



## American Samoa's Community College Dedicates New Cafeteria and Breaks Ground on New Building

On March 15, 2024, the Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga attended a ceremony for the opening of the newly constructed American Samoa Community College cafeteria and the ground breaking of the new building. The opening of this long-awaited building marks a significant turning point in the improvement of facilities available for local college students seeking higher education.



The ceremony took place at the newly renovated facility. Reverend Mataio Fa'aletonu Matai, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, delivered the opening remarks, speaking on behalf of ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Pato, the board of higher education, faculty, staff, administration, and students. He expressed sincere gratitude to Governor Lemanu and all key government officials for their contributions to the new and improved cafeteria and remote learning building. Reverend Mataio further pleaded with Governor Lemanu for continuous government support for the development of the

community college. Governor Lemanu had the opportunity to deliver his special remarks. He acknowledged former Governor Lolo Moliga for envisioning the completion of the project, as well as recognizing the assistance from the Federal Government that enabled the building's completion. The Governor praised the hardworking faculty, staff, administration, and board members for all their efforts poured into educating students. Furthermore, Governor Lemanu acknowledged the silent prayers and support offered by parents and the community for all students, hoping for their success in

returning home to serve the government. As a reminder, Governor Lemanu shared with those in attendance that "it is not the structure of a new building that is important but, it is the quality of what we provide students for their success." In attendance also was Faleosina Voigt, Director of Public Works, who presented a Certificate of Occupancy to President Dr. Rosevonne Pato indicating that the building has met all requirements and regulations needed for the building to be officially opened.



The new Cafeteria will host a few food vendors that will provide meal services to students and ASCC staff members.





# Masina o le Gagana Samoa

O lona lua lenei o tausaga o faatāuaina le Gagana Samoa i le masina o Mati e pei ona poloaia e le Afioga i le Kovana Lemanu P.S. Mauga. Na faa'autū taumafaiga i le a'oa'oina i potua'oga o le gagana ma le aganuu. Na faailoa foi nisi o tusitusiga ua lolomia i le gagana Samoa i lo tatou teritori.

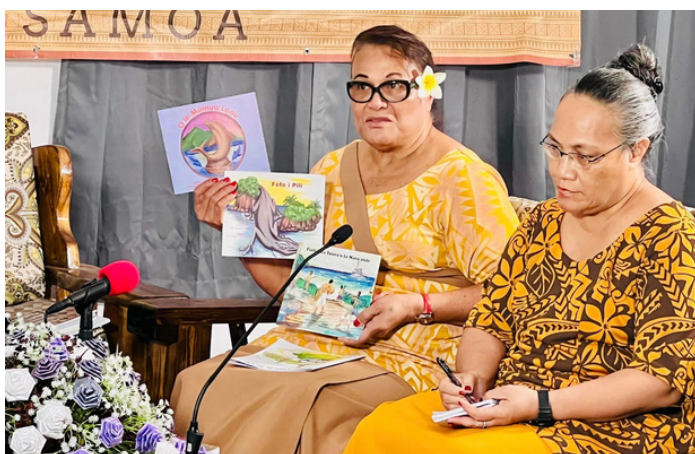
Na amata i le aao talo a le vaega o A'oa'oga ma Su'esu'ega i le Gagana Samoa i Mapusaga ma le vasega o le gagana Samoa i le A'oga Maua'uga i Tafuna, ona faasolo ai lea o polokalama o le masina.

O le KVZK na galulue faapaaga ma le Komisi o le Gagana Samoa i le faasalalauina o polokalama tau gagana i talafou ma faatalanoaga e aofia ai le talanoaina o le Tulafono na faavae ai le Komisi e nisi o sui o le Komisi. Sa faamalamalamaina e le sui o le Ofisa o A'oga ma le Faatonu o A'oa'oga ma Su'esu'ega Samoa i le Kolisi, le tusipasi fou ua aloa'ia ai faia'oga o le gagana Samoa. Sa saunoa foi le vaega e gafa ma ta'iala o a'oa'oga o le gagana i le Ofisa o A'oga e faamanino atili la latou pitolaau.

Na folasia i se tasi o faatalanoaga galuega i le gagana Samoa ua lolomia i le teritori nei. O se faamalosi i tusitala ma soo se tasi ia faatino pea lea galuega lelei mo le faatumauina o la tatou gagana. Na faataunuu foi i le masina nei se tauvaga o tusitusiga i le gagana Samoa i a'oga maua'uga. Ua tuufaatasia foi a latou tala i se lomiga mo le mamalu lautele. O le vaiaso lona lua sa faatino ai e a'oga maua'uga se faaaliga tau gagana Samoa fofogaina i le maota o le DYWA. O lauga, folafolaina o faaaloaloga eseese, sulaina o toga, tauloto lagi faatasi, ma le faatinoina o le alii taeao.

