

# Chronological: Joint Session of American Samoan Legislature

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers  
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January , 1990

Speech before the  
Joint Session of the  
American Samoan Legislature

Dear Congressman Faleomavaega, Governor Coleman,  
Distinguished Members of the American Samoan Legislature:

Talofa! I am honored to be with you today, and to be back  
in American Samoa.

The first time that I visited your Islands was in 1959,  
shortly after I was elected to the United States Congress.  
At that time, you honored me by bestowing upon me the title  
of Fofoga O Samoa, the High Talking Chief.

To me, this high honor is not merely a title, but a serious  
responsibility -- that of protect<sup>+</sup>ing and advancing the  
interests of American Samoans. I accepted this honor with  
great pride. Over the years I have <sup>dove</sup> my best to represent  
your interests and concerns in the U.S. Senate.

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In 1977 I worked with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to gain the necessary support for enactment of a bill that allows American Samoans to elect your own Governor.

In 1978, I again worked closely with my colleagues, and H.R. 13702, became P.L. 95-556, providing that American Samoans would be represented by an elected Delegate to Congress.

In 1981, I created an American Samoan Internship program in my office. This program enables the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate of the Samoan Legislature to select an individual to serve a one year internship on my Senate staff in Honolulu and Washington, D.C. To date 8 individuals have served as interns.

Nikolao Pula was my first intern from January 1981 through July 1982. After leaving my staff he worked as an aide on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation.

Lydia Faleafine is now working as your Director of Economic Development.

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Lancaster Allan is now the Business Manager at the American Samoan Community College.

Fiatagata Amanifilo is working towards her Master's Degree in Social Work at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Robert Uhrle is working for the United States Senate as the Manager of the Office of State Coordination under the Senate Sergeant at Arms. .

Betty Satele is now enrolled at a college in Oregon, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree. She will graduate in May of 1990.

Terry Letuli now works in your Department of Public Safety as a Police Officer.

The current intern is Heidi Teo, a graduate of Brigham Young-Hawaii with a degree in History and Government.

I believe that the results of this internship program <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ been most beneficial for the people of American Samoa. ~~It~~ In terms of federal funding, in the FY 1990 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations the following items were specifically funded at my request: \$3.6 million for the Petroleum Tank Farms; and \$725,000 for construction of three gyms in American Samoa.

In previous years I have been successful in obtaining the necessary funding for the construction of additional classrooms, maintenance of the American Samoa Sewer System, funding for repairs of the L.B.J. Medical Center and a new dock on Ta'u Island.

In the 100th Congress I supported the bill that provided for the creation of the National Park of Samoa.

To assist Samoans living in Hawaii and the continental United States, the Senate approved a measure on minority health care that includes a provision I proposed to expand federal assistance to the Pacific Islands. The legislation is S.1606, the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act. This measure proposes targetting Samoans living in Hawaii and the West Coast for special assistance because of their serious problems in maternal and child health, mental illness and adolescent violence. Further, funding is provided for scholarships for Pacific Islanders wishing to pursue training in the medical field.

At my request, the Congress provided funds for the American Samoan Job Training Program. In fiscal year 1990, \$3 million is provided to continue and expand the Department of Labor job training program for American Samoans and Pacific Islander programs.

This is just a brief summary of specific initiatives I have advocated that directly assist Samoans and American Samoa.

Over the years, I have developed good working partnerships with your Delegates to Congress. The Honorable Eni Faleomavaega, brings with him much Congressional experience. He served on the staff of the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who was Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial Affairs. I can assure you that he is representing your interests in the U.S. Congress well, and you can certainly be proud of him.

You may be assured that I will regard the responsibilities of Fofoga O Samoa most seriously, and that I will continue to serve your interest to the best of my abilities.

Wed 1-12-80

Speech before the  
Joint Session of the  
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●  
Congressman Faleomavaega, Governor  
Coleman, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker,  
●  
and Distinguished Members of the  
American Samoan Legislature:  
●

● Talofa! I am honored to be with you today, and to be back in American Samoa.

● The first time that I visited your Islands was in 1962, shortly after I was first elected to the United States Senate.

● At that time, you honored me by bestowing upon me the title of High Talking Chief Fofoga O Samoa.

● To me, this high honor is not merely a honorary title, but a serious

● responsibility -- that of protecting

and advancing the interests of

American Samoans. I accepted this

honor with great pride. Over the

years I have done my best to

represent your interests and concerns

in the U.S. Senate.

And now with your indulgence, may I

submit this brief summary report on

my activities as your Fofoga O Samoa.

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in the U.S. Senate to gain the

necessary support for enactment of a

bill that allows American Samoans to

elect your own Governor.

In 1978, I again worked closely with

● my colleagues, and H.R. 13702, became

P.L. 95-556, providing that American

● Samoans would be represented by an

elected Delegate to Congress.

In 1981, I created an American Samoan

● Internship program in my office.

● This program enables the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate of the Samoan Legislature to

● select a young Samoan to serve a one year internship on my Senate staff in

● Honolulu and Washington, D.C.

To date 8 promising Samoans have served as interns.

Nikolao Pula was my first intern from January 1981 through July 1982.

After leaving my staff he worked as an aide on the U.S. House of

Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation.



- Lydia Faleafine is now working as your Director of Economic Development.

- Lancaster Allan is now the Business Manager at the American Samoan

- Community College.

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Terry Letuli now works in your Department of Public Safety as a Police Officer.

- The current intern is Heidi Teo, a graduate of Brigham Young-Hawaii with a degree in History and Government.

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representing your interests in the  
U.S. Congress well, and you can  
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You may be assured that I regard the  
responsibilities of Fofoga O Samoa  
most seriously, and that I will  
continue to serve your interests to  
the best of my abilities.