like:

1. Carmella LaSpada - who inspired the observance of a minute of silence on Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m.
2. Each year since 1996, the "No Greater Love Foundation" has worked to expand the campaign further, by trying to assure that every American hears an announcement on Memorial Day at 3 p.m., calling for a moment of silence. One minute out of the year to remember those who made the greatest possible sacrifice.

We should all remember to observe this moment of silence on Memorial Day. If you cannot do anything else to remember the memories of our fallen heroes, a one minute of silent remembrance out of the year will be a great tribute.

There are others who have made a difference taking action on a smaller scale, in their school, in their community, and one-on-one.

The Internet has also created the opportunity for a different kind of memorial ceremony. It has been reported that CIA number of dedicated individuals have spent their time creating and maintaining Memorial Day and other veteran-related web sites on the Internet. These sites are available year-round, 24-hours-a-day, for individuals to learn more about our military history and individual veterans. Many of the sites link to other sites and include photos, individual memories, poems, prayers and music. These sites allow more personal reflection. They make information and remembrance internationally available, even to the homebound. "

We can all make a difference with our individual acts. And it is important that we act to help re-connect the American people to the American soldier, marine, sailor, airman and coast guardsman, and the values they hold dear and defend.

[Service Values]

And I believe that as we reflect on the memories of those who have given their lives to protect and preserve the ideals of democracy that we enjoy, it is important to understand these things:

1. What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country?
2. What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so?

liThe answer is values",

liThe proud legacy of our armed services - and our country - is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage."

These values have kept our nation strong, and the greatest honor we can give our fallen heroes is to continue to embrace them and live by them always.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. And we can only pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did, and what they stood for.

To conclude today, I invite you to listen to these words by Charles M. Province about how it is we gain the freedom we enjoy:

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us Freedom of the Press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us Freedom of Speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us
the Freedom to demonstrate. It is the Soldier, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial;
And it is the Soldier--who salutes the flag, Who serves the
flag, and
Whose coffin is draped by the flag
Who allows the protester to bum the flag."

Please' oin me in a moment of silence as we all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. and their families left behind.

Let us continue to make a difference with our words and actions. Let us never forget our heroes who have made it possible for us to enjoy this freedom today.

Let us also remember to pray for all our men and women in armed forces and other protective services around the world, who are continuing to stand guard to protect our liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Thank you for participating in this event, and for your participation from home.

Soifua.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - May 29, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola pays tribute to fallen heroes in Memorial Day ceremony at Satala Cemetery

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono on Monday, Memorial Day, honored the Territory and the nation’s fallen heroes at the annual ceremony and tribute to all those that sacrificed their lives in all of the nation’s wars.

The following is the official text of the Memorial Day Address that was delivered by Governor Togiola Tulafono at Satala Cemetery:

Governor Togiola Tulafono
Memorial Day Address
May 29, 2006
Satala Cemetery

I read something recently that really caused me concern. I read that the “memorial” in Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us who are beneficiaries of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Often we do not observe the day as it should be, a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice. It’s sad but true. I think too many people just take this day for granted and it’s just a holiday for them.

In Samoa, we have extended the significance of this day to remember our own non-military relatives by decorating their graves and placing beautiful flowers on them. I am glad, and I encourage this extended tradition we have developed in remembrance of Memorial Day, as long as we do not forget the real reason and the necessity to maintain the connection of this significant day to its high honor.

NEED TO RECONNECT

In an Army statement I read recently, it states: “Memorial Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives for the ideals we cherish.”

Two things to me stand out in that statement:

- (1) We cannot fully appreciate the deep meaning of this remembrance without understanding and appreciating our history with it.
- (2) That it is an appropriate honor that we do not squander the gifts. And the only way we can honor that sacrifice, is to continue to embrace and live by the “core values” that has sustained this great nation.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Army history provides that: “More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this nation fought since the first colonial soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each person who died during those conflicts was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the nation.”

And we know and understand that only too well right here in American Samoa. Many of our own families have lost a father, mother, husband, son, daughter, sister or brother in one of those wars and conflicts, as well as the conflicts of present days.

MEMORIAL DAY YESTERDAY AND TODAY

It is said that: “The observance of this day was born of compassion and empathy in 1863.” It all started with grieving mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and other loved ones that were cleaning their confederate soldiers’ graves, when they noticed nearby the union soldiers’ graves, were dusty, overgrown with weeds. The statement continued “Grieving for their own fallen soldiers, the confederate women understood that the dead union soldiers buried nearby were the cherished loved ones of families and communities far away. They cleared the tangled brush and mud from those graves as well as their own soldiers’ graves and laid flowers on them too.”

“Soon the tradition of a ‘Decoration Day’ for the graves of fallen soldiers spread. On May 5, 1866, when the Civil War was over, Henry Welles of Waterloo, New York, closed his drugstore and suggested that all other shops in town also close up for a day to honor all soldiers killed in the Civil War, union and confederate alike. It was a gesture of healing and reconciliation in a land ripped apart by conflict.”

Sixteen years later, in 1882, the nation observed its first official Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember and honor the sacrifice of those who died in all our nation’s wars.

As I understand it in the past on Memorial Day, stores closed and communities gathered for parades and other celebrations with a patriotic theme. So few pay attention to the importance of this day anymore, even in our own Territory.

Fortunately, in some places, some ceremonies do continue, as we are doing here today. And we do this every year in order to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day. We come together to pay tribute and honor our fallen heroes, and the ideals and values they stood for and died defending.

Sadly, the Army statement that I read continues: "...many Americans have lost this connection with their history. For a growing percentage of the American people, Memorial Day has come to mean simply a three-day weekend or a major shopping day. Families might still gather for picnics, but for many of them, the patriotic core –the spirit of remembrance– is absent."

"We are living in a time of economic prosperity, when threats are not well understood. Many young people have no personal connection to the military, and are not inclined to join the military." Gladly for us in American Samoa, we do not share this growing apathy and ignorance that the Army claims to be happening in our nation. We continue to be represented well in our armed services. But you know with that high number of representation, the price has been the highest per capita loss of life in present conflicts around the world. It behooves each and every one of us, therefore, to do all that is necessary to keep the connection alive and active.

What can you do, as one individual, or as a community?

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As Margaret Mead once said so well, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

First of all, I want you to understand that we are doing an important duty today, making a difference, by participating in this event today. We are saying to our people and to the world that we are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen.

Many good people are also doing things that make a difference in reconnecting our nation to its history and to the sacrifice of our men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. People like:

1. Carmella La Spada - who inspired the observance of a minute of silence on Memorial Day at 3 pm.
2. Each year since 1996, the "No Greater Love Foundation" has worked to expand the campaign further, by trying to assure that every American hears an announcement on Memorial Day at 3 pm., calling for a moment of silence. One minute out of the year to remember those who made the greatest possible sacrifice.

We should all remember to observe this moment of silence on Memorial Day. If you cannot do anything else to remember the memories of our fallen heroes, a one minute of silent remembrance out of the year will be a great tribute.

There are others who have made a difference taking action on a smaller scale, in their school, in their community, and one-on-one.

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We can all make a difference with our individual acts. And it is important that we act to help re-connect the American people to the American soldier, marine, sailor, airman and coast guardsman, and the values they hold dear and defend.

SERVICE VALUES

And I believe that as we reflect on the memories of those who have given their lives to protect and preserve the ideals of democracy that we enjoy, it is important to understand these things:

1. What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country?
2. What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so?

"The answer is values."

"The proud legacy of our armed services -and our country- is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage."

These values have kept our nation strong, and the greatest honor we can give our fallen heroes is to continue to embrace them and live by them always.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. And we can only pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did, and what they stood for.

To conclude today, I invite you to listen to these words by Charles M. Province about how it is we gain the freedom we enjoy:

IT IS THE SOLDIER...

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us Freedom of the Press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us Freedom of Speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer,

Who has given us the Freedom to demonstrate.
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial;
And it is the Soldier--who salutes the flag,
Who serves the flag, and
Whose coffin is draped by the flag
Who allows the protester to bum the flag.”

Please join me in a moment of silence as we all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and their families left behind.

Let us continue to make a difference with our words and actions. Let us never forget our heroes who have made it possible for us to enjoy this freedom today.

Let us also remember to pray for all our men and women in armed forces and other protective services around the world, who are continuing to stand guard to protect our liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Soifua.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – June 5, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola launches Future Political Status Study Commission

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono took part in the official launch of the Future Political Status Study Commission at the Senate chambers today, where he told the eleven commissioners that the bulk of the hard work ahead for them is to research whether American Samoa wants to continue under the current century-old political status or make changes based on the Territory's ability to stand on its own.

“For the last 106 years, American Samoa has been under the same political status that was agreed upon by our forefathers through the signing of a deed of cession that protected our islands and our people by the United States,” said Governor Togiola. “Now we ask ourselves: What do we want for the next 106 years? What will we decide for our future generations? Where do we go from here?”

Governor Togiola expressed his thanks to the eleven commissioners for accepting their appointments and the challenge of a difficult and time-consuming task that comes with public scrutiny.

“I will pray for the job that you will perform and its success because it will be hard, but know in your hearts that at the end the Territory will bear fruits of your labor because what you decide and recommend to our people is important to the future of American Samoa, and I have the utmost confidence that you will decide what is best for our people,” said Governor Togiola. “I ask you to be strong and have faith in the tasks ahead of you. Such undertaking comes with tough critics equipped with microscopes targeting qualifications and roles of members and the commission. Do not allow the concerns of the public to sway your decisions. If you are true to your findings, our people will have an easy task when they go to vote to decide. If not, our people will be kept in the dark and your efforts will be useless.”

Governor Togiola said there is only a short amount of time of about 10 to 12 months for the commission to convene and offer recommendations to the people. He reminded the commission of the most important lesson ascertained from the biblical story of Noah's Ark in preparation for the Great Flood.

“It all comes down to the conclusion of ‘don't miss the boat,’” said Governor Togiola. “There is only one boat for all of us. Not one for the people and one for the commission. It's the same boat.”

Commissioners include: Manu'a District Governor-Tufele Li'a, chairman; Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, vice-chairman; Sen. Fai'ivae Apelu Galea'i, Sen. Salanoa Aumoeualogo, Rep. Savali Talavou Ale, Rep. Gaoteote Palaie Tofau, Judge Lefiti Atiulagi Pese, Dr. Minareta Thompson, Lt. Col. Mapu Jamias and Fainu'ulelei Falefatu Alailima-Utu.

Earlier today, Mrs. To'aga Seumalo, Head of Nursing at LBJ Hospital, was appointed a member of the commission to replace HTC Malepeai Setu, who resigned last week for personal reasons.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – June 5, 2006)**

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola sends condolences to Samoa on passing of Afioga Faumuina
Anapapa, member of Council of Deputies**

STATEMENT ON PASSING OF AFIGGA FAUMUINA ANAPAPA

I am deeply saddened by the news that Afioga Faumuina Anapapa, member of Samoa's Council of Deputies, has passed away. The prayers of all American Samoa go out to his family and the people of the Independent state of Samoa.

To His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Samoa's Head of State, to Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and his cabinet, I extend to you our deepest sympathies and sorrow for the loss of one of Samoa's fine statesman.

On behalf of the government and people of American Samoa, Mary and I offer our sincere condolences to all of Samoa and our best thoughts to his family.

To Mrs. Akata Faumuina, to his children, and to the Faumuina family, in the difficult days ahead, it is my hope that you will find strength in the outpouring of sympathy and support from all those who have been touched by your grief. We will continue to pray for your comfort and healing.

TOGIOLA T.A.TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

[REVISED PRESS RELEASE]

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(or immediate release – June 26, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff

Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola attends Pacific Basin Development Council meeting in Lana'i City

(LANA'I CITY) - Governor Togiola Tulafono attended the annual summer Pacific Basin Development Council (PBDC) meeting held this year in Lana'i City, Hawaii, on June 20-21. The focus of the meeting was on Homeland Security Priorities and a review of progress in pending regional initiatives.

In conjunction with the Board meeting was a technical seminar on intelligence and information sharing. This year a representative from Alaska's Homeland Security Program joined discussion of common non-contiguous area issues. One of the new priorities under consideration is maritime security for the Pacific.

After the PBDC meeting, the Governor had an opportunity to discuss with a former President and CEO of Island Airways that serves the island of Lanai in the State of Hawaii.

“His experience and inside knowledge of airline business and serving monopoly markets similar to our situation in American Samoa is very important,” said Governor Togiola.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – June 26, 2006)**

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola expresses regret on the passing of Senator Ma’o Tima Jr. today in California

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono expressed regret on the passing of Senator Ma’o Tima Jr. today in California.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola on the passing of Senator Ma’o Tima Jr.:

STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR TOGIOLA

I wish to express my deepest and sincerest regret in hearing of the passing of Senator Ma’o Tima Jr., member of the American Samoa Senate, in California today. The prayers of all Tutuila and Manu’a go out to his family.

In Senator Ma’o, the Territory has lost one of its finest and most outstanding public servants. The Good Senator’s service as a public official is marked with distinction and leadership. His dedication led him to serve his constituency, the citizens of Manu’a, with conviction and passion. He served tirelessly and consistently in his unabashed devotion to the concerns of all of American Samoa.

The Senate and the American Samoa Legislature has lost an honored and respected colleague and fine statesman.

On behalf of the people and government of American Samoa, Mary and I extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to Mrs. Marie Ma’o, to his children, and to the Ma’o family.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 3, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola addresses comments made by Congressman Faleomavaega
concerning air traffic tower and funding**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today addressed comments recently made by Congressman Faleomavaega Eni in regards to the much-needed air traffic control tower for Pago Pago International Airport.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

“I think the Congressman should try and work with us to address this problem we have at the airport instead of blocking this effort. We need to build a tower building, and we should begin to build that project. If Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is not willing to equip and man this tower, then the Congressman should have proposed funding to Congress to accomplish this instead of blocking the project. We need to bring back control of our airspace back to our own airport, but we cannot make any attempts if we have no facility. The frequency of international flights now, in and out of Pago Pago International Airport, has increased substantially, and we should all band together to propose again the return of air traffic control back to Pago Pago International. In his position, the Congressman can be instrumental in getting FAA to do this.

As for the Congressman saying that he has asked the FAA to hold on to the \$2 million until this matter is resolved, I don't know that Faleomavaega can do this. I am trying to find out what has happened. The money was appropriated for constructing a tower building, and we found a plan we can build for less than \$2 million. If the Congressman is concerned with FAA not being able to provide funding for the equipment and staffing the tower, then he should not interfere with constructing the tower building. I am sure we can jointly sort these problems out while the building is being constructed. I hope Faleomavaega is working on legislation to help fund the equipment for the tower and for staffing it when completed.

Without a control tower, FAA had contracted a Washington company to handle advisory services and their contract expires September 30th of this year. We are not going we are not going to be able to support the advisory service after the contract. We are cutting back on our budget call for FY2007. I am going to advise FAA of this problem and the need for them to continue this service for Pago Pago International Airport.”

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 3, 2006)

Contact: Pati Fai'ai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola comments on Hawaiian Air - Honolulu check-in incident and more

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono replied to media inquiries today regarding the Honolulu check-in incident at Hawaiian Airlines, where he and First Lady-Mary Ann Tulafono were required to stand in line to check-in, and other Hawaiian Air related matters.

The following is Governor Togiola's officially statement concerning the incident and also includes comments regarding Hawaiian Air:

HAWAIIAN AIR – HONOLULU AIRPORT CHECK-IN INCIDENT

“It is true that Hawaiian Air, for the first time, on Sunday, June 25th, refused to allow our Honolulu Office director to check us in –my wife and I– for a flight home. This is the first time this has ever happened over the many years of traveling as Governor.

It is also true that for the first time in the past few months, I have publicly accosted Hawaiian Airlines for their discriminatory treatment of our people in operating their monopoly to American Samoa with their rough and discourteous service and their excessive fares and fees. If this is a consequence, then I am not surprised. It is true to the character of what we are dealing with, and standing in line for me is a very small price to pay for exposing their abusive practices and for trying to restrain their economic assault on our people. If this, coincidentally, is their showing of some new concern for airport security, then I am always concerned to comply with the security regulations at every airport.

This is the first time Hawaiian Air has moved away from the usual check-in courtesy afforded to the Governor. I do not plan on communicating any concerns about this incident to the airline. I don't know if the action was in retaliation for my views about their air service to Pago Pago and my request that they pull out of the route. But, it sure is a coincident.”

HA SPOKESMAN SAYS AIRLINE HAVE NO PLANS OF LEAVING

“Hawaiian Air spokesman Keoni Wagner is quoted in the media saying the airline has no plans to discontinue service. By saying they have no plans to discontinue service, they are acknowledging their legal responsibility to do so. I believe that's why they purposely were ambiguous with their response. They are not allowed to leave the market until a replacement carrier is found and prepared to fly.”

HA HAS NOT REPLIED TO INVITATION TO WITHDRAW FROM PAGO PAGO

“Hawaiian Air has not responded to my letter inviting the airline to withdraw from the Pago Pago-Honolulu route. I expect an answer from them because if their answer is to refuse to

withdraw, then I have other actions I need to take. Once they respond and inform me that they will not withdraw, then other actions will follow.”

NO PARTICULAR AIRLINE IN MIND AS REPLACEMENT CARRIER

“There is no particular airline in mind, and I am not doing this to give any particular airline or person a chance to operate a new airline. The process provides that once Hawaiian Air withdraws, the U.S. Department of Transportation will begin the process of inviting other carriers to fly to American Samoa. The process will be strictly in accordance with the laws of the United States and nothing less.”