E tapunia taumafaiga o lenei masina i se faatasiga a le Komisi ma nisi o ana paaga i le teritori sa latou uuna'iina ta'ita'i o le malo ia faavaeina le Komisi e mata'itu le lavea'iina ma faatumau le gagana. O loo tuufaatasia foi e se sosaiete o tusitala i upega o faamatalaga ni tusitusiga mo le masina nei e lomina mo le mamalu lautele.

E le uma le faafetai ma le viiga i le Atua o gagana i lana meaalofa ua avea ma a tatou measina e teuteu ma taofiofi ne'i mamulu. Faafetai tele i le Afioga i le Kovana ma le faigamalo mo lenei avanoa faaauuro.



# Ua Sauni le Matāgaluega o Fefaataua'iga ma Alāmanuia e Faatupe i le \$3.7 Miliona le Porokalama Fesoasoani i Aiga i o Latou Faletotino

Ua faamanuiaina Amerika Samoa i se faatupega e \$3.7 miliona mai porokalama o Fesoasoani Tupe mo Aiga i o Latou Faletotino (HAF) ma le Matagaluega o Tupe a le Iunaite Setete. Ua tatala mai leni faatupega ona o le Tulafono o le Fuafuaga Lavea'i a Amerika (ARPA) o le 2021. O le Matagaluega o Fefaataua'iga ma Alāmanuia i Amerika Samoa (DOC) o loo faafoeina leni fesoasoani tupe a le fetereale. O le a fesoasoani nei tupe mai le Porokalama HAF i aiga e agavaa i peimeni o mokesi ma/poo pili masani o fale.

E agavaa i latou e ona fale i le HAF pe afai e 'ausia tulaga nei ua folasia mai e le Matagaluega o Tupe a le Iunaite Setete:

i. Ia iai sona fale, pe alaala i se fale i Amerika Samoa e ta'u o lona aiga autū

ii. Sa ia savalia se faafitauli tugā e fesoota'i ma le faama'i oti o le KOVITI-19

iii. O le tupemaua a lona aiga atoa e tatau ona tutusa pe itiiti ifo i le 150% o le Tupemaua Faalaugatasia i le Itulagi (AMI) o Amerika Samoa

“O leni faatupega ua faailogaina ai se tasi laasaga i luma i la tatou galuega e faamautinoa ua tatala atu mo tagata Amerika Samoa le avanoa ma ua tagolima i tamaoaiga i le tausiga o o latou aiga,” o le saunoaga lea a Kovana Lemanu P.S. Mauga. Na toe saunoa lana Afioga, “O leni lagolago o se puna'oa e maoa'e lona aoga i le tausiga o aiga ma le faamalosia o nuu.” Na faamamafaina e le Afioga a Lemanu le taua o nei faatupega i le lagolagoina o ē e iai fale totino a'o loo feagai ma fitā tau tupe, aemaise lava i le oo mai o lu'itau tau tamaoaiga.

O le a faasalalau atu feiloa'iga faaa'oa'oga mo i latou uma e agavaa, ma, soo se tasi e fia talosaga, e tatau ona tusi lona suafa i le DOC. E iai le pepa e tusi ai suafa o le a tuuina i le uepesite poo le upega o faamatalaga a le DOC ma le itulau o faasalalauga fealofa'i (social media) a le DOC, poo le tala'ao atu i le ofisa. E faamalosia le auai i feiloa'iga faaa'oa'oga o le a faatautaia i le faai'uga o leni masina. Mo nisi faamatalaga, faamolemole faafesoota'i mai le Sui Faafoe o le HAF o Ms. Tapuitea McMullin poo le Ofisa o le Usita'ia o le HAF o Ms. Theresamarie Paul.

## U.S. Treasury Approves up to \$57 Million in State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) 2.0 Program funds for American Samoa

The U.S. Treasury has officially approved the American Samoa State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) 2.0 program, empowering the territory with up to \$57.0 million in funding to fuel the growth and resilience of local small businesses. This approval marks a significant milestone in fostering economic development, economic diversification and job creation in American Samoa.

The American Samoa SSBCI program is designed to address the unique needs of the territory's small business community, with a diverse set of initiatives aimed at providing financial support and encouraging entrepreneurship. The approved programs include a Loan Guarantee Program (LGP), a Collateral Support Program (CSP), a Loan Participation Program (LPP), and an Equity/Venture Capital Program.

