



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
GOVERNOR

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PROCLAMATION

“AMERICAN SAMOA CONSTITUTION DAY”

WHEREAS, the Constitution of American Samoa was adopted by a Constitutional Convention in April 1960 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 27 of that year; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution became effective October 17, 1960; and

WHEREAS, Governor Peter Coleman declared the first “Constitution Day” in 1960 to be celebrated October 17; and

WHEREAS, he noted that the Constitution represents for the people of American Samoa the “greatest step forward” in the political development of the territory since the raising of the American Flag on the island of Tutuila in 1900; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that, in the process of developing self-government, the people of American Samoa should enjoy certain rights and responsibilities inherent in the representative form of government clearly set forth in a constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution is based democratic principles such as the bill of rights, popular sovereignty with free and fair elections, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial independence, the rule of law, self-government, the US supremacy clause, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the American Samoa Government to protect persons of Samoan ancestry against alienation of their communal lands and the destruction of the Samoan way of life and language, contrary to their best interests;

WHEREAS, the strict amendment process allows the Constitution be a “living document” by taking into account the changing conditions of American Samoa;

WHEREAS, the constitution building process involves the people by participation in review committees, public hearings, a constitutional convention with delegates representing all districts, public education and outreach programs, and popular referendums;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws and people of American Samoa do hereby proclaim this day of October as “American Samoa Constitution Day”. I encourage the community to observe this

day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereby affix my signature and seal of my office on this 14 th day of October in the year of the Lord two-thousand twenty-one.



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor of American Samoa