

For Official Release  
PR 001-08032022  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
August 3, 2022



## “Early Childhood Education - Head Start Office Building Dedication”

*“It has been a key priority of this administration to build up the capacity needed to accommodate and serve the needs of our people... The early years, prior to kindergarten, are the building blocks for success. It is equally critical that the appropriate resources are afforded.”*



*The Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga delivered his special remarks at the Early Childhood Education - Head Start Office Building Dedication.*

On Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the American Samoa Department of Education, Early Childhood Education - Head Start (ECE/HS) held its official grand opening, marking another milestone in the Lemanu-Talauuga Administration. The ECE Office was originally located in Utulei, and has been relocated to Lima Street, Tafuna.

“Today is a day of thanksgiving as we marvel upon God’s many blessings,” stated Governor Lemanu in his special remarks. He continued, “It has been a key priority of this administration to build up the capacity needed to accommodate and serve the needs of our people. The relocation of the ECE Office will allow for better service to the community, but most importantly, to our children. The early years, prior to kindergarten, are the building blocks for success. It is equally critical that the appropriate resources are afforded.”

Contracted to Nana’s Incorporation under the leadership of Mrs. Fiapa’ipa’i Fruean, the facility is approximately 12,521 square feet of space, which includes a dentist station, primary care station, conference room, classrooms, computer lab, kitchen, and adequate office space for registration and finance, totaling approximately \$2.5 million funded under the Department of Education American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Certificate of Occupancy was presented by Director Faleosina Voigt, Department of Public Works to Director Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli, Department of Education.

“I commend all the men and women who have taken on this profession as early childhood educators. The work you do is more pivotal as our children transition from home to the classroom. We thank you for instilling a strong foundation, and molding our future leaders, doctors, lawyers, service members, clergy, and so much more.”

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