ANTITRUST ACTION VIA DEPT OF JUSTICE

“Anti-trust action requires a request to the Department of Justice to undertake an investigation and prosecute an action if they deem the complaint justified. I fully intend to file that complaint when the time comes. If Hawaiian Air withdraws in accordance with my invitation, I may choose not to file a complaint. But only if I determine that justice for our people is achieved.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 3, 2006)**

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola addresses concerns raised by Congressman Faleomavaega and
Senate President Lolo about Hawaiian Air**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today addressed concerns raised recently by Congressman Faleomavaega Eni and Senate President Lolo Moliga in the event that Hawaiian Air accepts the Governor’s invitation to withdraw from the Pago Pago market.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

PROCEDURE & PROCESS OF AIR SERVICE WITHDRAWAL

I would have thought the Congressman understood the procedure. If Hawaiian Air withdraws, we have 90 days to work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to obtain the services of another airline.

Within that time, Hawaiian Air is required by law to continue its services to American Samoa until replaced. If no airline is secured within 90 days, Hawaiian Air is required by law to continue to serve American Samoa until a replacement carrier is obtained. The airline obtained will be one of the United States certified carriers that DOT. will appoint to be our Essential Air Service (EAS) carrier.

I have said before how I am planning to ask DOT to get bids or Request For Proposals in order to make the process competitive, and for us to be able to review them and make a recommendation. It’s unusual, but it is the only opportunity we can at least come close to the intention of deregulation, and that is to acquire these services through competition. Competition was supposed to be what was needed that would stabilize fares and prices. We do not have competition, and the least we could do is obtain it by bidding the EAS requirements.

I have no particular airline in mind, and I am certain the legal process will produce an airline that will provide the necessary seats and frequencies that will adequately serve our market, as well as reasonable fares and charges. Those are the requirements of the law, and I have every intention of making sure that we work closely together with DOT in the process.

MARGIN OF PROFIT FOR HAWAIIAN AIR ON PAGO PAGO

My letters to Hawaiian Air provided the information about how much we have calculated Hawaiian makes from the excessive fares they charge. We have estimated that amount to be at least \$11.5 million. In reviewing some past information, I found that when the airlines were filing their information with DOT for each route, Hawaiian showed substantially higher profits from American Samoa as compared to its other routes. My recollection was over 50% profits for American Samoa. This was achieved with substantially lower fares. Since that time the fares between Samoa and Hawaii have nearly doubled. In its other routes to the West Coast, it showed profits to be around 5%.

FALEOMAVAEGA AND LOLO NOT ASKING TO LOWER FARE. WHY NOT?

Congressman Faleomavaega and Senate President Lolo are asking questions about contingency plans should Hawaiian leave. People in these offices do not need to ask these questions. They should know before asking the questions the legal procedures required for obtaining a replacement carrier for the market if Hawaiian withdraws. We follow the legal procedure in place when Hawaiian withdraws from the market. There is already a mechanism in federal law to do it, and these folks should know that by now. Their respective staffs include highly paid attorneys who can do the research and advise them just like my staff does.

It seems to me that the only purpose for these ostensibly concern questions is to deflect attention away from the real issues. Neither Congressman Faleomavaega nor Senate President Lolo has acknowledged the fact that Hawaiian's airfares are excessive. They have not yet acknowledged the discriminatory policies of Hawaiian Airlines toward American Samoa travelers. They should at least join us in asking Hawaiian Air to lower its fares to appropriate levels.

Since we have determined that Hawaiian can be reasonably profitable with a \$500.00 roundtrip airfare between American Samoa and Honolulu, they should join us in asking Hawaiian to lower its airfares accordingly. Why not? Why are they not asking to lower these high fares?"

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 10, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola addresses the Opening of the Final Session of 29th Legislature

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today addressed the opening ceremony of the final session of the 29th Legislature at the Fono Guest Fale in Fagatogo.

Governor Togiola in a joint session of the Fono this morning addressed issues such as the proposed Bond Bill, Optic Fiber Cable connection, and the 2007 Budget.

The following is the official address from Governor Togiola:

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH
29th Legislature, Fourth Session
July 10, 2006 – Fono Guest Fale

“I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address this Fourth Session of the 29th Legislature. As you know, the road has not always been smooth during this sitting of the Legislature, but despite this, you and I, when required and needed, stood together on behalf of our government and the people of American Samoa. We have managed some daunting obstacles in this time.

Together, we were able to keep our islands competitive in enticing the commercial fishing fleet to our shores with the Diesel Tax Credit Act.

We were also able to fund and institute a four percent increase in wages, as a cost of living hike, for all government employees making less than \$40,000.

This sitting of the Legislature also bore witness to new moneys for scholarships specifically for teachers. It is great news of the increase of teachers receiving their Masters and Bachelors degrees, with the ultimate goal of all primary school principals possessing a Masters degree.

We were able to provide relief to the American Samoa Medical Center Authority to the tune of \$10 million dollars.

We have helped our private financial institutions to improve lending predictability to increase their capability to make emergency, short term small loans in the Territory.

We have paid homage to the sacrifice of all veterans in and from the Territory and the United States in our Veterans Memorial Bill, which provided seed money for the establishment of a Veterans Memorial in the Territory.

And we have begun a serious and comprehensive look at our political status as a Territory through the realization of the Political Status Study Commission.

These are but only a few of the accomplishments during this Legislature, and I thank you earnestly for your dedication and commitment

It has always been the aim of this Administration since the first day in office to carry through with our promise of “bridging the gap.” To begin bringing resolution to those issues and concerns that have created divides among our people, among competing schools of political thought in our government and among competing interests over the development of our economy.

For a long time, American Samoa has had to make due on the same amount of critical infrastructure money from the Department of Interior. While this money is greatly appreciated and has been put to good use in developing our infrastructure, the needs of our Territory continue to mount.

Since 1977, there has been no increase in funding for government operation. There has been a slight increase in Capital Improvement Project funds. We are not generating enough local funds. Our dilemma continues to be: Too much funds going out and not enough in coming revenue.

It is in view of this that I proposed the Administration’s Bond Bill in the Third Session of the Legislature. And I am renewing this proposal in the current Session.

BOND BILL

Our bond debt of years past is effectively retired. Critical infrastructure needs that have been accumulating over the years are in dire need of funding. Therefore, I am proposing pursuant to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, who have reviewed worthy government projects over the past years, that ASG enter into a bond issue of \$20 million dollars in order to fund these critical projects for the development and betterment of the government and the services that we provide.

Among these critical projects will be:

- Dredging of Harbors in Manu’a
- Port Administration office/fire department buildings/Customs warehouse
- Port Administration tug boat(s)
- Executive Office Building-Annex
- Executive Office Building-Tax Office extension
- Executive Office Building- Reroofing

- Territorial Registrar's Office
- Feleti Barstow Public Library extension
- Immigration office building
- Television tower (antenna)
- Procurement warehouse
- Manu'a 9-hole golf course
- Parks baseball field
- Parks community center
- Diocese Malaeloa youth center
- Manu'a High School Gym Improvement
- Tourism/picnic sites
- Manu'atele Operation - Ofu/Ta'u
- New Fono building.

I am aware of the concerns that have been expressed by Fono leaders that none of this money that will be made available will be used for economic development. We are all well aware of the need for funding economic development initiatives for our Territory.

This administration has been at the forefront of pushing these initiatives through various trade missions, the most successful of which, was held this past May, in partnership with the Department of Interior and our own private sector. This Island Business Opportunities Mission was only the latest step in our efforts at economic development in our Territory. A large portion of technical assistance that ASG requests from the Interior is specifically for this purpose. The need for this is made even more apparent, considering the current status of Section 936.

However, the critical infrastructure needs of the Territory continue to mount. These needs, in the form of construction of buildings and structures and the purchase of necessary machinery will improve the overall performance and increase local capacity for our government. This development will also play a role in developing our economy. Government services and capacity must develop in relation to our economy. A robust, burgeoning private sector will be endangered by a government that lacks the capacity to provide basic and essential services to support growth. It is in this spirit that I move this Legislature to pass the newly proposed Bond Bill in this Session.

It is the goal and it will continue to be the goal of this Administration to bridge the gap between where we are now as a government and where we need to be in ten years from now. This bill will go a long way toward getting us to that very point.

BUDGET

As is your annual duty in the July Session, you will be considering the Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2007. As the result of a slow period in our revenue collections, the expenditures for this last fiscal year are projected to fall short of our revenues. We are hoping to pick up our collection efforts in the last quarter of the year, ending September 30, 2006.

We are hoping to strengthen our collections capacity at our ports of entry procedurally as well as substantively. While the drop in collections was unexpected, the trend followed very closely those years in which there were no natural disasters in the Territory, which usually leads to an influx of federal dollars to our economy.

Because of our projected shortfall, I have ordered the Budget Director to institute a five percent across-the-board reduction for the Executive Branch only. This reduction will not apply to the Judiciary, nor here to the Fono.

I have met with several members of my Cabinet in an effort to bring their operations in line with the ceilings that have been created by the five percent reduction. Only agencies that present extraordinary situations will be allowed to exceed the ceiling that has been set by the Budget Office. These are actions that must be taken. A balanced budget is critical not only to our own efforts at accountability, but also as a condition of our 'high risk' status. American Samoa must have a balanced budget for at least two consecutive budget cycles. It is my fervent hope that all of us can come together on this – not only to show ourselves that it can and will be done, but also to divest ASG of its high risk status once and for all.

I urge you all to keep this goal in mind as you consider the budget bill this session. And I implore you to observe and respect the cuts that the Administration has made to this year's budget, as we endeavor to bridge the gap between our income and expenditures.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE

As a result of an off-island company visit earlier this year, which identified the shortcomings of the territory's telecommunications capacity, we have begun to pursue aggressively, a connection to existing undersea fiber-optic cable which would provide a broader, more substantial telecommunications capability than our current satellite based system offers. American Samoa has identified at least three different fiber-optic cable options from which the Territory may connect. Discussions have already begun with the entities that administer these cables in Fiji in order to procure a node for connection and service to American Samoa.

We cannot do this alone. We are already discussing with two companies and the Department of the Interior on how to help us perform this job and get the job done.

The Territory will likely not be able to shoulder the cost of connectivity on its own. Therefore, we are investigating and requesting federal assistance in landing fiber optic cable in the territory. Federal support, especially with regard to the high cost of connectivity is greatly needed in this endeavor.

The interest in American Samoa for businesses and applications that would utilize this connection currently exists. This connectivity would bring those interests and more to

fruition for the territory. Broader bandwidth connectivity will bring a more robust and energetic aspect to our economy.

The economic potential that this may provide to the Territory is immense. However, once this link is established, this will help bridge the information gap between our Territory and the rest of the world.

And speaking of the world, we plan on taking a business trip to China in September to promote our island home and entice tourists to visit American Samoa. Also, in preparation for the world to visit, we have launched the 2008 Pacific Arts Festival, a truly big event that we were a part of creating. And 40 years after its debut, we will finally get to host it in two years.

I thank all of you for your dedication and commitment in the service that you continue to provide at the Fono and the great work that is part of the 29th Legislature. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you these two years, and I hope that we can bring successful closure to the work we have done together.

I continue to remain committed to working with this body in your capacity as lawmakers and in our respective spheres of government. And I also remain wholeheartedly committed to bridging the gap toward a more successful, efficient and effective government for the betterment of our people.

God bless you all. And God bless American Samoa.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 12, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola concerned about federal cuts in NOAA funding

UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has expressed great concern of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee passage of the Fiscal Year 2007 funding for the Department of States, Justice and Commerce.

According to Governor Togiola, he was informed by the Coastal States Organization (CSO) of the House Appropriations Committee action and he is very concerned because it actually is a lot lower than funding for the previous year.

“Although it sounds great that the Committee has passed the new fiscal year funding for the Department of States, Justice and Commerce and related science programs, it actually is sad news because the bill provides \$3.39 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), but is \$289 million less than the President’s request and about \$508 million below FY 2006 approved funding. This will affect our funding,” said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola has written to Congressman Faleomavaega Eni for his assistance in increasing the funding.

“With the exception of the coral reef program, funding for all the programs of interest to American Samoa will be significantly reduced. The CSO informed us that the House plans to consider this bill on the floor this week. I would appreciate you and your staff’s efforts to increase NOAA funding,” wrote Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola said the impact of these cuts, if passed, will directly affect the programs and the services provided to the citizens of American Samoa, as well as NOAA’s ability to provide services to the states and territories.

“I have asked our Congressman for his support to maintain the funding level for NOAA’s FY ’07 budget level. The ASG agencies that receive funding from NOAA perform valuable services in protecting our environment and are vital to the citizens of American Samoa,” said Governor Togiola.

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee plans to consider their version of the NOAA appropriations this week also.

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 12, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola seeks help with Senator Inouye regarding cutbacks on NOAA funding

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has requested the support of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) to oppose drastic cuts to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) programs as proposed in the House FY07 Appropriations bill.

“Your support for funding these programs is critical to maintaining the health of American Samoa’s coastal resources. The House Appropriations Committee has proposed cuts below the President’s budget to grants under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). I am asking that Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and NOAA’s National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) programs be funded at \$90 million and \$35 million respectively,” wrote Governor Togiola to Senator Inouye.

Governor Togiola also said cutting funding to any of these programs will impact American Samoa by reducing funding for CZM programs.

“As you know, all of American Samoa is defined as coastal zone in the CZMA, therefore, any reduction in funding for our CZM program will have devastating and potentially irreversible consequences,” said Governor Togiola.

The Governor also said for more than 25 years, the Territory of American Samoa and NOAA’s National Ocean Service have been partners in planning for and managing development of the Territory under the National Coastal Zone Management Act. An essential ingredient in this partnership is the federal coastal zone management funding authorized by Congress that comes to American Samoa.

Governor Togiola also said a significant amount of the Territory’s annual grant is utilized to adopt land use plans and practices to meet development demands, protect and restore coastal natural resources, provide opportunities for employment, install adequate public services, and protect new development from natural hazards.

“I fully appreciate the tight fiscal constraints facing the nation and the difficult decisions associated with allocating limited financial resources. Given NOAA’s role as lead federal agency for our oceans and atmosphere, and our increasing appreciation and understanding of the human health, national security, and economic impacts associated with the oceanic and atmospheric processes, I firmly believe that maintaining funding for these NOAA programs is needed now,” said Governor Togiola.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 12, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola statement on ASPA Board hiring of new CEO Andra Samoa

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono issued this statement today regarding the American Samoa Power Authority Board hiring of new Chief Executive Officer – Ms. Andra Samoa.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“I am relieved that the American Samoa Power Authority Board has finally made a decision on a Chief Executive Officer. I fully support the Board’s appointment of Ms. Andra Samoa as the new CEO. I wish to extend congratulations to the ASPA Board for their decision. I also offer congratulations to Ms. Andra Samoa on her new appointment. I am very confident that with a full-time CEO in place, things will continue to move forward and improve much faster at ASPA.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 13, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola kicks off soccer Project Goal at Pago Park

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono joined the American Samoa Football (Soccer) Association, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) officials and members of the public today in breaking ground on Project Goal at Pago Pago Park.

Project Goal, a FIFA development effort, offers tailor-made programs that are cut out to suit the individual country's needs and then implemented by FIFA experts in close cooperation with the national associations, of which 205 countries, including American Samoa, are members of the world soccer (football) body.

Project Goal at Pago Park includes the construction of two soccer fields, or pitches as they are also called. One pitch will be utilized for practice and the other will be used for tournament and official matches. Also to be constructed on the site are a grandstand and bleachers for spectators as well as an administration building for the American Samoa Football Association to run its local program. All told, the capital investment in Project Goal will top \$1 million when all construction is completed.

Governor Togiola gave praise to the project because, in his words, "brings hope to the three years of turmoil that we've been through on island with our soccer associations and the struggle for control of the sport that is played by the most people worldwide."

"This is a blessing for our island community because it now empowers our national associations to truly develop the sport with genuine priorities and accept help through FIFA on what our true needs are," Governor Togiola. "Here we're getting help in infrastructure, administration, education and youth football (soccer). We truly need all of the cooperation of the local soccer associations and we need to strengthen that cooperation with each association and the development of the game in American Samoa."

Governor Togiola said Project Goal is an awesome opportunity for the people and especially the youth of American Samoa.

"This fits right in with promoting wellness among the Territory's youth by encouraging physical fitness and rigorous physical activity," said Governor Togiola. "In addition, our young children will learn sportsmanship, gamesmanship and leadership through the truly international game of soccer."

Leading the FIFA delegation at the ground breaking was Mr. Glenn Turner, who is the FIFA Development Officer for Oceania, and Mr. Ray Vuksich of Vuksich & Borich New

Zealand Ltd., who is the FIFA Project Goal Manager. Chair of the American Samoa Football Normalization Committee is Mr. David Brand.

“I extend my gratitude to Glenn, Ray and David Brand and all the members of the American Samoa Football Normalization Committee who made this possible. It is our sincere hope that all of our contributions on this day will pay off for years to come,” said Governor Togiola.

“We are very happy to have completed the groundbreaking on this significant project. We would like to thank Governor Togiola for his earnest support of our efforts to bring the great game of soccer to the Territory. We all look forward to many successful years of soccer in American Samoa,” said Turner.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 13, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono kicks off soccer Project Goal at Pago Park

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono joined the American Samoa Football (Soccer) Association, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) officials and members of the public today in breaking ground on Project Goal at Pago Pago Park.

