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DOI Recognizes Lemanu-Talauega Administration for Voter-Approved Amendments to the Revised Constitution

“Your administration, your fellow elected and traditional leaders, and the people of American Samoa should be proud for conducting a process not just to allow, but to encourage the public to participate in shaping the future of the territory.” - Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor

On December 23rd, 2022, Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor of Insular and International Affairs (IIA), responded to Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga on behalf of Deb Halaand, Secretary of the Department of Interior, regarding the submission of the Voter-Approved Amendments to the Revised Constitution of American Samoa on December 14, 2022.

“Your administration, your fellow elected and traditional leaders, and the people of American Samoa should be proud for conducting a process not just to allow, but to encourage the public to participate in shaping the future of the territory,” stated Assistant Secretary Cantor. The letter continues to commend Governor Lemanu on the process of working towards self-determination.

The Department of Interior has officially acknowledged the submission of the amendments and indicated the actions they will take. “We will review the amendments you transmitted to the Secretary in the same spirit of respect for self-determination as well as the laws and policies of the federal government for appropriate action. We will keep you informed and consult as needed throughout that process,” stated Assistant Secretary Cantor.

“I convey my sincerest appreciation to Assistant Secretary Cantor for her response and her continued support for our territory,” remarked Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I want to ultimately thank the people of American Samoa for participating in this collaborative decision-making process; we are at the final stages of this historical occurrence.”

Upon the approval of the Secretary of Interior, the amendments will be proposed to the US Congress for ratification, according to [U. S. Public Law 98-213 Section 12](#) enacted Dec. 8, 1983.

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