### Key Highlights of the American Samoa SSBCI 2.0 Program:

1. Loan Guarantee Program (LGP):
  - Allocation: \$32.5 million
  - Purpose: Providing a partial guarantee to support surety bonds and lines of credit, helping local businesses meet requirements needed to participate in large projects and access the necessary capital for expansion and operational needs.

## 2. Collateral Support Program (CSP):

- Allocation: \$5.7 million

Purpose: Increasing access to commercial credit for small businesses by providing additional security for loans or credit facilities.

## 3. Loan Participation Program (LPP):

- Allocation: \$8.6 million
- Purpose: Providing risk diversification for lenders and increasing access to commercial credit for small businesses by participating in lending transactions.

## 4. Equity/Venture Capital Program:

- Allocation: \$10.3 million

• Purpose: Making direct investments in local small businesses and projects, fostering innovation, and supporting the development of a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in American Samoa.

Local leaders and stakeholders have welcomed this news, anticipating the positive impact these programs will have on the American Samoa business climate landscape. “We are happy to hear that the U.S. Treasury has approved our SSBCI2.0 program,” stated Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga.

He continued, “Director Petti Matila and her Department of Commerce

team have been working very hard since the announcement of the program’s reauthorization via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in designing a program that would work for American Samoa. The combination of loan guarantees, collateral support, loan participation, and direct investments is expected to create a dynamic environment for entrepreneurship, job creation, and sustainable economic development.” With the U.S. Treasury approval now in place, the American Samoa Government Department of Commerce is required to formally launch the program no later than June 1, 2024.

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# Ocean Exploration Trust Outreach

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On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, the Superintendent of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Atuatasi-Lelei Peau and several members of the Ocean Exploration Trust team met with Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga to discuss upcoming outreaches and research study. Members of the Ocean Exploration Trust team are as follows:

- Megan Cook - Director of Education & Outreach, Ocean Exploration Trust
- Allison Fundis - Chief Operating Officer, Ocean Exploration Trust
- Dr. Daniel Wagner - Chief Scientist, Ocean Exploration Trust

Also in attendance was Program Manager for the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and Palau International Coral Reef Center Mr. King Sam.

The Ocean Exploration Trust is deeply involved in advancing technology, education, and outreach to explore the ocean and its uncharted areas. The Ocean Exploration Trust is planning several education and outreach efforts to engage local students and teachers in American Samoa. Earlier this year, Lottie Haleck of Samoana High School and Neon Osa of Tafuna High School, both educators from American Samoa, were chosen to participate in this year's Nautilus expedition season as Science Communication Fellows. This opportunity allows them to actively engage in scientific research and enhance their skills in ocean exploration.

The outcome of the meeting focused on how best the Ocean Exploration Trust's expedition can benefit

American Samoa. One of the highlighted areas of their quest looks at:

- mapping priority areas around Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Swains Island to provide new seafloor data and imagery to inform conservation and management decision;
- making all data publicly accessible through local data storage and sharing;
- engaging local students and teachers in the expedition through educational outreach efforts, and collaborating with key local partners like the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa to ensure the technologies are deployed strategically based on local needs and priorities.

“I first want to congratulate our two local educators, Ms. Haleck and Ms. Osa, on their selection to this prestigious opportunity,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I also want to commend the Ocean Exploration Trust and the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa for their commitment to scientific discovery and education as it aligns with our territory’s value of environmental stewardship, lifelong learning, and community engagement. Your collaboration with our local community exemplifies the power of partnerships and the potential for collective action in addressing and educating in areas of ocean exploration, safeguarding our marine resources, enhancing scientific literacy, and promoting economic prosperity for generations to come.”



*(Left-Right) Megan Cook-Director of Education & Outreach, Ocean Exploration Trust, Allison Fundis-Chief Operating Officer, Ocean Exploration Trust, Dr. Daniel Wagner- Chief Scientist, Ocean Exploration Trust, Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Atuatasi-Lelei Peau - Superintendent of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, and Mr. King Sam -- Program Manager for the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and Palau International Coral Reef Center*

## Harvard Students conduct Second Research Project in American Samoa: Focus on Emergency and Crisis Management Capabilities

On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Emily Ratté and Rachel Jimenez, two Harvard Graduate students, also joined the Office of the Governor daily morning devotions before meeting with Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga. Emily and Rachael are working on their joint Master’s thesis (formally titled the Policy Analysis Exercise, PAE) in collaboration with the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security.

