



Tapuitea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.americansamoa.gov>

DOE inviting public comments on special education funding application

The American Samoa Department of Education's Division of Special Education has for public review, its application for funding under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education.

The funds are used to provide special education services to all school aged children of American Samoa, who have a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievement.

As a condition for granting the funds, each state or territory applying for the monies must publish the application for at least 60 days and accept public comments for at least 30 days. The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment for 30 days prior to the submission of the application on May 11, 2009.

The Department of Education must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding.

The application is posted on

the ASDOE website www.doe.as

Copies of the application are also available at the Special Education Office located at the west end of Matafao Elementary School in Fagaalu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to visit and pick up a copy between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments will also be accepted during those hours.

Comments and suggestions may also be sent via e-mail to mvaatausili@doe.as or surface mail to Moeolo Vaatausili, Assistant Director, PO Box 7078 Pago Pago, AS 96799.

Gov. Togiola opens new Amaluia mountainside road; cost \$215,000

Governor Togiola Tulafono opened the Amaluia Village mountainside road on Friday, March 20th that cost \$215,000 to build.

The project, which broke ground on September 11 last year, is a 462-foot road in the middle of the village, near the stream, and it now provides paved direct access to many homes on the mountainside and plantations, as well as the village's Congregational church. Governor Togiola expressed his delight with the completion of the road project, which was built by RM Construction.

"I am very happy that your road has been built, and I said back when we broke ground last September that my hope is that it will lead to more development of Amaluia village away from the main road and the shoreline," Governor Togiola told village council leaders. "You have a beautiful road. This road project is a wonderful success for your village and your county of Alataua. And I wish to congratulate everyone involved. You should be extremely proud of your achievement, and in working together with Public Works and the construction company. Thank you for a job well done."

The mountainside road features two lanes and a sidewalk. The project was fully funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration for a total cost of \$214,885, and the Civil Highway Division of the Department of Public Works managed the project.

Governor Togiola to attend Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands in Honolulu, April 6-8

Governor Togiola Tulafono will join leaders of the American Pacific at the 2009 Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, which will be held at the Waikiki Sheraton in Honolulu April 6-8, 2009.

The conference, sponsored by the Department of the Interior, promotes economic development in the U.S. territories and freely associated states and will feature discussions of new developments in renewable energy, infrastructure projects, and tourism opportunities. Attendees will have the opportunity to develop their networks, while learning about the growing business sectors and investment opportunities in American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Leaders that will be at the conference with Governor Togiola, include President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia, Governor Felix Camacho of Guam, Governor Benigno Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Congressman Faleomavaega Eni of American Samoa, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, and Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of CNMI.

Governor Togiola said he always looks forward to the Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands because it allows American Samoa to establish contacts with Pacific business community participants, network with them, and meet directly with interested partners on joint ventures.

"The conference is always a positive setting for partnership because those who attend have expressed interest in discussing ways to establish business on island," said Governor Togiola. "Tourism and attracting more visitors is always at the top of our list, and we are still very optimistic about the opportunity for a company to develop and revive the Rainmaker Hotel, and a few other current sites on island that require a major boost."

Governor Togiola also said he looks forward to meeting companies regarding renewable energy.

"Renewable energy is a very important project that we've been talking about the last four years to increase our energy efficiency and cut cost and our reliance on imported fuel," said Governor Togiola. "That's only a few of the things on the list that we are taking with us to the conference in Honolulu."

Featured topics at this year's conference will include a breakout session on renewable energy, large-scale public infrastructure work, -- especially construction projects associated with the military construction on Guam -- and tourism of all kinds for the Pacific and Caribbean with assistance from the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

Speakers will be Dr. Richard Kelley, Chairman of the Board, Outrigger Enterprises Group; Lt. General Wallace "Chip" Gregson, USMC (Ret.), former commander, Marine Forces Pacific; Maj. General David Bice, USMC (Ret.), Director of the Joint Guam Program Office; and Dr. Stephen Schneider of Stanford University, who has authored many papers for the prestigious Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In 2007, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and several other IPCC contributors, including Dr. Schneider, received the Nobel Peace Prize.