Project Goal, a FIFA development effort, offers tailor-made programs that are cut out to suit the individual country's needs and then implemented by FIFA experts in close cooperation with the national associations, of which 205 countries --(American Samoa being the 205th country and also its ranking number before the recent World)-- are members of the world soccer (football) body.

Project Goal at Pago Park includes the construction of two soccer fields, or pitches as they are also called. One pitch will be utilized for practice and the other will be used for tournament and official matches. Also to be constructed on the site are a grandstand and bleachers for spectators as well as an administration building for the American Samoa Football Association to run its local program. All told, the capital investment in Project Goal will top \$1 million when all construction is completed.

Governor Togiola gave praise to the project because, in his words, "brings hope to the three years of turmoil that we've been through on island with our soccer associations and the struggle for control of the sport that is played by the most people worldwide."

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“I extend my gratitude to Glenn, Ray and David Brand and all the members of the American Samoa Football Normalization Committee who made this possible. It is our sincere hope that all of our contributions on this day will pay off for years to come,” said Governor Togiola. “We should be proud of our new ranking from 205th in the world, according to FIFA, American Samoa is now ranked 196th. So, you see, we’re already making progress. It all starts off with a dream. It’s realistic that we can win the World Cup in 16 years. We need to develop the game.”

Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega of Maoputasi County also attended the ground breaking ceremony offering the support of the county and village of Pago Pago in the project.

FIFA Oceania Development Officer Mr. Glenn Turner expressed his appreciation for the local support for this much-needed project for the Territory.

“We are very happy to have completed the groundbreaking on this significant project. We would like to thank Governor Togiola for his earnest support of our efforts to bring the great game of soccer to the Territory. We all look forward to many successful years of soccer in American Samoa,” said Turner.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 18, 2006)**

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola Tulafono hosts appreciation lunch for South Pacific Presbyterian
Theological Seminary and LBJ Tropical Medical Mission team**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today hosted an appreciation lunch for the doctors of the South Pacific Presbyterian Theological Seminary and LBJ Tropical Medical Mission team that are conducting health clinic on island.

Governor Togiola praised and expressed the appreciation of the people and government of American Samoa to the group of doctors and their families that traveled at their own expense to offer free consultations and screenings across the Territory.

At the luncheon, Governor Togiola presented the doctors with an American Samoa book as a proud souvenir of their visit to the Territory.

The following is the official statement and expression of gratitude from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

“To Reverend Dr. Suh Jung Woon and Dr. Kim and the entire South Pacific Presbyterian Theological Seminary and LBJ Tropical Medical Mission team:

I wish to thank you for embracing the Christian and Samoan belief that it is better to give than to receive. Your service to our people in showing your love through words and actions is your greatest gift to this island place we call home. And I thank you and congratulate you for the wonderful work you continue to do for American Samoa.

I am proud of the association with your team of Good Samaritans and I want to acknowledge your magnificent efforts and your great contribution of service to your fellow man through the resources and specialization that you bring to our people. You have our utmost gratitude and abiding respect.

Your mission of love and mercy is a humanitarian project that is of enormous proportion and cost. I acknowledge the countless and boundless achievements of your service to the people of the Territory of American Samoa. Thank you for the passion to help through partnership with government, churches, organizations and individuals.

On behalf of the people and government, I thank you most sincerely for your medical mission. I truly believe that your work with our people has also brought great fulfillment to you personally as it has benefited our country greatly. And for this American Samoa thanks you. Thank God for South Pacific Presbyterian Theological Seminary and LBJ Tropical Medical Mission.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 22, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono comments on Manu’a District #1 Senate vacancy

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today commented on vacant Senate seat for Manu’a District No. 1 as a result of the untimely death of Senator Ma’o Tima Jr.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“Before calling for a special district election to fill the current vacancy or appointing someone to fill the current vacancy, I am waiting to consult with the District Governor and before I will make a determination on how to handle the appointment. I expect that will happen some time this week. My preference is that the district will meet and recommend to me someone to appoint to complete the rest of the term of the late Senator Ma’o Tima, Jr.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – July 19, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono responds to media queries on allegations against John Marsh

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today responded to media queries regarding the allegations against Mr. John Marsh of ASPA.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“I have received a set of documents from Mrs. Trudie Sala of Common Cause. I have seen the documents and I have sent it off to the Commissioner of Public Safety for investigation.

I have also received communication from the ASPA Board that they have begun their own internal investigation. I have asked the ASPA board to cooperate with the Department of Public Safety on this investigation.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 2, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola discusses Hawaiian Air, Budget hearing, Ethics training and Two Samoa talks at monthly Cabinet meeting

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono met with his Cabinet today at the monthly meeting and briefed ASG directors on Hawaiian Air, Budget hearing, Ethics training, Two Samoa talks and other matters of importance.

HAWAIIAN AIR

Governor Togiola told the directors the Hawaiian Air Executive Order that was issued last week stemmed from Hawaiian Air refusing to put into writing any recognition at all about the issues he raised in his correspondence.

“This is extremely disheartening to our people,” said Governor Togiola. “I will continue to pursue resolution even if Hawaiian Air refuses to acknowledge any of our issues. Our people deserve relief.”

BUDGET HEARINGS

Governor Togiola said the American Samoa budget will be submitted to the Fono shortly and reminded his Cabinet that every director owes a duty to abide by the ceilings designated by the Budget Director in consultation with the Governor

“Every agency needs more money. The key is to fit those needs within projected revenues. This is the task of the Executive and these measures must be taken,” said Governor Togiola.

The Governor said meetings regarding special circumstances have been held and the resultant decisions are deemed final for those agencies.

“I ask all of you directors for your cooperation,” said Governor Togiola. “Also, your understanding is greatly appreciated as we move forward with presentation of the budget to the Legislature.”

ETHICS TRAINING

Governor Togiola reported that the two-day Ethics Training for all government department and agency heads will be conducted on island by the Soderquist Center for

Leadership and Ethics from John Brown University - Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The ethics training will be held August 15 – 17.

“Ethical conduct in all aspects of our service to the people is the priority of this Administration,” said Governor Togiola. “All directors are expected to attend because this training is an essential element in creating high-performance and good governance.”

TWO SAMOAS MEETING

Governor Togiola informed the Cabinet that the Territory will host the Two Samoa Talks this year and will be held on Friday, August 18 at the Convention Center in Utulei. The last meeting of the Two Samoas was held in Apia last year.

ASG VEHICLES

Governor Togiola issued a reminder to the enforcing agencies and to all cabinet members on the use of government vehicles and abuses of the after-hours permits will not be tolerated.

The Governor reiterated that impound charges for vehicles will be borne by the respective agencies, with no exceptions. He said signing authority for the permits are Directors and Deputy Directors only. Division Heads and positions below the deputy director will not be accepted without prior authorization by General Memo.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Governor Togiola announced that a Congressional Delegation will be arriving on Wednesday, August 16.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 7, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola tells FAA it is border control not operating authority issue

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today replied to Mr. Ronnie V. Simpson, Manager of Honolulu Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in saying that it is important that he reviews the Executive Order because it is a border control issue and not an operating authority issue.

The following is the official content of the four page letter dated August 7, 2006 from Governor Togiola:

LETTER TO MR. RONNIE V. SIMPSON

Ronnie V. Simpson
Manager
Honolulu Airports District Office
Box 50244
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0001

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for your letter dated August 2, 2006 regarding this Government's Executive Order 005-2006, in which you suggest that it may be contrary to certain Federal Statutes.

We are fairly certain that you have never reviewed this Executive Order, as the actual text has not been available in Hawaii, except through a contact with Hawaiian Airlines, which Hawaiian Airlines is denying publicly. Although you have never asked for a copy of this Order before writing your summary of applicable law, we will now make it available to you as an attachment to this reply.

Upon reading your letter, it is clear that you did not have the opportunity to be fully briefed on this Executive Order action of this Government. The Federal laws you cite are stated accurately, but it omits a wholly different set of Federal laws, which were the subject of this Executive Order. Consequently, your conclusion is reached only by a complete omission of such Federal Laws as the Territory's 106 year old custom and border control authority, which is the exact Federal power exercised in the Executive Order, and explained in its text.

Our attorneys and staff are well aware of the Federal Statutes recited in your letter, and reviewed them for relevancy before this Executive Order was issued.

Your concern revolves around whether this Executive Order affects or purports to terminate the operating authority of Hawaiian Airlines on the Honolulu - Pago Pago route, which is granted and controlled by your agency.

When you have an opportunity to read this Executive Order, you will see that it has nothing to do with Hawaiian Airlines' operating authority.

The Executive Order # 05-2006 issued by this Government in no way orders Hawaiian Airlines "to stop flying a particular route" as another FAA official has complained, who also had not read the Executive Order.

This Executive Order states that at the point in time when we have found a substitute carrier to replace Hawaiian Airlines which presently and abusively serves this Territory, Hawaiian Airlines will be prohibited by a further Executive Order, by reason of each of the findings independently stated, from entering and clearing to and from this Territory by our customs and border control authority, which is the authority of the Federal Government.

This authority was granted by Congress to the President of the United States in administering this Territory, and it now resides in the Constitution of American Samoa wherein Congress has said in 1984 that it must remain until the Congress shall otherwise approve.

This Government has with respect to its own borders the same legal power, the same control and authority, as is held by the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) to those U.S. areas under its jurisdiction. The U. S. Territory of American Samoa is excluded from the national BCBP custom and border control area authority by Congress, because we have been given our own and equally comprehensive border authority by Congress which we have exercised for the last 106 years.

Our United States counterpart, BCBP, exercises its authority over areas under its jurisdiction, in a similar manner as our Executive Order intends. The United States BCBP uses its authority to refuse landing permission for aircraft proceeding from points outside its jurisdiction to points within, when "the requested landing rights are not in the interests of the Government." (cf. 19CFR 122.14 (d) (6) which states that BCBP in the course of its border control may deny permission for an aircraft to land.)

This is a border control issue, not an operating authority issue. U.S. air carriers often hold operating authority to areas where they do not have permission to enter.

Consequently, we are not addressing the operating authority of the FAA in this Executive Order.

The FAA has no authority to control an air carrier that uses its operating authority in various abusive ways to damage people as they run uncontrolled in a monopoly situation. The FAA is a safety regulatory agency and does not deal with these matters. There are other authorities that our empowered to prevent such continuing damage to the public welfare, such as our border control authority.

Both this Territorial Administration and the FAA are operating under Federal authority of laws enacted by the United States Congress. We see no intramural conflict here.

The Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, which you cite as "prohibiting a state (the definition here includes US. Territories) from acting to regulate an air carrier's rates, routes, or services", is not an issue here. The present Executive Order does not contemplate any regulation relating to Hawaiian Airlines' activities. The action to be intended in a subsequent Executive Order would not relate to, or address, or effect an

alteration in rates, service, or the route authority granted to Hawaiian Airlines by the FAA.

The issue here is entering and clearing the customs and border control of an area, controlled by U.S. Territorial customs and border control, just as certain areas are controlled by the U.S. BCBP Border control. Air carrier rate/service/route control is an entirely different interface.

Border control authority addresses the harm or not that could come to the general welfare of the people by allowing the presence of entities that could negatively impact the well being of the general population. The administration of this Territory is charged by Congress to act in the welfare of its people. This is the mandate of Congress that is being carried out in this Executive Order. This EO sets up procedures for finding an alternate carrier that will not engage in the abuse of our people through an enabling use of authority granted by this Government to enter the customs and border control jurisdiction of this U.S. Territory.

We know of no significant instance when the FAA has interfered with the authority of the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection in the exercise of its border controlling authority on the U.S. mainland. Our Territorial Customs and Border control authority has the same comprehensive powers and responsibilities as the U.S. BCBP, in the territorial areas under its jurisdiction, and we expect the same cooperation and non-interference by the FAA that it affords to the U.S. BCBP.

If you had read the Executive Order, you would understand that we are not engaged in using the ownership of the Pago Pago Airport as part of this process. Accordingly your lengthy remarks addressed to this prospect are not at issue. But they are revealing of your predisposition on this entire matter.

The assurances given upon receiving Airport Improvement Grants required in 49 U.S.C. 47107 (a) (1) were reviewed by our lawyers at length. They determined that the assurance given that “(1) the airport will be available for public use on reasonable conditions and without unjust discrimination” would be fully honored and complied with, were the American Samoa Government to bar Hawaiian Airlines, a public abusing air carrier, noting that such action would be demonstrably reasonable and a just discrimination.

However, it is clear to our attorneys that you have prejudged this issue. You have shown no interest in your letter to invite justification of such action as the law clearly contemplates. It is apparent to our lawyers that your letter has an agenda, which is not appropriate for an official whose position would normally be to see only that the law is properly applied. They see this agenda in the people you have chosen to be copied on your letter, which shows an awareness to achieve an outcome you have selected.

Our people take this issue of Hawaiian Airlines’ abuse quite seriously, and they will not be intimidated by your published threat of blackmail, that if our people don’t sit back and suffer Hawaiian Airlines, then you will see to it that our Airport Improvement Grants will be halted. Your message being: Don’t disturb Hawaiian Airlines, or the FAA will disturb the Federal Aid to our airport.

Your August 31st deadline for a reply indicates that you intend to publish a grant related threat if you do not get the response which you are seeking. You would be well advised to proceed with caution. You have not asked for the facts justifying this Government’s position, and this confirms a predisposition in your letter that needs examination. I am

deeply concerned with this issue, and I will continue to consider how to appropriately address it.

Hawaiian Airlines has made a public display of exuding with pleasure over the contents of your letter to which we are now responding. In any future discussion, we hope that, at the very least, you will try to avoid the appearance of rushing to conclusions, and thereby showcasing the FAA as making an effort to favor an airline which, in its conduct, has provided so much offense to the people of this United States Territory.

If you have any further inquiries, please so advise.

Sincerely,

TOGIOLA TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

Attachment

cc:

Faoa Ipulasi A. Sunia, Lieutenant Governor
David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOI-OIA
Afioga Tuitele Fofu, Director of Port Administration
Lolo L.M. Moliga, President of the Senate
Matagi Ray McMoore, Speaker of the House
Eni F. Hunkin, Delegate to Congress
Sialega M. Togafau, Esq., Attorney General of American Samoa

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 7, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola can't believe Faleomavaega does not support push for Hawaiian Air to lower fares and offer equal treatment of American Samoans

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono responded today to a recent press release issued by Congressman Faleomavaega Eni concerning the Hawaiian Air situation.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“What’s clear from this press release is that Congressman Faleomavaega does not support our efforts to get Hawaiian Air to lower its fares, and to grant equal treatment for our people in their service.

It is unbelievable that Faleomavaega would say something like: “There may be some validity on some of the allegations the governor has made against Hawaiian Air.”

Is there a question that “there may be some validity” on how ridiculously exorbitant the airfares are between American Samoa and Honolulu? Does he disagree with us that the fares are exorbitant?

Is there a question that “there may be some validity” as to the claims of how badly our people have been treated by Hawaiian Air at the check-in counters and in their aircrafts during their trips? Has Faleomavaega been living with us? Has Faleomavaega been listening to the voice of the people about these issues? I am certain our people have been complaining to him about the same issues I have now with Hawaiian Air. I would be curious to find out what, if anything, he has promised those people who came to him for help.

Jumping on the bandwagon of FAA and Lolo is just another way of excusing himself from failure to address the concerns of the people. In effect, the way I read it, he is saying to the people that we should not “rock the boat” (airplane) with Hawaiian Air because it may ruin his relationship with the Hawaii Senators whose “corporate constituent” is Hawaiian Air. I am certain in my mind the Senators do not appreciate this name-dropping and they do not want to be dragged into these issues because they themselves have assured us in American Samoa that we too are part of their constituency. I even doubt that the Senators knew that this was going to happen. Faleomavaega is using the

Senators' good names to, again, excuse himself for failure to do anything about this conduct from Hawaiian Air.

My position has always been clear from the beginning. I have no desire to get rid of Hawaiian Airlines, or replace them if they would only acknowledge our needs and offer to us the solutions we are asking for. I want them to be responsive to us, their customers, just like they do in their other markets. Once I receive firm commitments that they will lower fares and treat American Samoans like their other customers, I would be ready to finalize that deal and move on. Is Hawaiian Air going to do that voluntarily? I sincerely doubt it. So, we, as a people and a government, must continue to find solutions that will give us appropriate relief under the circumstances. That's what I am doing.

I have informed Hawaiian Air that I will sit down with them and work out the disposition of the issues once they confirm to me that they are going to lower their fares between American Samoa and Honolulu. Hawaiian Air has not even once made an offer that I can consider. They want the same thing Faleomavaega and Lolo are offering – “sit down and discuss the issues.”

The issues have always been very clear to me and the people of American Samoa: (1) we want assurance from Hawaiian Air that they will lower their fares to reasonable levels, and (2) we want equal treatment like all their other passengers in their other markets. I want them to write to me and tell me that they are prepared to lower fares and enter into agreements for equal treatment of our people, then I will sit down with them to discuss the details of those commitments to assure fairness to our people, as well as to Hawaiian Air. I am ready to meet on a moments notice as soon as I receive that assurance from Hawaiian Air. Otherwise, talking without a real goal or an agenda makes no sense.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release – August 8, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola proposes new certified system for airport with FAA when weather advisory service contract runs out next month

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has written to Mr. Ronnie V. Simpson, Manager-Airports District Office, Western Pacific Region of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Honolulu in regards to the Pago Pago International Airport Weather Advisory contract that will expire next month --September 30th.