Rachel and Emily’s PAE delves into a detailed analysis of the evacuation

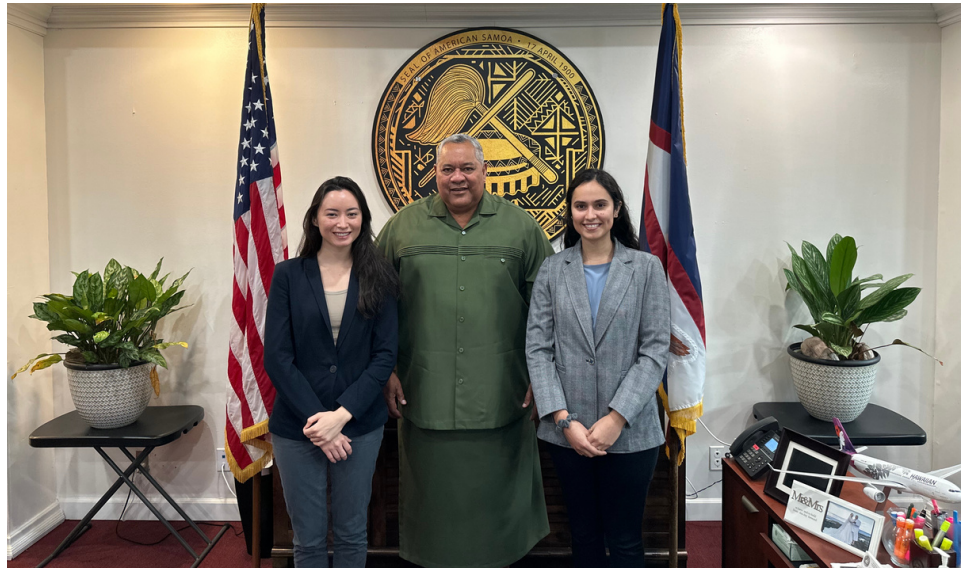
and sheltering procedures in American Samoa. Their research encompasses a comprehensive comparative assessment of emergency management capabilities in other territories, states, and Pacific Islands. The focus is on identifying best practices for effectively serving access and functional needs populations during disasters. Rachel and Emily’s inspiration for this project emerged from their interactions with members of the American Samoan community during their visit last year as part of a previous course project. Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave Tauapa’i

Laupola provided valuable guidance to the students and facilitated their connection with ASDHS, playing a pivotal role in the coordination of their project.

“I am pleased to welcome the esteemed Harvard graduate students who will be conducting research in American Samoa,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “The presence of these scholars from Harvard University provides an invaluable opportunity for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mutual learning. Their research endeavors will not only contribute to

the advancement of academic scholarship but also offer fresh perspectives and insights that can inform evidence-based policymaking and community development efforts.”

They too are scheduled to engage in high-level discussions with selected American Samoa Government agencies that play pivotal roles in the emergency and crisis management should a disaster were to make landfall in the territory.



(Left-Right) Ms. Emily Ratte, Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, Ms. Rachel Jimenez

## Review and Assessment Trip of CIP, EIC, and BIL Grants and Projects in American Samoa



On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, the Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) Grant managers joined the Office of the Governor daily morning devotions before having the opportunity to meet with Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga. In attendance were OIA Deputy Budget Director Julianna Rice, CIP Grants Manager Aimee Munzi, and EIC Grants Manager Krystina Alfano, and DOI Field Representative Lydia Faleafine-Nomura.

The purpose of their trip is to conduct review and assessment of the Capital Improvement Program's (CIP), Energizing Island Communities' (EIC), and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grants and projects in American Samoa. They are scheduled to engage in high-level discussions with selected American Samoa Government agencies that play pivotal roles in the implementation and management of CIP, EIC, BIL grants, and projects.

Governor Lemanu expresses his gratitude to the federal counterparts for their ongoing collaboration and cooperation in advancing the development priorities of American Samoa. The collaborative work between American Samoa and its federal partners will continue to strengthen the territory's infrastructure, promoting economic growth, and enhancing American Samoa's resilience against future challenges.





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## Upcoming Events

- April - National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April 11- Opening of the Flag Day Flea Market (OMV, Tafuna)
- April 11 - Opening of the 48th Flag Day Performing Arts Festival (OMV, Tafuna)
- April 13- Flag Day "Solo ma Savaliga" (OMV-Veterans Memorial Stadium, Tafuna)
- April 14- Flag Day Sunday Service
- April 15- 21st Annual Steinlager I'a Lapo'a Flag Day Fishing Tournament (Pago Bay Area)
- April 15- Cricket Tournament Championship Fagaalu Park
- April 16- Flag Day Ava Ceremony
- April 16- Flag Day Fautasi Race
- April 17- Flag Day 2024 Main Event
- April 17- Flag Day Family Fun Evening Drone Light Show