



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

**“SAMOAN LANGUAGE MONTH, MARCH 2023”**

**WHEREAS,** a vibrant and robust use of the Samoan language supports the survival and development of the *fa'aSamoa*; and

**WHEREAS,** at least 90% of American Samoans speak Samoan as their first language but a Samoan Language Survey in the territory in 2001 raised concern as only 67% of those interviewed indicated that they use Samoan to converse at home; and

**WHEREAS,** vigilance and planning is needed as preventative measures against language loss already found at the shores of some of our Pacific neighbors like Hawaii which has only 1000+ recorded speakers; and

**WHEREAS,** the Samoan language is declared by territorial law as one of the official languages in American Samoa and is recognized as of equal importance with the English language in education, government, economic and social life of the people of American Samoa; and

**WHEREAS,** knowledge and use of the Samoan Language is crucial in preparing individuals for more effective participation in this society and the Samoan way of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALAUEGA E. V. ALE,** Acting Governor of American Samoa, proclaim by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws and the people of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim MARCH 2023 as “*Samoan Language Month*” in American Samoa. During this Samoan Language Month let us celebrate our identity, our language, and our culture to instill in our youth the importance of the preservation and protection of our customs and traditional practices.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I hereby affix my signature and seal of my office on this the 23 day of FEBRUARY, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.

**TALAUEGA E. V. ALE**  
Acting Governor of American Samoa