Governor Togiola said in his August 3rd letter to Mr. Simpson that American Samoa is not going to be able to support the continuation of the advisory service contract.

“As much as we would like to do so, we are not financially capable to take this function over,” said Governor Togiola in his two-page letter. “However, it has been brought to my attention that there are inexpensive machines that can be mounted at the airport, and have proven its capability to provide weather information to traffic coming into our airport.”

The Governor said it has been confirmed that a machine known as “Superunicom,” also known as “SuperAWOS” has been certified for weather advisory function use by the FAA and is eligible for funding through Airport Improvement Projects (AIP) grants. This new system is will operate on a frequency accessible to all pilots that requires

“I have found that the cost of the single equipment system is around \$70,000 installed and the maintenance cost is very minimal,” said Governor Togiola. “However, in reviewing the capabilities of this system, I do believe it does provide the advisory information that is needed for traffic at Pago Pago International Airport.”

The pilot-controlled ‘Superunicom’ automated system, developed by Potomac Aviation Technology Corporation of Ft. Washington, Maryland, through a series of radio clicks, pilots can receive a basic airport advisory, extended advisory and radio transmission check, all originating from a maintenance-free system not much bigger than a television box. The Superunicom system operates on a frequency accessible to all pilots of inbound flights and not on the radio frequency that triggers turning on of the runway lights.

The system speaks with clear, natural voice and composes its greetings and advisory messages from digitally recorded human speech. The system’s voice and behavior is so human some pilots have mistaken it for a live person.

Governor Togiola, in his letter to Mr. Simpson, said he will be asking the Director of Port Administration and his airport staff to begin the process of making an application to the Honolulu office and FAA for purchasing such a system for our airport, in lieu of taking over the contracted weather advisory services. However, the Governor said it may take some time to procure and install the new system, so he has asked that advisory services contract be extended to the end of March next year.

“I would ask, therefore, that FAA extend the existing contract for advisory services for six months while we endeavor to install the new automated weather advisory service for Pago Pago International Airport,” wrote the Governor. “I am also very concerned with putting the advisory service on the same frequency for turning on the lights at the airport. This process and system is costing our airport an unusually high cost for electricity because every time an airplane checks the weather, the lights on the runway comes on.”

Governor Togiola said he has been at the airport on days when several flights arrived within in a two-hour period and the lights were on constantly during that time. He said he discovered that the lights come on when an aircraft calls in for weather advisory and remains on for twenty minutes.

“When another flight comes in within that 20 minutes, the lighting time is extended another 20 minutes, and so on. This is an extra expense we were not told that we would have to bear during the time when you were operating the contracted weather advisory,” said Governor Togiola. “I ask that you inform our Port Administration people on how we can bill FAA for the extra cost in electricity because of the flawed planning of the advisory services resulting in this extra expense for our airport. I am anxious to find a solution to this mutual problem.”

The way Superunicom / SuperAWOS works:

Three radio clicks trigger an airport advisory with only pertinent information. The system adapts advisory timing and content to the amount of system congestion. Advisories are provided to pilots within about 10 miles of the airport.

Three additional clicks after the basic advisory will give a pilot all the details, including information that might have been abbreviated in the basic advisory.

Four clicks trigger the radio-check. Superunicom will ask a pilot to transmit a brief message, then the system will echo - transmits the message back to the pilot.

Superunicom, which automatically greets inbound pilots, is aware of an airport’s runways and configurations and local operating preferences. It also continuously measures current weather data and balances the information against the level of congestion on the system frequency.

Superunicom is aware of an airport’s runway configuration, winds and traffic, it will actually call a specific runway based on prevailing winds and an analysis of aircraft

transmission patterns of other aircraft over the system. It will call that runway only when conditions unambiguously recommend one runway over another and when there is no potential for conflicting traffic.

Other aspects of the system include the following: Alerts pilots to significant conditions such as crosswinds and wind-shear; Alerts pilots to significant wind changes from last advisory; The totally self-contained system is typically located at the airport's windsock, so pilots are afforded realistic runway conditions; Alerts inbound pilots to the presence of other air traffic the pattern.

Governor Togiola said today 'Superunicom / SuperAWOS' should definitely enhance the safety factor at Pago Pago International Airport.

"I think this system is the answer for our problem and since it qualifies for AIP funding, it makes sense for all of us," said Governor Togiola. "I have asked the FAA for assistance in installing at our airport this great system that they have certified. We're very concerned about safety measures for all pilots and by having this new system will remove the many challenges faced by pilots in obtaining the accurate information."

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 8, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola prepares comparable sites in Tafuna and Vaitogi for NPS
in Utulei Beach Park land conversion**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today issued an update on the land conversion process for the Utulei Beach Park site with the National Park Service.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“Within the context of the framework we agreed to explore without prejudice to our respective positions, I am preparing the submission to go off some time this week or next. It will contain a map of the area that we are showing the National Park Service (NPS) and see if that would inspire an indication that it would be acceptable.

The information will also contain a thorough description of the usage as compared to Utulei and how we feel it is an adequate proposal. It will also have an appraisal of the comparable value of the lands being examined. If they acknowledge that the land is of comparable value to the land we leased in Utulei, then we will examine the legal process of a ‘conversion.’

An official submission has not been made to NPS regarding the alternative sites that we are proposing to exchange, which include land in Tafuna, next door to the ASTCA facility and towards the mountainside of the baseball stadium, and land in Vaitogi.

It is hard to tell when we expect the conversion process to be completed because we have not even discussed the conversion process, yet. I am willing to speculate though that it may even take as long as 90 days to six months. At this time we are only working on identifying a potential exchange and see if NPS will indicate to me that they agree the land we are showing them is of comparable value to the part of the land in Utulei we leased.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA
Pago Pago AS 96799**

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 18, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: (684) 633-4116
Press Officer: Vincent Iuli (684) 733-1041

Governor Togiola issues statement on Hawaiian Airlines plea to DOT

(UTULEI) - In response to the request filed by Hawaiian Airlines with the United States Department of Transportation, Governor Togiola Tulafono issued the following statement today:

STATEMENT

“Hawaiian Airlines has disgraced itself in serving American Samoa. The shame of its economic and ethnic abuse towards our people is ignored in its single-minded efforts to continue to hold onto its predatory profits. The income derived from its American Samoa monopoly adds annually 12 to 14 million dollars to its bottom line. The fact that Hawaiian Airlines is taking this out of our small economy with one of the lowest per capita income under the American flag, is of no interest to them.

As Hawaiian Airlines sees American Samoa preparing to rid themselves of their enterprise, they are looking everywhere for cover. Instead of attending to the issues of modifying their behavior, Hawaiian Airlines is seeking help from the Federal Department of Transportation so they can continue their abuse with impunity.

Last week, Hawaiian Airlines publicly urged the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue a Declaratory Order against the U. S. Territory of American Samoa, declaring that its preliminary Executive Order dealing with Hawaiian Airlines is null and void.

No one can even remember the Federal Department of Transportation having ever issued a Declaratory Order against the Federal Department of the Interior or an agency within the Department. The Territory of American Samoa is such a Federal agency.

Equally so, no one can remember the Federal Department of the Interior ever issuing a Declaratory Order against the Federal Department of Transportation, or any other Federal Department.

Issues between Federal Departments, if any, are handled within the Federal Government's organization.

At the appropriate time, we will as a matter of course, further consult with the Department of Transportation and other Departments within our Federal Government.

Hawaiian Airlines and its grappling lawyers have tried to avoid dealing with the fact that American Samoa is not a "State". It is an unorganized U.S. Territory that is wholly part of the Federal Government. When the Governor of American Samoa issues an Executive Order, it is done with the authority of the Federal Government, given to it by the United States Congress.

This United States Territory operates totally by authority granted by Congress. What Congress allows us to do, we do it. Where Congress restricts us, we comply. It's that simple.

Nothing complicated like Hawaiian Airlines and its lawyers are pretending. They argue and ask the Department of Transportation to conclude as the basis for a Declaratory Order that American Samoa is under and controlled by the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Art. VI, paragraph 2), which says that the Constitution and Federal laws supersede "State" laws.

It would be difficult for the Department of Transportation to comply with such a bizarre request. We are not a "State" but part of the supervening Federal Government itself. Hawaiian Airlines' using the Supremacy Clause in an argument with this United States Territory, reflects an interesting lack of comprehension in an area where there is no uncertainty. In 1816, Chief Justice John Marshall wrote that a Territory is not a state "in the sense in which that term is used in the Constitution." New Orleans v. Winter, 14 U.S. 91. Conflicts contemplated by the Supremacy Clause with "States" are not at issue here.

The Governor's foremost duty required by Congress is to use the powers it has granted to this Territory, to act for the welfare of the American Samoa people.

Control of its borders, is a power granted by Congress to the administration of this Territory, since 1929. Border control exists to prevent harm to the general public. Border control does not care whether the party or the offending enterprise to be barred is attempting to enter by car, bus, vessel, or aircraft. It is outcome oriented to stop harm to the public. In deregulating the airlines, and giving them economic freedom, Congress showed no intent to destroy the working power of border control, that fundamental authority that must exist for the protection and welfare of the general public.

I sincerely believe that if Hawaiian Airlines were still owned and controlled by the old Hawaiian families, we would not be having this problem of out of control,

excessive fares and fees, and unapologized ethnic abuse. They understood the respect and moderation that mutual caring required within the widespread Pacific Ocean Communities.

But now we have a Hawaiian Airlines controlled and managed by people who think that an airline in the Pacific is just a flying theme park, costumed in Hawaiian culture, and money, money is all that this air transportation is about. Gone is the heritage of ‘taking care’ in Hawaiian Airlines’ relations with the Pacific Island communities.

These new mainland investors have put in a CEO, Mark B. Dunkerley, who has never before run an airline, and who is largely responsible for the excessive fares and fees imposed on the American Samoan community. Sooner or later a mature executive learns that going to any excess leads to destructive instability. Unfortunately and unwillingly, we have been forced to be part of Mr. Dunkerley’s learning curve.”

*****END*****



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

18 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

16 August 2006

Page 2 of 2

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PRESS RELEASE

16 August 2006

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – September 20, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces \$1.3million for drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce that the Territory of American Samoa has been awarded \$1,313,096 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in 2006-2007 to implement the Strategic Planning Framework State Incentive Grant (*SPF-SIG Fa'aSamoa*) to prevent substance use among adults and youth.

This grant initiative, directed by the Department of Human & Social Services (DHSS), will deliver a total of \$6,565,480 to the Territory over the next five (5) years to coordinate and improve drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse prevention efforts among government agencies and develop community coalitions to deliver prevention programs in villages across Tutuila and Manu'a.

"I am extremely pleased with the success of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant proposal focused on community-based prevention planning. The First Lady and I share a genuine concern over the rise in social problems affecting our children and families over the last decade," said Governor Togiola. "Life is changing in our Samoan community. Outside influences, new pop culture and media glamorizes the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It is important, now more than ever, that we work together as a community to strengthen our families and reinforce self-resiliency within our children so they can make healthy choices for their future."

A primary purpose of the grant funding is to improve the infrastructure and capacity of the entire Territory to collect and share health, social service and law enforcement data so that decisions on substance abuse prevention programming can be based on factual information and improvements can be tracked over time.

A key component of this effort is First Lady-Mary Tulafono's Leadership Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking, "Ta'ita'itama." The First Lady's mass media campaign and village outreach heightens community awareness around underage drinking as a social issue that needs to be addressed at all levels of our community.

This initiative will be markedly different than past substance abuse prevention efforts in American Samoa. It will create collaboration among all government and private sector agencies involved in prevention efforts for adults and youth, and will direct the majority of the funding to community coalitions to implement programs specifically designed by and for the villages and families they serve.

Over the next year, villages will be assisted by project staff in joining together to form community substance abuse prevention coalitions. These coalitions will be provided with health, law enforcement and social data for their villages that illustrates the areas of greatest need for programs and policies to prevent substance use. Based on identified needs, each coalition will develop a substance abuse prevention plan and will be funded through the project to implement proposed activities.

In closing Governor Togiola congratulates DHSS Director Iaulualo Talia Fa'afetai and the Social Services Division for their hard work in the planning and program development of this project.

“Lt. Governor Ipulasi and I support this Initiative and look forward to building capacity at the village and county level so that local parents, teachers, nurses, health practitioners, police officers, spiritual and traditional leaders are empowered and supported in creating safe and healthy communities for our children,” concluded the Governor.

*For more information regarding **SPF-SIG Fa'a Samoa**, please contact
Kathryn McCutchan-Tupua, Project Director, at 633-1190.*

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 21, 2006)**

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono meets with Mayor Mufi Hannemann

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono met with the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Hon. Muliufi ‘Mufi’ Hannemann, at a breakfast meeting on Friday, where discussions included possible assistance of the Honolulu Police Department for local law enforcement personnel training and other matters related to the American Samoa Government.

Mayor Hannemann returned to Honolulu last night. He arrived last Thursday night for an unofficial visit to the Territory—his annual visit to his mother’s gravesite in Nu’uuli.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“We spoke generally of the economic situation in American Samoa, like the canneries, fiber optic, small business development, as well as the situation with airlines between American Samoa and Honolulu, American Samoa and Independent State of Samoa, New Zealand and Australia.

Mayor Hannemann made a general offer that if there’s anything that we need help with he would be glad to help if he can. I accepted his offer for assistance.

For starters, I asked his consideration of reopening the opportunity to train our best and brightest at Honolulu Police Department, so they can return and be the trainers.

Mayor Hannemann promised to look into that and let me know how they may be able to assist in that regard. I did not ask help in anything else this time. We agreed to keep the lines of communication always open.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – August 21, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola Tulafono to meet with DOI Dep. Assistant Sec. David Cohen and business group; also Korean Consul General Kang on island for a visit

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono will meet with the Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary – Papali’itele David Cohen on Tuesday concerning potential investors in the Territory.

“I believe Mr. Cohen is here at the invitation of a group of investors that have asked to meet with me,” said Governor Togiola. “They are interested in doing business in American Samoa. I will be meeting with Mr. Cohen and this group that is headed by Mr. Mark Hunsaker on Tuesday this week.”

“After the meeting, Mr. Cohen wants to talk about how his office might be of assistance in the Hawaiian Airlines problems we are facing,” said Governor Togiola.

Also visiting American Samoa is the Hon. Kang Dae-Hyun, Consul General of the Republic of Korea based in Honolulu. He will pay a courtesy call to Governor Togiola on Tuesday morning.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – August 22, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Korea Consul General Kang Dae-Hyun pays courtesy call on Governor Togiola

(UTULEI) - Korea Consul General, the Hon. Kang Dae-Hyun, based in Honolulu, today paid a courtesy call on Governor Togiola Tulafono at the Office of the Governor in Utulei.

In welcoming Consul General Kang to his very first visit to the Territory, Governor Togiola acknowledged the excellent Korean-American relations and the local Korean community's contribution in American Samoa, particularly in economic development.

“The Korean community has always demonstrated its commitment and confidence in the Territory's future through its substantial contribution to our economy,” said Governor Togiola. “I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation in the role that they play in enhancing American Samoa's business climate.”

The Governor said the Territory benefits greatly with the support of the Korean community in the stabilization of the local economy.

Governor Togiola also discussed with the Consul General, who visited with his wife Mrs. Kang, the concerns of the local Korean community for American Samoa's stringent immigration process.

“I am quite aware of the lengthy immigration process that foreigners go through, and let me assure you that it isn't just with our Korean members of our island community, other nationalities as well, including our own people from the Independent State of Samoa, go through the same process,” Governor Togiola told Consul General Kang. “The American Samoa Government will continue to work on improving the system in how we process immigration paperwork.”

Governor Togiola thanked Consul General Kang for visiting the Territory and wished him well. After a gift exchange, the Governor invited Mr. Kang to attend a Flag Day celebration in the future.

Consul General Kang will return to Honolulu on Wednesday.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
(for immediate release – August 24,2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola offers AG Sialega prayers and hope for speedy recovery

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that Attorney General Sialega Malaetasi Mauga Togafau has been undergoing treatment for colon cancer in Los Angeles.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“I have been informed by Attorney General Sialega that he has been diagnosed with colon cancer and he is having treatment in the states.

I am confident that the Attorney General will confront this challenge with the same courage, determination and success that he has shown throughout his many years of public service.

May God’s healing touch work through the treatment that the Attorney General is receiving at this time. Also may Our Heavenly Father’s gracious favor and peace be with Mrs. Oreta Mapu Togafau and the whole family at this time of hope.

Mary and I, on behalf of the people and government of American Samoa, offer prayers and best wishes for a speedy convalescing and complete recovery.

Get well wishes may be sent via email: omtogafau@hotmail.com

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - AMERICAN SAMOA
Gov. Togiola Tulafono

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 24,2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: (684) 633-4116
Press Officer: Vincent Iuli (684) 733-1041

Gov. Togiola welcomes Rep. Faleomavaega's inquiry of Hawaiian Air high fares

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today welcomed the efforts of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni in inquiring about the Hawaiian Air high fares charged on the Pago Pago-Honolulu route.

The following is the official statement of Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“The community welcomes, as I do, our Washington Delegate’s intention, firmly declared now, to get involved in our effort to roll back Hawaiian Airlines predatory airfares. The Congressman appears to appreciate the same outrage that I have experienced in the last eight months in dealing with Mark Dunkerley, the one man who has led Hawaiian Airlines down this path of extreme airfares being charged to our people in American Samoa.