The conference will also include several networking events and, most importantly, prearranged one-on-one meetings, offering participants an opportunity to meet directly to discuss joint ventures.

Information and registration is available at www.IslandBusinessOpportunities.com.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.
Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

*Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or
Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)*

Governor Togiola implements Hybrid Vehicle Purchasing Policy; trucks to hybrids

Governor Togiola Tulafono recently issued a General Memorandum to ensure that American Samoa Government departments and agencies immediately implement "the spirit and intent of the August 21, 2007 Executive Order on Climate Change."

Governor Togiola said the Executive Order mandates that all departments and agencies take definitive measures to ameliorate short and long term effects of climate change. The commitments made are extensive and will require vigilance on the part of all ASG departments and agencies to implement.

Governor Togiola, in a March 11, 2009 General Memorandum, has issued a new ASG vehicle purchasing policy, which includes a step-by-step purchasing framework.

The new policy, according to

Governor Togiola, will help to reduce not only American Samoa's greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global climate change, but also the Territory's annual operating costs.

"Over the course of a single vehicle's lifetime, a hybrid vehicle will save more than \$17,000 in fuel expenses alone when compared to a Heavy Truck," said Governor Togiola. "This does not take into account the financial savings related to cheaper maintenance or the added capital savings from purchasing a cheaper car in the first place.

Governor Togiola said the most practical and beneficial means to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and operational cost is to transition as many trucks to hybrid vehicles as possible.

"This issue is a priority. I have taken the lead by purchasing and

utilizing a hybrid vehicle for my transportation. It is necessary for all the responsible departments and agencies to follow through with the mandates of the Executive Order if we are to have an impact on fighting climate change," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola said all departments and agencies with jurisdiction to implement the Climate Change Executive Order shall designate a responsible individual in the department who will make a written report to the Governor, as well as the Coral Reef Advisory Group housed at the Department of Commerce, within 60 days of the date of this General Memorandum.

The report shall outline each department's progress and any problems encountered in implementing the Executive Order.

Governor Togiola swears in 8 directors, "commitment to do the best job possible"

Governor Togiola Tulafono held a swearing in ceremony on Friday, March 20th for eight directors that have been confirmed by the Fono.

In a brief ceremony this morning at the Office of the Governor, Governor Togiola told the eight directors -- Samana Ve'ave'a - Parks and Recreation; Ruth Risch - Public Defender; Leilua Stevenson - Human and Social Services; Evelyn Vaitautolu Langford - Human Resources; Lolo M. Moliga - Development Bank of American Samoa; Uta Laloulu Tagoilelagi - Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled; Tuaolo M. Fruean - Commissioner of Public Safety; Faleseu Eliu Paopao - Commerce -- that much is expected of them in fulfilling their duties.

"I am very proud that you have accepted our invitation to serve and I congratulate you for passing the legislative confirmation process. Thank you for your commitment to do the best job possible in serving the government and people of American Samoa," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola encouraged the directors to be innovative and be effective in their approach to their positions.

"It is important that you find new and more efficient ways to run your departments, and help better serve our people's needs and set the Territory in the right direction through good leadership," said Governor Togiola. "This is a great opportunity and an honor to serve and a great opportunity to do the honorable thing of doing your best and giving your all for your people and your government. Let's do the right thing and let's do it well. Good luck and congratulations to you all."

House of Representatives introduces legislation seeking \$5 mil for off-island referral program

Seven members of the House of Representatives are sponsoring a bill seeking to allocate \$5 million in order to provide appropriate funding for the off-island medical referral program. The allocation is to fund the overruns incurred for FY 2007 and 2008, as well as the remainder of FY 2009.

The bill's preamble states that the current lack of adequate funding for the referral program seriously jeopardizes the well being of a significant number of the territory's residents, and uninterrupted operation of this program is essential in order to provide patients with access to critical medical care not otherwise available on island.

(The \$1.3 million approved last year to cover the FY 2007 overrun is delayed. ASG Treasurer Magalei Logovi'i says this funding is unavailable until the FY 2008 books are closed later this year. Leftover funds for FY 2008 are supposed to fund the \$1.3 million appropriation).

