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Voices United: Monthly Open Forum for the Samoan Community

On Thursday, April 13, 2023 The American Samoa Government- Hawai'i (ASG-HI) office hosted the monthly Town Hall meeting to engage with the local community and share information about upcoming events and a job opportunity for anyone interested in relocating to work in Kirksville, MO. The meeting was held at the Kanana Fou Hall in Kunia. In attendance were local members of the Samoan community, youth leaders, and local church leaders eager to learn more about the government's plans for the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program. During the presentation, Dr. Afu Lefaoseu shared details on the upcoming heritage events and programs including the Cricket Tournament Opening Ceremony, the Pearl Harbor Bike Path Community Clean up, the Veterans PACT ACT Sign up and Health Fair, and a Golf Tournament.

Officials stressed the importance of community involvement and participation in cultural games for program growth and progress. ASG-HI is also accepting applications for the *E Lelei Le Alofa o le Atua* (E.L.L.A) Scholarship under the Lou Lumana'i pillar of the Samoan Heritage Initiative and is available for download on their website at www.shipasghi.org, the deadline for applications is June 2, 2023. In addition, ASG-HI continues to partner with organizations providing resources to better equip our people. Representatives from Kraft Heinz were invited to present a job opportunity for anyone interested in relocating to work for their plant in Kirksville, Missouri. The relocation package includes medical, dental & vision benefits, 4 months of free housing, food allowance, transportation to Missouri and transportation to work, and a \$500 VISA gift card on the day of arrival.

As part of their initiative, participants will enroll in a 1 credit community assistance course at Truman State University to familiarize them with the area and ease transition to the community. Following the presentation, representatives gave out swag bags to members of the Samoan community, the gesture was well received and appreciated by those in attendance. For more information about this hiring event visit careers.kraftheinz.com or contact Filomina Bruton at filomina.bruton@kraftheinz.com. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the officials, making for an interactive and engaging experience. The town hall

meeting was just one of many ways the government is working to connect with the community and stay informed on community needs.

For more information on the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program and opportunities, visit www.shipasghi.org / www.facebook.com/asgov.hi.

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