Mr. Dunkerley’s reply to his protests, as to mine, has been to toss in the air a confetti of shameless denials that make no sense in the face of the facts: Hawaiian does charge us more than twice what it charges on other routes of the same distance. We have been saying this for almost a year, and now the Congressman’s own research has also convinced him that Hawaiian’s replies are an obvious attempt to avoid this inconvenient truth.

The Congressman is now focused on this, and we encourage his efforts in Washington. Let’s see what he can do. We are all watching and hoping. This is a Washington-created problem and Washington can solve it. The people running the Department of Transportation in 1978, failed to advise Congress that monopolies immune to competition could arise in small outlying markets. Congress asked for DOT’s advice on the consequence of its proposed Airline Deregulation in 1978, and they failed to provide the advice which Congress could have adopted to prevent such intractable monopolies from being abused, and so would have prevented Hawaiian Airlines from becoming a predator in their monopoly route to this oceanic community.

We encourage the Congressman to give his utmost efforts in Washington.” -o-

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – August 25, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Governor Togiola wants military and police training facilities in Savai'i

(UTULEI) – At the Meeting of the Two Samoas, hosted by the Territory last week, Governor Togiola Tulafono asked Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi for land in Savai'i to train local U.S. Army Reservists as well law enforcement personnel.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“We are looking to establish a range and training grounds for military, as well as our law enforcement officers. It is very difficult to set up a complete range or training grounds in American Samoa because of limited space and land. Savai'i has a lot of land available, and apparently, the government of Samoa has a lot of land in Savai'i that could be considered.

Right now our Reserve forces have to go to the Big Island in Hawai'i to do their annual training. If this project is cleared by the US Army, it will be the best cooperative effort all around, not only for us, but for the Independent State of Samoa.

It is so expensive to send our law enforcement officers for weapons training in Hawai'i or the mainland. I have spoken with representatives of the Army and they also have the same concern.

Further to that, we are moving closer and closer to receiving approval to set up a National Guard Unit in American Samoa, and we will definitely need a place to train. If we have certified facilities available in Samoa, it will be very convenient to do our training there. Now that we have clear indication of Samoa's willingness to work with us on this project, I will now move forward to commence talks with the US Army on this project.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - AMERICAN SAMOA
Gov. Togiola Tulafono**

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – August 29,2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff, 633-4116
Press Officer: Vincent Iuli, Press Officer, 733-1041

Governor Togiola honors SSG Jeffrey Sifoa Loa, an American Samoa hero

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono issued the following statement today in memory and honor of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Sifoa Loa of Pago Pago, who died on August 18, 2006 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded while he was on foot patrol.

SSG Loa, 32, had been in the U.S. Army for nine years and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Baumholder, Germany.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“SSG Loa is a hero to his family, to American Samoa, and to the United States of America. He was dedicated to preserving the freedom enjoyed by the people of his island home and the nation that he served so valiantly.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and also with all our families who have loved ones away at war. We all are indebted to SSG Loa for his service.

Mary and I send our sincerest condolences to all his loved ones, his father, Mr. Duke Loa, and the families of his mother, the late Vaisa’a Ofoia, and especially his wife Mary, during this difficult time.

American Samoa, our faith, once again, is being tested by Our Heavenly Father in calling Home another one of our brave soldiers while serving to protect the freedom of his fellow citizens. May we rise above this challenge in accepting that God intends His testing to be a blessing that strengthens our faith even more and draws our island home closer to Him.

God bless Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Sifoa Loa. Welcome Home. Ia manuia lau malaga.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – September 4, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

Guam gets air cargo exemption, Gov. Togiola to ask Faleomavaega for help in D.C.

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that the Department of Transportation (DOT) published last month its ruling that would allow foreign air carriers to pick up cargo from Guam International Airport for transport between Asia-Pacific and other U.S. destinations.

The cabotage cargo exemption for Guam was granted on August 4th for two-years, according to DOT “because it already mirrors what is already allowed for foreign carriers doing business in airports in Hawaii and Alaska.”

However, Guam’s request for passenger cabotage was denied as it is not permitted at any U.S. location, and such cabotage authority has not been granted by any foreign country to U.S. airlines.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“In regards to the Guam cabotage exemption for air cargo, this is an issue we have asked to discuss for quite sometime, only to be met with extreme resistance from Washington. Congress just gave the nod to Guam, but we did not receive this information until it was passed and approved. Now, we must pursue this first level of cabotage for us because it will help develop our exports such as fisheries with more cargo capacity if approved. If we get approval, business at the airport will increase and air cargo services will be expanded. The Department of Transportation has granted cargo relief to Alaska, Hawaii and now Guam. I believe that they will also see that American Samoa’s geographic and economic situation warrants the same type of relief.

I will contact Congressman Faleomavaega and ask that he helps propose this amendment in our favor. We want also to pursue passenger cabotage but I was also informed that this will be even more difficult because of resistance from American carriers. That does not mean we should not try. We need to work together with our Congressman to pursue this agenda in Washington.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – September 7, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff

Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola regrets Utu Abe Malae not staying with DBAS, wishes him all the best

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today said he was very encouraged after meeting early this week with Development Bank of American Samoa – Chairman Liufau T. Sonoma, and President Utu Abe Malae, where Chairman Liufau informed the Governor that Utu has agreed to stay on with Development Bank and serve as permanent president.

However, today, Utu, informed the Governor by email that perhaps Chairman Liufau was more than optimistic, but he (Utu) really did not agree to stay on with the bank. Furthermore, Utu informed Governor Togiola that he is considering other job offers because he cannot keep up with his “fa’aSamoa and church obligations” at the salary he is receiving. But, since the bank is just a small one, he is not comfortable asking for a higher salary.

Governor Togiola today expressed his regret to receiving this notice from Utu, as the Governor was extremely happy that Utu had chosen to stay on and help build Development Bank into a real “development bank” that can serve a real driving engine for business and economic development for American Samoa.

“Development Bank has improved tremendously under Utu’s leadership, and was well on its way to really addressing development issues I was concerned about,” said Governor Togiola. “But now that Utu is looking to move on to greener pastures, I wish him all the best. We will just have to look, once again, for another president that can continue the momentum of the last couple of years. If Utu should leave the bank, it will be a set back for the bank and for our country, but I believe the positive drive and energy that Utu has started will continue.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – September 18, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola and delegation to attend investment conference in Hong Kong

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono will lead the American Samoa trade mission delegation to the inaugural MIPIM ASIA 2006 in Hong Kong, China this week.

The trade conference will be attended by 1,800 people, which will include 500 investors and developers of retailers and hotel groups, and 600 companies from 42 countries. According to Governor Togiola, the Territory's participation in the Hong Kong exposition is reaching out to Asia with hope that it may lead to much-needed economic growth in American Samoa.

“Asia is a very important area for potential investors and it is also important to look beyond the U.S. for investors,” said Governor Togiola. “With the event being held in Asia for the first time, I believe the organizers sense the region's rapid economic growth and increasing cross-border collaboration among the property and the real estate industry. The Hong Kong Investment Conference provides an ideal platform for the Territory to attract investments.”

Governor Togiola said the event has been designed to stimulate property business opportunities within the Asian and Pacific region and showcase the region to international property developers and end-users from other parts of the world, so it is critical that the trade mission reaches the Territory's foreign target groups. And with half of the 600 companies at the meeting being Asian companies, there will be plenty of opportunities for Americans Samoa's presentation.

“We can't stress it enough that economic growth is a major priority,” said Governor Togiola. “It is essential that new economic development be brought into the Territory quickly because the canneries are not stable, and if they leave, replacement businesses must be available. Our uniqueness and strong links to the USA are powerful assets, which other participants will not have.”

The three-day MIPIM Asia 2006 conference to be held September 27-29 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, is being organized by Reed MIDIM, based in Paris.

American Samoa is promoting four development initiatives on government-leased land in the Pago Pago Harbor area and one for Manu'a islands. They are: (1) Cable Car Revitalization as a primary Pacific attraction to the 50th National Park of America; (2) Development of a Yacht Marina in Inner Pago Pago Harbor; (3) Re-development the Rainmaker Hotel (Time Share / Condominium); and (4) Manu'a Islands Eco-Tourism and Golf Course Development.

“The exposure American Samoa will gain from this event will most likely generate much interest in our island economic development,” said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola also said he is very optimistic about the trade mission and is delighted of the opportunity to promote American Samoa as a location to set up businesses, as a trading partner, and to seek investment opportunities that will advance the economic well being of the Territory and its people.

“More than ever before, our efforts are aimed specifically at economic development. Bringing in new development here is very critical because our Department of Commerce estimates a 25% adverse impact on the economic welfare of our people if the canneries were to leave,” said Governor Togiola. “New businesses and industries, not tied to Section 936, are urgently needed. Our December 2006 extension of Section 936 was to find new options for our economy. Trade is critical to support and service our growing population.”

Governor Togiola said many neighboring island nations would like to enjoy the advantages of a large tuna industry and US Territorial status; however, some serious problems also exist. The competitive edge that the local tuna industry has enjoyed for many years is now declining as competing industries in primarily Asia are challenging our local factories.

“With their loss go the major local employer and economic support to the Territory’s economy. Territorial status and preferred entry status to the US market is, and will continue to be, an important trade advantage,” said Governor Togiola. “American Samoa’s dependence on U.S. financial support for infrastructure development and social programs is also becoming a problem - if the U.S. economy falters. Funds from federal programs can decline in the face of growing need – especially if the Territory’s private economy faces the loss of its primary industry.”

Governor Togiola said the obvious solution to counter these economic problems is to 1) diversify the local economy, 2) expand private employment while reducing the government’s labor force, and 3) reach out to other sources of economic aid.

“This trade mission is essential in all three of these areas. Diversification needs to start before the loss of our major employers occurs. The supportive physical and labor infrastructure to the canneries is also an attractive base for new manufacturing enterprises,” said Governor Togiola. “As the private sector expands, this will open the door to shifting part of the government employee base into the private sector. Privatizing some government operations would be one way to implement this objective. This should also have the benefit of reducing the need for federal funding supports, which may not be readily available in the future. Other sources of funding public facilities and services may be obtained from information and contacts generated through this trade mission.”

The American Samoa presentation will include a booth at the trade show to distribute promotional materials and meet with potential investor and trading partners to discuss incentives for investment and location within the Territory.

A special feature has been produced on DVDs for distribution to participants that showcase American Samoa as an investment location. It emphasizes the culture, location and economic opportunities inherent in the islands and its people.

As a sponsor, American Samoa will host an event to draw investors and business people together with Governor Togiola and key private and public officials to promote our economy and inform them on the advantages and the special opportunities available in our territory.

A wide range of existing promotional materials have been assembled that highlight the Territory's natural and social environment, and present specialized information that would be valuable to investors and trading partners. Opportunities exist and incentive can be offered that make American Samoa's economy attractive in the global marketplace.

Governor Togiola said a presentation has been designed to raise awareness of American Samoa and its people and business opportunities and that it is important that the Territory's mission reach out to foreign business interests and get the message across.

"In order to meet the need to diversify our economy, it is essential that American Samoa reaches out into the global marketplace and promotes the investment opportunities inherent in our island," said Governor Togiola. "This can't be done without aggressively seeking potential investors and bringing the information they need to make decision directly to them. This trade mission holds the potential to build on past initiatives in our own region, and to now tap into potential resources in new locations. Asia represents a fertile area for significant investment opportunities, and this trade mission is an important means to gain access to that market."

According to the organizers, the meeting promises to be exceptional. MIPIM Asia will not only be a unique platform to network with professionals throughout Asia and beyond, it will also offer the opportunity to gain a profound insight into the key issues that are shaping the real estate industry.

Along with its comprehensive program of conferences and international exhibition displays, MIPIM Asia has slated a series of prestigious networking events to attract key players from the global property market.

The "World Squared: Global Influences on Property in Asia-Pacific" is the key theme inaugurating the Pre-opening Keynote Address at MIPIM ASIA. The featured keynote speaker and star attraction is Rod Cornish, Head of Research at Macquarie Real Estate in Australia.

Joining Governor Togiola and First Lady - Mary Tulafono are two cabinet members: Commerce Director – Faleseu Eliu Paopao and Budget Director – Magalei Logovi'i, and a support staff of eight.

The delegation will return to American Samoa on October 1.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – September 20, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Fai'ai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

**First Lady-Mary Tulafono Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking reaches out to
importers of alcoholic beverages for help with campaign**

(UTULEI) - American Samoa's First Lady Mary Tulafono last month launched the Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking, "Ta'ita'itama," as part of her local efforts --through a national group that includes governor's spouses-- aimed at preventing childhood drinking during the ages of 9 to 15.

The Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free initiative was established to make childhood drinking prevention a national health priority.

According to Mrs. Tulafono, this unique coalition is an inter-agency committee of the American Samoa Government, faith-based and community-based partners that will act as a catalyst to create momentum for change through public awareness and coordinated action in the Territory.

"Our children have excellent opportunities and a great future ahead for them and we don't want alcohol as an obstacle that will place limitations for their future," said the First Lady. "They deserve safe, healthy and long lives and therefore it is our responsibility to provide our children with healthy choices and avoid alcohol."

The Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking, "Ta'ita'itama," reports that alcohol use is widespread among today's teenagers. Findings from a 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) say nearly 70% of 8th graders perceive alcoholic beverages as "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get. By the time they complete high school nearly 80% of teenagers have consumed alcohol, 30% report having been drunk in the past month, and 29% report having 5 or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks. Approximately 20% of American Samoa's youth surveyed tried alcohol, marijuana or tobacco before age 13.

The survey also (NOTED) said alcohol use increases substantially from Middle to High School. Approximately 20% of 8th graders report having recently (within the past 30 days) consumed alcohol compared to 35% of 10th graders and 50% of 12th graders. According to YRBS 2001, of American Samoa's 6 public high schools, 29.1% youth surveyed drank alcohol within the last 30 days.

A little over 20% of 8th graders report having been drunk at least once in their life compared to almost 45% of 10th graders and 60% of 12th graders.

Mrs. Tulafono cited the alarming facts and consequences of underage drinking.

"A person who begins drinking as a young teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to use alcohol," said the First Lady. "During adolescence, significant changes occur in the body, including the formation of new networks in the brain. Alcohol use during this time may affect the brain development."

In the survey used by “Ta’ita’itama,” data gathered said motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 20, and the rate of fatal crashes among alcohol-involved drivers between 16 and 20 years old is more than twice the rate of alcohol-involved drivers 21 and older. The information also said alcohol use also is linked with youthful deaths by drowning, suicide and homicide. Alcohol use, according to the survey, is associated with many adolescent risk behaviors, including other drug use and delinquency, weapon carrying and fighting, and perpetrating or being the victim of date rape.

“It’s very important that we include in our message the health and economic consequences of underage drinking and we need to make the public aware of both the potentially harmful outcomes of early alcohol use and of the large numbers of underage drinkers,” said Mrs. Tulafono. “We can no longer view it as part of growing up because the data on the damage caused by early access to alcohol are compelling and demonstrate the need for a prevention campaign.”

In partnership with distributors of alcoholic beverages on island, Mrs. Tulafono met last month with a group local importer / wholesalers to gather viewpoints in addressing and preventing the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages to underage buyers.

“The meeting was to reach out to wholesale vendors to assist in ways to enforce the prevention of selling and serving of alcoholic beverages and compliance with established laws,” said the First Lady. “The legal requirement for all alcohol outlets is already there and establishments that comply with the law are contributing to the health and well-being of our underage population.”

In attendance at the meeting were: David Robinson (Panamax / San Miguel & Red Horse), Sam Kupa (Haleck Beverages / Steinlager), Taotasi Archie Soliai (GHC Reid & Co. / Vailima, Coors Light & Miller Genuine Draft), Susing Alevia of South Seas Distribution and Frank Gaisoa of TMO Beverage Plus, distributor and sub-agent respectively of Heineken, Corona, Budweiser, Bud Light, Bud Ice & Vodka Cruisers. The group has formed a subcommittee, and according to Soliai, the Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking is a great idea that has been long overdue.

“There are a lot of teenage issues that society has been trying to address, but alcohol was never a priority so I commend the First Lady and the committee for initiating this campaign,” Soliai, who said emphasized that he was not the official spokesperson for their subcommittee. “The meeting we had was a positive one and I am glad that the importers have been invited to participate and all importers offered support. It was agreed that each importer would pay for a billboard for the campaign”

In speaking on behalf of GHC Reid as an importer of alcoholic beverages, Soliai says their company realizes that American Samoa is a democratic society where privileges and freedom to choose is protected by law. However, there are always concerns regarding the sales of alcoholic products to underage drinkers.

“There are those that push these privileges beyond what the letter of law intended and that is where problems begin. In offering our support and partnership to the First Lady in this Leadership campaign to Keep Children Alcohol Free, we are extremely appreciative of the opportunity to work collaboratively in a community network to address the issue,” said Soliai. “This community-based approach is ideal as the problem is, relatively, a community problem. As importers, we assert that we are not the problem and offer our services to be part of the solution.”

Soliai said he was working with other importers in organizing a meeting next week.

The Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free has four goals: (1) Educate the public about the incidence and impact of early alcohol use by children between 9 and 15 years of age. (2) Energize the public to address these issues within their families, schools, and communities in a sustained way that seeks to elicit change. (3) Focus the attention of government and the community on the seriousness of the early onset of alcohol use. (4) Make prevention of alcohol use by children a priority in the Territory.