The funding source for the \$5 million is the ASG Insurance Proceeds Account which is being held in a financial institution off island. Former Treasurer Gaea Perefoti Failautusi testified in the Fono last year that about \$9 million in interest remains in this account, which is administered by the Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform.

The \$1 million allocation for the referral program for the current fiscal year, according to LBJ officials, was fully expended last December, causing the hospital to temporarily shut down the program.

Co-sponsors of the bill include Reps. Taotasi Archie Soliai, Lemapu Suiaunua Talo, Talia Faafetai I'aulualo, Galu Satele Jr., Va'amua Henry Sesepasara, Vaiausia Eliko Yandall, and Vice-Speaker Laolagi Fonoti Savali Vaeao who chairs the House Budget and Appropriations Committee set to deliberate on the issue.

Governor Togiola breaks ground on \$2.5 million Pava'ia'i intersection road project

Governor Togiola Tulafono today broke ground on the Pava'ia'i Intersection and Drainage Improvement Project that will cost \$2.5 million.

The project, at the Pava'ia'i-Aoloau Road intersection, will have three legs, all starting from the intersection at the main road.

The first leg is 700 feet of road work heading north towards Mapusaga Fou and Aoloau. The second leg is 150 feet of the main road heading west through Pava'ia'i towards Futiga, and the last leg is 3,700 feet of road work heading east through Faleniu and towards the American Samoa Community College.

Road work construction will include the rehabilitation of the existing asphalt concrete pavement, repair and reconstruction of identified portions of the existing concrete sidewalk, installation of roadside drainage swales for runoff and managing of high volume of rainwater and stormwater.

The drainage system includes installation of new catch basins, headwall protection structures, box culvert and the cleaning of existing drainage structures.

"We all know this intersection in Pava'ia'i very well and it has been a big challenge for all of us seeing water gushing down from the Aoloau Road to the main road, and that runoff accumulating in what is often called Lake Pava'ia'i," said Governor Togiola. "Now that we have the blessings and cooperation of the village, landowners and families, we can now use these funds to properly fix this trouble spot. Fixing the road is the easy part. It's constructing the appropriate drainage system that will collect, store and contain the heavy rainfall and guide it away from the road, and under the road, and through our original drainage system that empties at Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon."

Those taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony included Tualuata representatives Larry Sanitoa and Galu Satele Jr., village chiefs, contractor personnel, and government directors and Public Works employees.

McConnell Dowell has been awarded the contract for \$2,494, 668.95. Contract time for completion is six months.

The project is fully funded by US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Statement from Governor Togiola on tsunami warning

Governor Togiola Tulafono released the following statement on Thursday, March 19th on the tsunami warning issued the same morning by the U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

STATEMENT:

"We received the tsunami warning this morning, and based on the information available from our lead agency -- American Samoa Department of Homeland Security-- it did not warrant the closing down of the government, which would have alarmed the community.

What we understand is that information received locally may not have been the most current information available.

I will meet on Monday with all of our departments, agencies and offices who are a part of our emergency plan to address this very important situation. We need to be well-prepared for a real emergency.

Today's tsunami warning forces us to look at our notification procedures and how it will be activated for the public and our governmental agencies. We already have plans in place for emergency preparedness. We will look at our existing tsunami response plan and fine tune the roles of our government agencies in giving assistance on the roads, dissemination of information and clear direction and guidance. It is a must that the government and the community need to be properly informed of our emergency plans.

Our communications was tested today, and the high volume of calls at that short span of time proved too much for our current communications systems. And today was a good test.

Improving our preparedness will be a positive exercise as it will not only help our agencies be better prepared for a tsunami, it will assist us in bringing together all public agencies and private organizations involved to do the best possible job to protect our people and our property in times of emergency.

I wish to thank our island community for your patience and for the calm manner that you conducted the situation that we experienced today. Thank you for working together and I look forward to utilizing that same spirit in making our preparedness for emergencies ready and unified."

Togiola appoints members of Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

Governor Togiola Tulafono recently appointed 19 individuals to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, each serving for a term of two years.