“I’m calling out to all establishments that sell and serve alcoholic beverages to please promote responsible beverage service and to comply with all laws restricting alcohol sales to underage buyers and help keep our children alcohol free,” said Mrs. Tulafono. “We can all make a difference for our children.”

This past June, the state of Hawai’i passed a bill to prevent underage drinking and drunk driving. The new law strengthens underage drinking enforcement by adding “consumption” and “ingestion of alcohol” to the list of prohibited activities by individuals under the age of 21. Current Hawai’i state law only prohibits minors from “purchasing” and/or “possessing” alcohol. This new law will make it possible for law enforcement officers to address situations where a person under 21 has illegally consumed alcohol, but is not caught possessing or purchasing it. Thirty-seven other states have similar laws that prohibit the consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21.

The new law in Hawai’i will now suspend the driving privileges of any person under 21 who illegally purchases, possesses or consumes alcohol. The violator’s driver’s license will be suspended for at least 180 days. If the individual is not licensed to drive, a judge would have the discretion to postpone eligibility to obtain a license for 180 days or until the person turns 17. In addition, all violators will be required to perform 75 hours of community service and undergo eight to 12 hours of alcohol education and counseling.

“This Initiative is for our children and their future and the future of our island home,” said the First Lady. “This is truly a shared responsibility. We must begin to communicate with our children by telling them that they have a right not to drink. Be a part of your children’s decisions. Keep them alcohol free.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – September 20, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces \$1.3million for drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce that the Territory of American Samoa has been awarded \$1,313,096 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in 2006-2007 to implement the Strategic Planning Framework State Incentive Grant (*SPF-SIG Fa'aSamoa*) to prevent substance use among adults and youth.

This grant initiative, directed by the Department of Human & Social Services (DHSS), will deliver a total of \$6,565,480 to the Territory over the next five (5) years to coordinate and improve drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse prevention efforts among government agencies and develop community coalitions to deliver prevention programs in villages across Tutuila and Manu'a.

"I am extremely pleased with the success of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant proposal focused on community-based prevention planning. The First Lady and I share a genuine concern over the rise in social problems affecting our children and families over the last decade," said Governor Togiola. "Life is changing in our Samoan community. Outside influences, new pop culture and media glamorizes the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It is important, now more than ever, that we work together as a community to strengthen our families and reinforce self-resiliency within our children so they can make healthy choices for their future."

A primary purpose of the grant funding is to improve the infrastructure and capacity of the entire Territory to collect and share health, social service and law enforcement data so that decisions on substance abuse prevention programming can be based on factual information and improvements can be tracked over time.

A key component of this effort is First Lady-Mary Tulafono's Leadership Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking, "Ta'ita'itama." The First Lady's mass media campaign and village outreach heightens community awareness around underage drinking as a social issue that needs to be addressed at all levels of our community.

This initiative will be markedly different than past substance abuse prevention efforts in American Samoa. It will create collaboration among all government and private sector agencies involved in prevention efforts for adults and youth, and will direct the majority of the funding to community coalitions to implement programs specifically designed by and for the villages and families they serve.

Over the next year, villages will be assisted by project staff in joining together to form community substance abuse prevention coalitions. These coalitions will be provided with health, law enforcement and social data for their villages that illustrates the areas of greatest need for programs and policies to prevent substance use. Based on identified needs, each coalition will develop a substance abuse prevention plan and will be funded through the project to implement proposed activities.

In closing Governor Togiola congratulates DHSS Director Iaulualo Talia Fa'afetai and the Social Services Division for their hard work in the planning and program development of this project.

“Lt. Governor Ipulasi and I support this Initiative and look forward to building capacity at the village and county level so that local parents, teachers, nurses, health practitioners, police officers, spiritual and traditional leaders are empowered and supported in creating safe and healthy communities for our children,” concluded the Governor.

*For more information regarding **SPF-SIG Fa'a Samoa**, please contact
Kathryn McCutchan-Tupua, Project Director, at 633-1190.*

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – September 20, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces grant of \$305,000 for Coral Reef Initiative projects

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono has announced the Territory's Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Projects will receive a technical assistance grant for \$304,935 from the Office of Insular Affairs – Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in Washington DC.

Governor Togiola said the technical assistance grant award will be used to carry out a number of projects that have been identified by the local Coral Reef Advisory Group. These include support for a coral reef coordinator, public awareness coordinator, capacity building scholarships, fisheries management education workshop, and mitigating land-based sources of pollution.

"I am very thankful for this assistance because it allows us to go forward with our high priority projects of improving the management and protection of the Territory's coral reef ecosystems," said Governor Togiola. "These funds will also help us reduce land-based sources of pollution and develop long-term strategies to address global change."

Governor Togiola said the award also included \$25,000 for an education and outreach capacity building project.

"These funds now support very important projects such a public awareness and education coordinator position who will conduct a "Year of Population" campaign as well offer support for a scholarship program to help develop capacity in local resource in local management agencies," said Governor Togiola. "These projects are consistent with the goals of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and will further our joint efforts to protect coral reef ecosystems for present and future generations."

Governor Togiola expressed his gratitude for the support of Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, Mr. Nikolao Iuli Pula, and also to the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in Washington DC.

"We greatly appreciate this funding and we are very thankful for the support as we address this initiative," said Governor Togiola. "It all will depend on four strategies-building partnerships, coordination, integration and capacity-building. But, for all of it to succeed, in effectively conserving and managing coral reef ecosystems, it is essential that we base our programs on local community development."

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release - October 5, 2006)

Contact Person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff • *Contact Number:* 633-4116

GOVERNOR'S WHITE SUNDAY MESSAGE

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono issued his annual White Sunday message today with the following message:

Governor's White Sunday 2006 Message

“White Sunday provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our children. And every year, it is a reminder for all of us to cherish and value every child in our lives. Our commitment to our children is a loving partnership between all of us parents, grandparents, the school, the church, the village, and our island community as a whole.

Let us be reminded in this year's White Sunday celebration, that human dignity and mutual respect are part of our children's development and it must begin with every adult they encounter daily and it must be reflected in our homes, schools, church and government.

Let's promote the development of healthy attitudes and feelings to our children. It will encourage each one of them to become an individual while trying to achieve satisfying relationships with others. The bonds that we create each day are vital to the success of our children because we believe each child deserves an opportunity for total development in American Samoa. Let's expand and reinforce the strengths of our children. And that starts in our respective homes.

As we continue to try to meet the diverse needs of our children in ensuring that providing the best education is still our main priority, let us be proud that what we do for our children is a great and wonderful investment. They are the greatest source of promise for American Samoa.

Our island home today will be under the stewardship of our children tomorrow. Let's embrace our investment. Let's embrace and celebrate our children.

On behalf of my wife --Mary, Lt. Governor Ipulasi, Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia, and all of our children and grandchildren, we wish all the children of American Samoa a very happy, blessed and safe White Sunday.

And a special White Sunday greeting to all the children of our brave men and women in uniform whose parents are unable to be on island for this very special celebration because they are protecting our freedom. God bless and keep them always in His loving care.

Ia manuia le Lotu a Tamaiti,



TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

Governor's Message for White Sunday 2006

"Our Children: A Great and Wonderful Investment"

"White Sunday provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our children. And every year, it is a reminder for all of us to cherish and value every child in our lives. Our commitment to our children is a loving partnership between all of us parents, grandparents, the school, the church, the village, and our island community as a whole.

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On behalf of my wife --Mary, Lt. Governor Ipulasi, Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia, and all of our children and grandchildren, we wish all the children of American Samoa a very happy, blessed and safe White Sunday.

And a special White Sunday greeting to all the children of our brave men and women in uniform whose parents are unable to be on island for this very special celebration because they are protecting our freedom. God bless and keep them always in His loving care.

Ia manuia le Lotu a Tamaiti,



TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 6, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces \$400,000 DOI grant for LBJ Hospital

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that the Department of the Interior(DOI) and Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) has awarded American Samoa a grant of \$400,000 that will provide critical improvements to the water supply and wastewater management at LBJ Hospital in Faga’alu.

Governor Togiola received the announcement dated September 12, 2006 this week from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior – Office of Insular Affairs, Papali’itele David B. Cohen.

“I wish to thank the Deputy Assistant Secretary for this wonderful news for the Territory,” said Governor Togiola. “ When we applied in July, we outlined in our request that critical improvements to the water supply and wastewater management are needed at LBJ. With this grant, we can begin work as soon as the paperwork is completed. I greatly appreciate the continued support of DOI and OIA in Washington D.C. for our much-needed projects.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 8, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola receives \$300,000 from DOT for Highway Safety

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that the Territory will receive \$300,000 from the Department of Transportation (DOT) – National Traffic Safety Administration (NTSA) under the State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grant Program.

In announcing the award that was issued on September 13, 2006 and received this week, Governor Togiola said American Samoa’s grant award is based on information that the local Office of Highway Safety submitted to Washington D.C. that demonstrated the Territory’s establishment of a highway safety data and traffic records coordinating committee and development of a multi-year highway safety data and traffic records system strategic plan.

“I wish to express my sincere thanks to DOT and NTSA for this funding that certifies that our Department of Public Safety and Office of Highway Safety have implemented significant improvements to our traffic records system,” said Governor Togiola. “I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Territory’s Office of Highway Safety at the Department of Public Safety and the coordinating committee for the outstanding job in preparation of our submission that has resulted in this successful application.”

Governor Togiola said the funding will help American Samoa continue to implement significant improvements to its traffic records system as well as design and manage more effective strategies for reducing crashes, deaths and injuries.

“The actions that our local Office of Highway Safety have taken so that we can have better access to more reliable data in addressing serious traffic and highway safety concerns should be commended,” said Governor Togiola. “I would also like to thank Commissioner Sotoa for his personal support of this most important highway safety effort.”

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 15, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola returns from successful Hong Kong investment conference

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono returned to the Territory on Tuesday, October 3rd after completing an investment mission to Hong Kong to broaden American Samoa’s opportunities in the Asia Pacific region.

In the week long visit to the investment conference --American Real Estate and Services Exhibition and Seminar at MIPIM (French acronym: “Marché International des Professionnels de l’Immobilier,” or ‘International Market for Property Professionals) Asia-- coordinated by the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce through the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, Governor Togiola said the trip was a huge success because it allowed American Samoa to meet with potential investors while encouraging friendly and productive relationships among the American Samoa Government and business entities in China, as well as the U. S. Commercial Service office in Hong Kong.

“This very successful mission was an opportunity to speak directly to Asia Pacific investors that converged on Hong Kong,” said Governor Togiola. “I am very happy with the outcome of the meetings and the many inquiries from potential investors. This is the region that we should be targeting from now on in business development and creating partnerships between ASG and businesses in Asia. Hong Kong is truly a good market on its own and, as we found out, an excellent gateway to mainland China for small and medium-size enterprises.”

Governor Togiola said in developing and providing support for business investment in American Samoa from Asia Pacific companies, the Territory must now maintain contacts with all companies that have expressed interest, many of them who have never heard of Tutuila and Manu’a. Some of them have already sent their requests for further information to review while contemplating visits to American Samoa in the near future.

“Most of the people that we met in Hong Kong have heard of Samoa and its popularity in the annual Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament, but were surprised that there was an American Samoa,” Governor Togiola. “We have a lot to offer and it is very important now to maintain continuity in reaching out to investors in Asia to make sure that they know us. Our visit to Hong Kong broke new ground for new opportunities that will benefit our business development. We have learned in our one week visit that we must take advantage of the numerous business opportunities in Hong Kong in promoting American Samoa, the name itself, as well as an investment location.”

Governor Togiola focused on five primary investment areas: Eco-Tourism and Golf Course Development in the Manu'a Islands, Tramway Development between Solo Hill in Utulei and Mount Alava, Pago Pago Bay Marina and Marine Railroad Development, Rainmaker Hotel Condominium and Time Share Development, and ASG Property in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Between the exhibition and seminars, Governor Togiola met throughout the week with officials from industries such as, airlines and travel, hotel and resorts, textile and fashion, real estate and high end properties.

“We are very thankful for the opportunity to have participated at the Hong Kong conference and I wish to thank the Hon. James Cunningham, U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, and Mr. Stewart Ballard, Chief Commercial Consul in Hong Kong – U.S. Department of Commerce,” said Governor Togiola. “It was our first time and it really enabled us to be accessible to investors of the region who attended the meeting. It allowed us to network and conduct one-on-one meetings. The American Real Estate and Services Exhibition and Seminar (AREAS) within the MIPIM Asia event was a big plus for American Samoa as it guided international investors interested in doing business in the U.S. through the Territory in hearing of duty-free and no quota on exports out of our port.”

Attending the meetings during the investment conference with Governor Togiola were Commerce Director – Faleseu Eliu Paopao, Commerce Deputy Director – Lelei Peau and local businessman – Alex Galea'i of Alamai, IT Solutions and Checkers American Samoa.

In addition to the networking and meetings at the many exhibits of the investment event, Governor Togiola, together with the American Samoa team, held special meetings with many of the firms who have indicated interest to meet Governor Togiola, and to discuss potential developments and investment in American Samoa:

Mr. Shawn Hill - Marriott International

Mr. Bernhard Bohnenberger -Six Senses Resorts and Spas, Thailand

Dr. Meng Xiaosau - Chairman of National Real Estate Development Group & China Time Share Council

Mr. Kai Wang “Kevin” Yeung - Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association

Mr. Lucien Gambarota and Mr. Douglas Woodring of Motorwave Co. Ltd

Mr. Tony Tyler & Mr. Augustus Tang - Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd

Mr. Ronnie Ho - Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong

Mr. Steve Alexander - Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Mr. Jack Maisano - American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

The Hon. James Cunningham - U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong

Mr. Stewart Ballard - U.S. Department of Commerce - Chief Commercial Consul

The American Samoa participation at the event also received special interest from the Hong Kong media. The Ming Pao News Agency's interview of the governor was published in the Chinese language in its Thursday, September 28th issue.

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE AND SERVICES PRESS CONFERENCE

At the closing press conference, Governor Togiola expressed his thanks to the many investors, developers and exhibitors that visited the American Samoa booth, with the largest number being from mainland China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand, and the farthest from American Samoa being Russia. Governor Togiola also said it was good to have met many corporate hotel and resort representatives from Asia and also Europe and the U.S. because it allowed more opportunities to promote the name of American Samoa.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 30, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola asks DOT to address EAS violation by Hawaiian Air

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has written to the U.S. Department of Transportation to address the continuing violation of the Essential Air Service (EAS) Order requiring Hawaiian Air to provide specific level of service to American Samoa.

The content of the letter from Governor Togiola dated October 23, 2006 is attached below:

October 23, 2006

(VIA EMAIL: Susan.Mcdermott@dot.gov with original to follow by mail)

**Susan McDermott
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Aviation and International Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20590**

Dear Ms. McDermott,

In reviewing the damage that Hawaiian Airlines is causing the U. S. Territory of American Samoa, we now wish to formally address the Department of Transportation to this air carrier's continuing violation of DOT's Essential Air Service Order requiring Hawaiian Airlines to provide a specific level of service to our community.

This EAS Order requires Hawaiian Airlines to provide 559 seats weekly (adding capacity at certain times) in each direction between Honolulu and Pago Pago. For some time now Hawaiian Airlines has been violating this EAS Order by providing weekly only 504 to 528 seats in each direction, depending on the particular B767 aircraft being used. (See Attachment).

Thus, Hawaiian Airlines is violating this DOT Order by failing to provide 110 to 62 more seats each week on this route. This has been a continuing violation for over three years, since February, 2003, when Hawaiian Airlines switched from DC-10s to smaller and various seat configured B767 aircraft to serve this route. We have no

knowledge of any modification to this EAS Order that allows Hawaiian Airlines to alter its EAS requirements.

We would appreciate your advice on the available procedures in your Department to enforce this EAS Order, and impose penalties and sanctions for non-performance.

We also note that it was shortly after Hawaiian Airlines began violating its EAS Order in 2003 with its smaller B767 aircraft, that it sharply raised all the airfares on this route. This not only was a profit move by a monopoly carrier, but it is a standard move to suppress traffic, thus affording it a protective rationale for its EAS violations in shorting the required weekly seats with an excuse that the traffic now does not warrant the additional capacity that EAS requires.

It is the request of the American Samoa Government that this EAS Order be fully enforced. With its present equipment, this would require Hawaiian Airlines to put on third flight every week for it to be in compliance with the current EAS Order. We now request that DOT order Hawaiian Airlines to provide immediately this additional weekly flight and so remain in compliance with its EAS Order 84-10-18.

If an Essential Air Service Order determined that 559 seats in each direction was the appropriate service level in 1984 for this community, then this requirement of seats would hardly be less appropriate now when this same community in just recent years has grown by almost 25 percent.

In our view, the currently available traffic is suppressed by the extraordinarily high airfares, a condition created by Hawaiian Airlines itself. If were not for the ability of Samoan families to reach out to their off-island relatives, the traffic would be even more suppressed. Indeed, the imposition of these air fares has so affected our people, (those who have to pay for travel out of their own funds), that we are receiving more and more anecdotal evidence that such airfares are only able to be paid by families when they go to their mainland and Hawaiian relatives and ask for monetary help. This creates hardships for even more of our people everywhere. This is not an easy task for mainland families, and it is often why so many of our people only have the funds to buy their air fares within a short time of departure when air fares imposed are at their highest. This travail, of course, only favors the enhanced profit desires of Hawaiian Airlines.