In a General Memorandum dated March 2, 2009, Governor Togiola appointed Reverend Faoliu Fuifale, a board community member, as chairman. Joining Rev. Faoliu on the Board also as community members are: Steven Shalhout, Mose Ah Soon, Faletau Nomura, Anitele'a Toma, Fualeleo Sea, Ike Scanlan and Vicky Haleck.

Appointed to the Board as government members are: Ta'amuvaigafa Iakopo, Malemo Tausaga, Pa'u Roy Ausage and Captain Moleli Tavai.

Youth members are Aukusitino Fotu, Marilyn Utu, Fetaomi Ale, Ali'ionu'u Moea'i (ASCC) and Kevin Tulifua (ASCC).

Representative Talia Fa'afetai I'aulualo has been appointed as Board member from the Fono, while Sandra Herrera is the Human and Social Services member.

"Please extend to these individuals and the whole Council your customary support and cooperation as they carry out their duties and responsibilities," said Governor Togiola.

HISTORICAL NOTES*By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor*

On March 21, 1942, the 3rd Marine Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Charles D. Barrett (a veteran with 33 years of service, including combat experience at Vera Cruz, Mexico and in World War I) was organized at New River, North Carolina as part of the Samoan Defense Group.

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On March 22, 1942, as part of the 2nd Marine Brigade's "training and school program, a class for the study of the Japanese language was started [on Tutuila]. The course was organized on the basis of a 6 months period of intensive study of written and spoken Japanese with some collateral work on the geography of Japan, the customs, character and habits of the Japanese people with particular emphasis on the military aspects of Japanese life. Capt. Bishop, Asst. Intell. Officer, who recently had two years as a language student in Japan, has conducted this course."

On March 23, 1889, Malietoa Tanumafili I was installed as "King of Samoa" by the "Three Consuls."

On March 24, 1880, in Apia, an agreement was entered into by "King" Malietoa Talavou, the Government of Samoa and the "Three Consuls" (Britain, Germany and the United States) whereby the Consuls agreed to support the King, and to provide an Executive Council for him. The members of the council were Thomas Trood, English, Minister of Finance; Alfred Volkmann, German, Minister of Public Works and Jonas M. Coe, American, Minister of Justice. (Jonas Coe was the father of Emma Eliza Coe, the legendary "Queen Emma").

On March 24, 1931, Commander James Sutherland Spore relieved Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln and took office as American Samoa's 19th naval governor (acting) until April 22, 1931.

On March 24, 1937, Pan American World Airways' *Samoan Clipper*, a Sikorsky S-42B flying boat piloted by Captain Ed Musick, landed in Pago Pago Harbor on the first leg of her maiden flight from Honolulu, Hawaii to Auckland, New Zealand.

On March 24, 1976, Tupuola Taisi Tufuga Efi became Prime Minister of Western Samoa for the first time.

On March 24, 1994, the U.S. National Weather Service recorded the highest ever temperature in American Samoa: a sizzling 94 degrees Fahrenheit at the Pago Pago International Airport.

On March 25, 1891, Robert Louis Stevenson paid a rare visit to Pago Pago.

On March 26, 1901, Secretary of the Navy John D. Long directed Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, to revoke William Blacklock's liquor license, despite Tilley's assurances that the Samoans were "safeguarded by law" from drinking there.

On March 26, 1973, Governor John Morse Haydon approved American Samoa's new Official Seal.

On March 27, 1961, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy appointed Hyrum Rex Lee, an experienced civil servant in the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, as American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor (until July 31, 1967).

Governor names two appointees to the Survey Board

Governor Togiola Tulafono has appointed Fatulegae'e Mauga and Niumata Malo to the Survey Board.

The Governor announced the appointments in a general memorandum dated March 18, 2009. The appointees will replace Sofa Seumalo and Lauilefue Filemoni who have resigned from the Survey Board due to other commitments.

"I have confidence in the abilities of newly appointed members -- Fatulegae'e Mauga and Niumata Malo-- to faithfully discharge their statutory and regulatory duties as required by the laws of our Territory.

Please extend to them your customary support and cooperation," said Governor Togiola.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: **KSBS FM 92.1**
Saturdays @ 7:30a.m.