The EAS Order must be enforced. A third flight must be required. A detailed and expert examination of Hawaiian Airlines' extraordinary profits on this EAS route will show that this profit produces more than sufficient net revenue to afford, without loss, this added frequency. This is the only way now that Hawaiian Airlines can meet the EAS requirements, which have been ordered by USDOT, and which have been openly violated by Hawaiian Airlines these past three years. Hawaiian Airlines must not be allowed to arbitrarily cut capacity required on an EAS route,

Hon. Susan McDermott

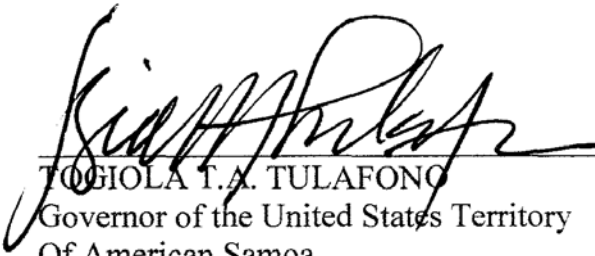
October 23, 2006

Page 3 of 3

and then conveniently raise airfares to keep demand in check. The proper response in our view is to enforce the capacity determined and ordered by the Department of Transportation, and maintain the integrity of DOT EAS Orders as Congress intended, to avoid an adverse impact of the 1978 Aviation Deregulation Act on small communities.

Since any proceeding would require response from Hawaiian Airlines, we would request that any data or justifications offered by Hawaiian Airlines to oppose this enforcement, be made under oath as sworn testimony, with an opportunity for our expert attorneys in this field to cross examine. Our concern to have this procedure available arises from our experience with the current CEO of Hawaiian Airlines, Mark Dunkerley, who, in six months of correspondence this year with my office, has clearly not offered in good faith, complete and truthful answers to our requests for explanations for the conduct of his air carrier operation which has so adversely affected our people.

I look forward to your advice. I am grateful for your consideration of our requests.


TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of the United States Territory
Of American Samoa

With warmest regards,

Attachment: <http://www.hawaiianair.com/about/corporate/factsheet.asp>

cc: **Mark B. Dunkerley, CEO, Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.**
Jonathan B. Hill, Esq., Counsel for Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.
1700 New Hampshire Ave. NW. Washington, D.C. 20036
Hon. Faoa Ipulasi A. Sunia, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. Sialega M. Togafau, Esq. American Samoa Attorney General
Toetasi Tuiteleapaga, Esq. Consel to Governor of American Samoa

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 30, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola ends meetings of Coral Reef Task Force in V.I.

(ST. THOMAS, USVI) - American Samoa Governor Togiola Tulafono joined other the territorial leaders and agency representatives to the United States Coral Reef Task Force to adopt ten resolutions during last Friday's closing session of the 16th Task Force meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Among the adopted resolutions was a call for the Steering Committee of the Task Force to develop and evaluate options for addressing Governor Togiola's statement on global climate change, presented earlier in the day.

Governor Togiola's statement recommended the development of science-based policies to reduce local stressors to coral reefs, the initiation of a national campaign for meaningful efforts to curtail global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, and education of the public and leaders to increase awareness of the seriousness of the threat.

In addition to delivering his statement on global climate change, Governor Togiola updated the Task Force on other urgent territorial issues, and provided the Task Force with recommendations for advancing coral reef conservation efforts.

Governor Togiola urged the Task Force to ensure that the greatest possible portion of coral conservation funds be directed to the jurisdictions for increased and improved local level action.

The Governor also sought new partnerships for the development of the Territorial Marine Laboratory, called for the creation of a Center for coral disease and health, and officially announced that American Samoa will be hosting the 18th United States Coral Reef Task Force Meeting next year.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, established in 1998 to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems, is co-chaired by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior and includes members of 12 Federal agencies, seven States and Territories, and three Freely Associated States.

American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources Director Ufagafa Ray Tulafono and Department of Commerce Deputy Director Lelei Peau also attended the meeting.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 31, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola clarifies past stance on granting citizenship to alien permanent residents

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono, currently off island on government business, today offered clarification on past stance of granting citizenship to alien permanent residents of American Samoa.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“I cannot account for what was said by the Lieutenant Governor or Congressman Faleomavaega because I have not heard nor read any text of their statements. My response is based solely on my knowledge of this issue from our time with late Governor Tau’ese to the present.

First of all, it must be clear that Governor Tauese and I have never promised granting citizenship to aliens living in American Samoa. I have answered this question a few times on my radio program explaining to the people asking why they should not be made citizens, that granting of citizenship, as far as American Samoa is concerned, is a federal issue. American Samoa does not have the authority to grant citizenship in the United States. And American Samoa being U.S. Nationals, we have no right to confer “national” status either because it is a matter of federal jurisdiction. We have never been unclear about this issue.

What Governor Tau’ese and I in 1996 vouched to do for people who have achieved “permanent residency” in American Samoa is to seek a change in the American Samoa constitution to allow them to vote in “local” elections. That was all we can do under our local laws. We have explained this issue very clearly and thoroughly to avoid any confusion. However, people continue to speak about gaining citizenship in American Samoa as equivalent to U.S. citizenship. For my part, I have explained each time that to be a citizen, the person must be naturalized in accordance with United States federal laws.

In fact, Governor Tau’ese and I were successful in introducing a bill to amend the constitution - to allow “permanent residents” to vote in “local elections.” But the issue died without a vote in the Senate in 1999. Our following efforts to re-introduce the bill in 1998 and 1999 were not successful either.

Since the creation of the Future Political Status Study Commission when we came into office in 2004, I have decided to leave this issue for the constitutional review that will follow the report of the Political Status Study Commission since we are looking at our overall political status that will affect citizenship in relations to the United States as well as defining citizenship for American Samoa, if the people should choose to move on to a more autonomous type of government status, in association with the United States. I believe this is the appropriate forum to debate and discuss this issue.”

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – October 31, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff ▪ Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola says climate change could devastate majority of coral in American Samoa

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola told conferees last week at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) meeting in the U.S. Virgin Islands that a single climate change event could devastate the majority of coral in the Territory and other areas face this same potential tragedy.

The following is the official global change statement that was presented by Governor Togiola at the 16th meeting of USCRTF that was held in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands from October 23rd to 28th.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

“I listened earlier this week to the presentations concerning climate change and gained a great fear for the realities this could mean for my island should the trend continue. As a small island our way of life, a primary source of our food and a growing percentage of our economy depends heavily on a healthy coral reef.

Under the present circumstances I can implement all the best management practices and still a single climate change event could devastate the majority of coral in the Territory. All of the member jurisdictions of the CRTF face this same potential tragedy. We cannot allow this to be the case.

As the available data and scientific consensus become more persuasive and compelling on the present trends and projected impacts of global climate change, especially to the small islands dependent upon coral reefs and related resources, a set of proactive and responsive policies need to be developed along with realistic implementation strategies.

The precautionary principal alone mandates specific steps be taken immediately at the local, regional and global levels, to address the impacts of rising temperatures, sea level and ocean acidity.

The steps should include:

1. The development of science-based policies to reduce local stressors to coral reefs, and to provide protections at the regional level for maintaining the quality of source reefs, corridors of larval transport and recipient reefs to insure such precious resources are available now and in the future. Considerable effort has been put into describing resiliency of reefs, which can assist in defining areas that may survive bleaching better.

This is one example of a measure that can maximize survival and recovery from bleaching. The CRTF needs to assemble a team of experts to develop a toolbox of management actions to support minimizing the potential risk associated with climate change. This needs to happen immediately so preventative measures can be applied.

2. A national campaign is needed for meaningful efforts to curtail global greenhouse gas emissions. In the face of mounting oil costs and dwindling world reserves, we risk not only serious effects on the world’s climate, sea level and ocean acidity, but also the depletion of non-renewable resources as a legacy for our children and grandchildren.

The concepts of this action are understood but the education and implementation actions need to be marketed on a large national scale to be effective.

a - The public and leadership awareness of the seriousness of this threat is poor at best. Efforts need to be made now to gain political and financial support immediately to respond to this threat.

b - Consider an amendment to the Task Force's National Action Plan, Objective 5 of Goal 11, by adding the following text: 'and support efforts at the local, state, national and global levels to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.'

I place great value on coral reef resources and through the CRTF have directed significant emphasis on developing strategies to deal with local threats. However the management of climate change requires national attention.

Given the facts presented and the seriousness of this situation, I implore that the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force develops and facilitates immediate action with the appropriate partners to address both local and global climate change threats to coral reefs.

I fully recognize the enormity of this request, but when compared to the potential impact of continued warming, I feel it is an easy decision to support.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 1, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola tells DOT Hawaiian Air petition for Declaratory Order is premature

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has written to the U.S. Department of Transportation to say the Hawaiian Airlines’ petition for a Declaratory Order is clearly premature.

The following is the content of Governor Togiola’s letter dated October 31, 2006 to the Honorable Susan McDermott, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs at the Department of Transportation in Washington DC:

October 31, 2006

**The Honorable Susan McDermott
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C.**

VIA: Email: Susan.Mcdermott@dot.gov (original to follow by US Postal Service)

Dear Ms. McDermott,

The American Samoa Government has been invited to respond to Hawaiian Airlines Petition for a Declaratory Order requesting the Department of Transportation to assert a view that the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, as well as its Commerce clause requires the supervision of the 1978 Aviation Deregulation Act over the U. S. Territory of American Samoa.

Based on this legal reasoning on which it concludes its Petition, Hawaiian Airlines asks that a DOT Order be specifically directed to the Government of this U. S. Territory of American Samoa and declare its recent Executive Order 005-2006 alluding to the possible use of its Border Control authority, to be in conflict with the Aviation Deregulation of 1978, and, therefore, is unenforceable.

We have not been able to find any previous example of the Department of Transportation issuing a Declaratory Order against another agency of the Federal Government, as here proposed. Hawaiian Airlines offers no precedent.

The Honorable Susan McDermott

31 October 2006

Page 2 of 2

The American Samoa Government understands and respects the Department of Transportation's obligations under its Congressional mandates. Further, as the Department of Transportation has to respond to its own jurisdictional imperatives given to it by the Congress, so also must other Federal agencies, as the Government of this U. S. Territory, follow the imperatives of its own jurisdictional responsibilities imposed on it by this same Congress. Like the Department of Transportation, until Congress has clearly told us otherwise, we must enforce the responsibilities it has given to us and directed us to implement.

We cannot hand over these responsibilities to another Federal agency, and submit the discretion of our duties to others, unless the Congress has clearly and unambiguously so directed. We, therefore, find it inappropriate to submit and participate in the adjudication requested by Hawaiian Airlines.

The Department of Transportation could find a conflict between our position on what the Congress has directed, and the position they would hold on these matters. We don't think there is. In passing, we note that when Congress passed the 1978 Aviation Deregulation Act, they left intact the authority of another Federal agency responsible for controlling the United States borders to refuse aircraft permission to land when coming from without its jurisdiction, when "The granting of the requested landing rights would not be in the best interests of the Government." (Currently at 19 CFR 122.14 (a) (5). A reasonable conclusion is, therefore, that the Congress did not intend its deregulatory environment to extend to border control authority acting in the interests of the general welfare it protects. Our border control authority acts for the U. S. Territory of American Samoa in place of the national BCBP with same ambit of authority, and the same power to enforce its responsibility for the general welfare.

Accordingly, we would appreciate your understanding of our position as a reasonable and necessary exercise of the authority granted to us by Congress, consistent with its other enactments, the Aviation Deregulation Act of 1978.

Were the Department of Transportation to issue now a Declaratory Order as Hawaiian Airlines has requested, on the Department's understanding of its obligations under the Aviation Deregulation Act of 1978, it would necessarily result in our publishing an American Samoa Government Attorney General's Opinion of this Government's obligations under its border control authority granted to this United States Territory by Congress since 1929.

We would then have the public spectacle of two Federal agencies in serious conflict, and the perception of one Federal agency supporting an obvious need of the public welfare, and the other in the inevitable position of perceptively supporting an airlines' predatory behavior.

But all of this is unnecessary at this point.

We reflect that Hawaiian Airlines' Petition for a Declaratory Order is clearly premature. The Executive Order 005-2006, the sole object of its complaint, is an Executive Order by a Federal agency declaring Hawaiian Airlines to be an enterprise that consistently engages in predatory and discriminatory acts in the conduct of its activities. This is the purpose of this Executive Order. The remedy to be sought is described in this Executive Order as a speculative effort, to be actually decided and determined in a separate future Executive Order, and then only if a suitable replacement to Hawaiian Airlines is found. When that second Executive Order is issued then the matters here of concern to Hawaiian Airlines will no longer be merely a speculation, and it would only at this point be an issue for the Department of Transportation's concern and possible response.

This premature Petition by Hawaiian Airlines is simply their immediate public relations agenda to get the Department of Transportation to issue quickly an Opinion, whereby Hawaiian Airlines can tell the public that even the Department of Transportation supports them in their operation of the Pago Pago / Honolulu route.

We reflect that the Department of Transportation should not be involved in and used by Hawaiian Airlines' in their public relation efforts. In our view, it would be appropriate to have this Petition dismissed as premature.

Further, we reflect that the Department of Transportation may look at the basis of their Petition outlined in its conclusion for which it seeks confirmation. Hawaiian Airlines requests the Department of Transportation to assert a view that the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, as well as its Commerce clause requires the supervision of the 1978 Aviation Deregulation Act over the U. S. Territory of American Samoa. This is a legal mistake that the Department of Transportation could not possibly endorse.

The U. S. Territory of American Samoa is simply part of the Federal Government that is controlled by Congress. We are not controlled by Congress by reason of the Supremacy Clause or the Interstate and Foreign Commerce clause of the United States Constitution. We are directly controlled by Congress by reason of Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory . . . belonging to the United States." We belong to the Congress.

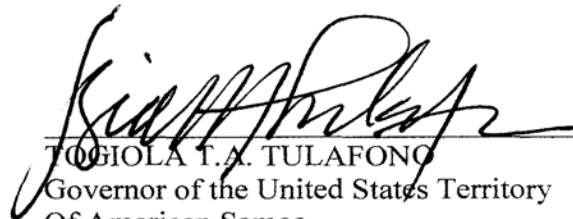
We reflect, therefore, that the Department of Transportation could not possibly issue the Declaratory Order requested by Hawaiian Airlines on the legal basis it sets forth in its concluding summary. It would be reasonable for this Petition to be returned as inappropriately asking the Department of Transportation to confirm legal error.

With kind regards,

The Honorable Susan McDermott

31 October 2006

Page 4 of 4



TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of the United States Territory
Of American Samoa

Cc: Mark Dunkerly, CEO, Hawaiian Airlines
Hon. Faoa Ipulasi A. Sunia, Lt. Governor
Hon. Sialega M. Togafau, Attorney General of American Samoa
Toetasi Tuiteleapaga, Esq., Legal Counsel to Governor

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 2, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff, 633-4116
Press Officer: Vincent Iuli, Press Officer, 733-1041

Governor Togiola travels to meetings in DC, Chicago, LA and Honolulu

(UTULEI) - After the United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Governor Togiola Tulafono and First Lady – Mary Tulafono stopped in Washington D.C. for meetings to follow up on many issues that the Governor has been pursuing over the last year.

First and foremost on his Washington D.C. agenda was a meeting with the State Department with regards to the application filed with the Pacific Islands Forum for a “non-voting” membership in the Forum as is allowed under its present membership rules.

“I needed to clear up with the State Department, while I am in Washington, the misunderstanding developing through the over-zealousness of people jumping into this matter without complete or accurate information,” said Governor Togiola.

In a State Department meeting with Mr. Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and his team, Governor Togiola advocated the need for American Samoa to participate in the regional affairs.

“Our point of view needs to be represented in the Forum,” said Governor Togiola. “I informed Mr. Davies that we were fully cognizant of the jurisdictional issues involved, and the application made to the Forum was with full knowledge that the Forum will be informing U.S. State Department of our application and seeking their views.”

Governor Togiola wrote to the State Department before his departure for the USCRTF, asking for their support of the application.

“I reiterated that request during the meeting here in DC,” said Governor Togiola. “The State Department assured us that they will be making a decision soon on this matter.”

USDA-RUS

Governor Togiola also had a follow up meeting in DC with Mr. James Andrew, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Service (USDA-RUS) program, on the services that can be provided by the RUS with regards to the fiber optic submarine cable project.

Also attending the meeting were USDA staff members and program policy advisors that are responsible for rural development, such as broadband, telecommunications and utilities.

“It was an excellent meeting,” said Governor Togiola. “When Mr. Andrew was in American Samoa during the DOI Business and Trade meetings earlier this year, he had indicated possible help from his agency for this particular project, by way of financing guarantees.”

Governor Togiola expressed his appreciation to Mr. Andrew and his staff for being receptive in conducting discussions and offering support of all the potential services that could be considered, and the fact RUS have also indicated the availability of actual loans in addition to the guarantees that were previously discussed in Samoa.

“I am very grateful to James Andrew and his people for the frank discussions on this matter. Their support was very encouraging and I look forward to receiving from them further information to guide us through this process,” said Governor Togiola. “I am hopeful that we will continue this dialogue and the cooperative spirit to see this project through for us.”

USDOT

Governor Togiola also spent some time on preparing and filing with the U.S. Department of Transportation his position letter in regards to the Hawaiian Air petition that is before the USDOT.

“I have written to DOT to say that Hawaiian Air’s petition on Declaratory Order is clearly premature,” said Governor Togiola.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Governor Togiola also paid a courtesy call on the White House staff at the Intergovernmental Relations Office to brief them on the issues faced by American Samoa and held informal discussions of these matters.

UNITED AIRLINES

Governor Togiola traveled to Chicago IL on Wednesday and held discussions with United Airlines. There had been no plans by United to land in American Samoa, but since they do fly into the South Pacific, the Governor feels it is worth meeting with the airline to examine areas of potential development that may include American Samoa.

“We want to learn of their future plans and see how American Samoa may fit into those plans for United Airlines,” said Governor Togiola.

LOS ANGELES

Governor Togiola and First Lady – Mary Tulafono have arrived in Los Angeles (Friday, Nov. 3). The Governor is scheduled to meet with potential investors in the fiber optic submarine cable project. This is a group of young Samoans who are interested in investing in this project in American Samoa.

While in LA, Governor Togiola and the First Lady will look for furnishings and supplies for Government House on Mauga o Ali’i. There will be time also for a medical follow-up appointment for the First Lady with her specialist.

HONOLULU

Governor Togiola will travel to Hawaii for further meetings with the Honorable Muliufi Hannemann, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, regarding cooperative efforts as discussed during the mayor’s most recent visit to American Samoa.

The Governor will also meet with John Waihe'e, Chairman of the American Samoa Economic Advisory Commission, and former Hawaii governor, to discuss follow ups to the report of the Commission, and a strategy for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report, so that a position can be presented to DOI officials that will be attending the business development the following week.

Governor Togiola and the First Lady will also attend the Department of Interior's Business Development conference in Honolulu on November 13 and 14 before returning to the Territory on November 16th.

Several meetings are scheduled between interested companies and Governor Togiola during the week of the conference, including continuing interest in the fiber optic submarine cable project.

*****END*****

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 2, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff, 633-4116
Press Officer: Vincent Iuli, Press Officer, 733-1041

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*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR / OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 21, 2006)

Contact: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact Number: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola Tulafono issues Thanksgiving 2006 Message,
“The Many Blessings of Our Island Home”**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono issued his Thanksgiving 2006 Message today where he expressed his sincere gratitude for the countless blessing received by the people and government of American Samoa.

The following is Governor Togiola’s Thanksgiving Message in its entirety:

**Governor’s Thanksgiving 2006 Message
“The Many Blessings of Our Island Home”**

“We all gather as a people this week with family and friends, congregations and groups, to give thanks to Our Heavenly Father for the many blessings of our island home.

The bounty of these islands that we call home has always been great. It has allowed us to grow and prosper and we are thankful for another year of life, made better through God’s countless blessings for American Samoa.

Our Thanksgiving blessing is more than the wonderful and delicious feast that we share across the islands. It is even more luscious than the beautiful green mountains and blue sea that surround our island community. Our Thanksgiving blessing is special because we have each other.

We are blessed to have another year to celebrate this very special day with our mothers and fathers, and even more special, with our grandmothers and grandfathers. It is a special week to gather as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and the many cousins too numerous to count, to say thank you to each other, and for each other, together as one voice. Together we all say thank you.

So many blessings and so much to be thankful for creates a special opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all of God’s servants for keeping the flame of love and hope alive. We say thank you to all the family matai and our extended families, and all those who are dear to us that we were not able to visit throughout the year. Thanksgiving isn’t just a time of gratitude. It is also a time of renewal and unity.

Perhaps the greatest blessing for us all is the blessing of freedom. And on this Thanksgiving celebration our prayers are with our sons and daughters in uniform off island. We ask God that He watch over all of our loved ones and give them strength to continue to protect and defend that freedom that we enjoy throughout the year.

My wife - Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi and Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia join me in asking God to continue to guide and watch over all the families of American Samoa. We wish you all God’s peace and blessing for a Happy Thanksgiving Day.

Ia manuia le mafutaga a aiga uma a lo tatou atunu’u i lenei tausaga. Ia manuia le Aso Fa’afetai.”

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 29, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces \$1.3 million grant award from HUD

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce the Territory's 2006 Action Plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and American Samoa will also receive a grant award of \$1.3 million from HUD.

The actual amount of the grant --\$1,380,328-- represents funds allocated to ASG under the HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs designed to address the government's housing needs: [Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) \$1,018,202; Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) \$315, 601; and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) \$46,525]

Governor Togiola said HUD believes the goals and objectives developed in ASG's Annual Action Plan provide the foundation for the formulation of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing partnerships throughout the Territory.

"I am very thankful for the support from HUD because they believe these partnerships will be invaluable as we, as a government, confront the challenges of developing affordable housing, revitalizing neighborhoods, reducing and ending homelessness, and providing economic opportunities, particularly for low-income citizens," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola received the good news this week in an announcement made by HUD in a November 2nd letter received this week from Mr. Mark Chandler, Director of the Office of Community Planning and Development at the Honolulu Region 9 Field Office.

"This is great news for our island community because the Community Development Block Grant program is a great resource for local governments to use to help attract jobs, build and nurture small businesses," said Governor Togiola. "The HOME program provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use --often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-- to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people."

END

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – November 30, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola to host First Pacific Territories Summit on Violence Against Women, unable to attend Hawaii Governor Lingle inauguration

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono today said an invitation to attend the inauguration of Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and Lieutenant James “Duke” Aiona on December 4th in Honolulu was received last week. However, due to the specific time frame of the inauguration and the First Pacific Territories Summit on Violence Against Women that the Territory will be hosting next week, he and First Lady Mary Ann will not be able to travel to Honolulu for the gubernatorial swearing-in ceremony.

Governor Togiola said it is truly an honor to have been invited by Governor Lingle and Lieutenant Governor Aiona to attend the festivities in celebration of their re-election in Hawaii. However, the First Pacific Territories Summit on Violence Against Women is being hosted by American Samoa next week and both he and the First Lady have made the commitment to participate and support the women and family partnerships at the Summit on island.

“I wish Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona all the best in their second term and look forward to more positive developments from the State of Hawaii under their leadership,” said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola said it is a privilege for American Samoa to host this inaugural gathering to heighten awareness of the impacts of violence in the community and to collectively work towards eradicating violence from the Territory.

“This event is very important for our community and I very am thankful that we will have the participation of the Office of Violence Against Women in Washington DC and the Family Violence Prevention Fund in San Francisco, as well as attendees from Guam, Palau and the U.S. mainland to join our American Samoa Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and our many government, church and non-profit agencies and service providers to host this very important event.”

Governor Togiola expressed his sincere thanks to Administrative Law Judge-Toetagata Albert Ma’ilo, Chairman of the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, coalition members and organizations for a great job in planning and preparing for the Summit, and more importantly, for providing the leadership as the Territory’s voice that is dedicated to the empowerment for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

“Our mission is to develop and promote efforts aimed at the elimination of all domestic and sexual violence in American Samoa,” said Governor Togiola.

END

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – December 5, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

**4th annual Governor Tauese P. F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation
Summer Internship Award**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce the advertisement of the 4th Annual American Samoa Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Summer Internship Award, in recognition of the late Governor's outstanding leadership and contribution to U.S. Coral Reef Conservation. The United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) administers the award and is requesting applications for submittal.

This is a competitive award, in which two excellent students will be selected to receive a three-month, expenses-paid summer internship working on coral reef conservation and management issues with an agency/office of the Department of the Interior. The winners will start their internship in June 2007. The Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) will collect applications from perspective candidates for distribution to the USCRTF. Applications need to be submitted no later than February 9, 2006. Details on eligibility and application requirements are as follows:

Eligibility

In order to be considered for this award, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be currently enrolled in an associate's or bachelors degree program in marine policy or science with emphasis on coral reefs; and have completed a minimum of one academic year of study in that program.
- Have demonstrated interest in, and work on, coral reef issues; and
- Be a legal resident of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, or Hawai'i.

Application Selection Timetable

- Applications deadline to Coral Reef Advisory Group: February 9, 2007
(CRAG Contact Christianera Tuitele 633-5155)
- Award winner notified: March 17, 2007

Application Material

All applicants wishing to be considered for the Award should submit the following material:

- Unofficial copies of all college and/or university transcripts
- Current Resume
- One letter of recommendation from a professor or relevant employer
- A 750 word essay (maximum) on the importance of managing coral reefs in your island jurisdiction and nationally; and how this internship will benefit your career goals related to coral reef management in your island.

Application materials may be submitted by fax, hand delivery or e-mail and must be received by CRAG no later than **February 9, 2007**. For further information, please contact Christianera Tuitele of the Coral Reef Advisory Group; Department of Commerce at ctuitele@doc.asg.as; Phone: (684) 633- 5155; Fax: (684) 633- 4195.

Last year's winners include American Samoa's Imelda Gebauer and Haley Kuntz from Hawaii. Ms. Gebauer excelled in her performance as a Sunia Intern and is now enrolled in the Marine Science Program at the University of Hawaii and is serving as an intern for the USCRTF All-Islands Secretariat, headquartered in Honolulu.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – December 12, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola grateful for passage of 30A tax credit for canneries

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today expressed his appreciation on the passage of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 in both the U.S. Senate and House last week that includes a two-year extension of 30A tax credit for the canneries of American Samoa.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola regarding the federal measure:

STATEMENT

“Regarding passage of the 30A tax credit, I have yet to see the actual text of the act that was passed, so my comments are limited to what I am told.

I am very grateful to the Senate of the United States for allowing a tax credit extension for our canneries, and to the U. S. House of Representatives for their endorsement. As far as I know, this extension expires on December 31, 2007. So there is actually only one more year left. I applaud and thank Congressman Faleomavaega Eni for staying on top of this issue, and pushing for the endorsement of this two-year extension. I want to thank also the canneries and their people for their support. But while I am very grateful for this achievement, I must also urge the Congressman to move forward with the efforts to work out a long-term program for American Samoa. One year is not a very long time. I presented to Congressman Faleomavaega a draft proposal earlier in the year for such a long-term solution and I hope he finds the research and the proposed draft useful as a beginning. We stand ready to work with the Congressman on this issue.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – December 13, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces Healthy Marriage Initiative, \$20K for recipients for five years

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today joined six members of the clergy to launch the Healthy Marriage Initiative called “O le Li’o o le Alofa Project.”

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, the Healthy Marriage Initiative is to help couples that choose to marry gain greater access to marriage education services that enable them to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages.

Governor Togiola said the initiative will administered locally by the Department of Human and Social Services through its Social Services Division in partnership with Assemblies of God, Catholic Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, Methodist Church, Seventh Day Adventist, Department of Health and the Office of Vital Statistics.

The partners of “O Le Li’o o le Alofa Project” all signed Memorandum of Understanding that they will each receive \$20,000 per year for the next five years as Healthy Marriages Demonstration Sub-Grantee recipients to fund their respective efforts in supporting marriage education and marriage enrichment projects specifically designed for couples. This includes, but is not limited to, married couples, engaged couples, and couples interested in marriage.

Governor Togiola expressed his sincere thanks to the partners of the project by saying funding for these kinds of community projects will greatly assist in their efforts to develop and test the effectiveness of healthy marriage initiatives for individuals, couples, youth, or other target groups (e.g., immigrant families, low-income families, families with special needs).

“A project of this magnitude cannot be done by the government alone, it requires partnership and this is where we are very happy to lean and count on the churches to help with this initiative that will help to identify what works and what does not work in building and sustaining healthy marriages,” Governor Togiola.

In attendance at a brief ceremony at the Office of the Governor were: Rev. Siaosi Mageo - Assemblies of God, Vicar General Fr. Viane Etuale - Catholic Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago, Rev. Tafa Muasau – Principal, Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, Secretary General Fainu’ulelei Ala’ilima Utu, representing Rev. Taulafo Avei - Methodist Church, Pastor Christopher Sulutoto - Seventh Day Adventist, Uto’ofili Asofa’afetai Maga –Director, Department of Health, Mrs. Taifita Solomona, Director, Office of Vital Statistics and Talia Fa’afetai I’aulualo – Director, Department of Human and Social Services.

“Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for being our community partners because I am sure that we are all concern about the statistics in our 2000 census that only 38.8% or 13,192 of American Samoans classified as ‘married’ remained together in marriage by 2004, constituting 6,596 couples,” said Governor Togiola. “The other 61.2% were either married, but physically separated living in different households, which is 94%, legally separated – 2.1% or legally divorced – 3.9%.”

“So, we’re very appreciative of this grant for healthy marriages because it is a proactive step for us and it will open the door for a stronger focus on healthy marriages in American Samoa. Improved marriage relationships will also improve the family.”

END

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – December 14, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola announces Open House and tours of Government House on Mauga o Ali'i for the holidays, Monday Dec. 18th 12noon to 6pm

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today announced the official Open House for Government House on Mauga o Ali'i will be on Monday, December 18th from 12noon to 6pm.

Governor Togiola said the restoration and renovation of Government House is now completed and it is time to invite the public to view its rebirth.

“The Mauga o Ali'i Government House has been restored to its former glory, and it gives me great pleasure to invite the public for the Open House to tour this magnificent historical building of the Territory,” said Governor Togiola. “We endeavored to renovate and rebuild this jewel of our history so that it will endure another 103 years. It's time to give thanks and praise to God for allowing us this great opportunity re-dedicate this ‘proud house’ for American Samoa today and tomorrow in the spirit of its glorious past.”

Governor Togiola said at this time during the holiday season, only one-day day has been scheduled for Open House and tours of Government House on Mauga o Ali'i and that is this coming Monday for six hours beginning at 12noon until 6pm.

Governor Togiola said the Department of Public Works crew who performed the refurbishing work placed great importance to the past history of the building and it was an aim to respect the spirit of the original structure.

The history of Government House is described in the publication “The Past Surrounds Us - Historic Preservation in American Samoa” by John Enright and the Staff of the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office as follows:

“Government House was built in a turn-of-the-century architectural style called Tropical Victorian Military Greek Revival. It was built by the U.S. Navy in 1903 for \$15,000. It was built by Samoan workers under the supervision of Naval architects and two skilled mainland carpenters. It was built to be the residence of the Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

Togotogo Ridge in Utulei (already renamed Observatory Point by the Navy) was leveled and graded from eighty-five feet to sixty feet in elevation as a site for the residence.

Government House was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991. The building has required constant maintenance, but it has thus far weathered all the earthquakes and hurricanes thrown at it.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – December 19,2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola accepts resignation of Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that after due deliberation he has accepted the resignation of Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele as Director of the Department of Education.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“After several meetings with Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele regarding the situation at the Department of Education, I received on December 11, 2006, a letter of resignation from Dr. Tuitele.

In his letter Dr. Tuitele also said that he has decided to retire as an employee of the American Samoa Government. He also believes that a change of leadership is due at the Department of Education. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as director.

After due consideration of Dr. Tuitele’s request, I have today accepted his resignation.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Tuitele for his many years of service to the American Samoa Government at the Department of Education and for all his efforts and contribution during his tenure as director of the department. I wish him and his family the very best for the future.”

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – December 27, 2006)

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

Governor Togiola says President Ford restored political stability, flags lowered

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono has ordered flags of the Territory to fly at half-mast after the death of former U.S. president Gerald Ford at his home in Rancho Mirage, California on Tuesday night at the age of 93.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

STATEMENT

“On behalf of the people and government of American Samoa. I wish to extend our sincerest condolences to the Ford family. President Ford’s common sense approach to governance and his kind disposition will always be remembered.

President Ford was the president that the nation required in 1974 to recover after “the nightmare” of the Watergate scandal. He helped restore political stability.

President Ford knew it was going to be a tough job even before he was sworn in. But, he placed his strong faith in God and his tremendous love for his country to help America recover from a national trauma. He was our 38th president. God rest his soul.”

GENERAL MEMORANDUM

In respectful remembrance of a U.S. President who was greatly respected and admired by his colleagues, and who served his nation in the U.S. Navy as well as a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives, I hereby proclaim that all flags in the territory shall be lowered to and flown at half mast for a period of 30 days from the date of his passing, ending on January 26, 2007. This is in accord with 4 U.S.C Section 7 (m).

In following with the order of U.S. president George W. Bush, a National Day of Mourning shall be appointed. On this day, I encourage our citizens to gather in their respective places of worship to pay homage to the memory of President Ford.

*****END*****

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release – December 29, 2006)**

Contact person: Pati Faiai, Chief of Staff
Contact telephone: 633-4116

**Governor Togiola declares Tuesday, January 2nd territorial holiday in honor of
President Gerald R. Ford, U.S. 38th president**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today proclaimed Tuesday, January 2, 2006, as a Territorial holiday in light of President Bush’s Proclamation of the same day as the National Day of Mourning in further remembrance of the passing of President Gerald R. Ford. Earlier this week, all flags in the Territory were lowered to half-staff in honor of President Ford.

“I encourage all of our residents to gather in their respective places of worship on Tuesday, to pay homage to President Ford, a man whose life was marked by an inherent commitment to service,” said Governor Togiola.

“President Ford’s remarkable work in healing the country during a turbulent time in American history, is a testament to his belief in temperance, goodwill and peace. This National Day of Remembrance is a fitting honor for our thirty-eighth President of the United States.”

As a result of the Governor’s declaration, all non-essential service employees will be excused from work on Tuesday. All essential service employees required to work on this day will be compensated according to prevailing rules for holiday work.

*****END*****