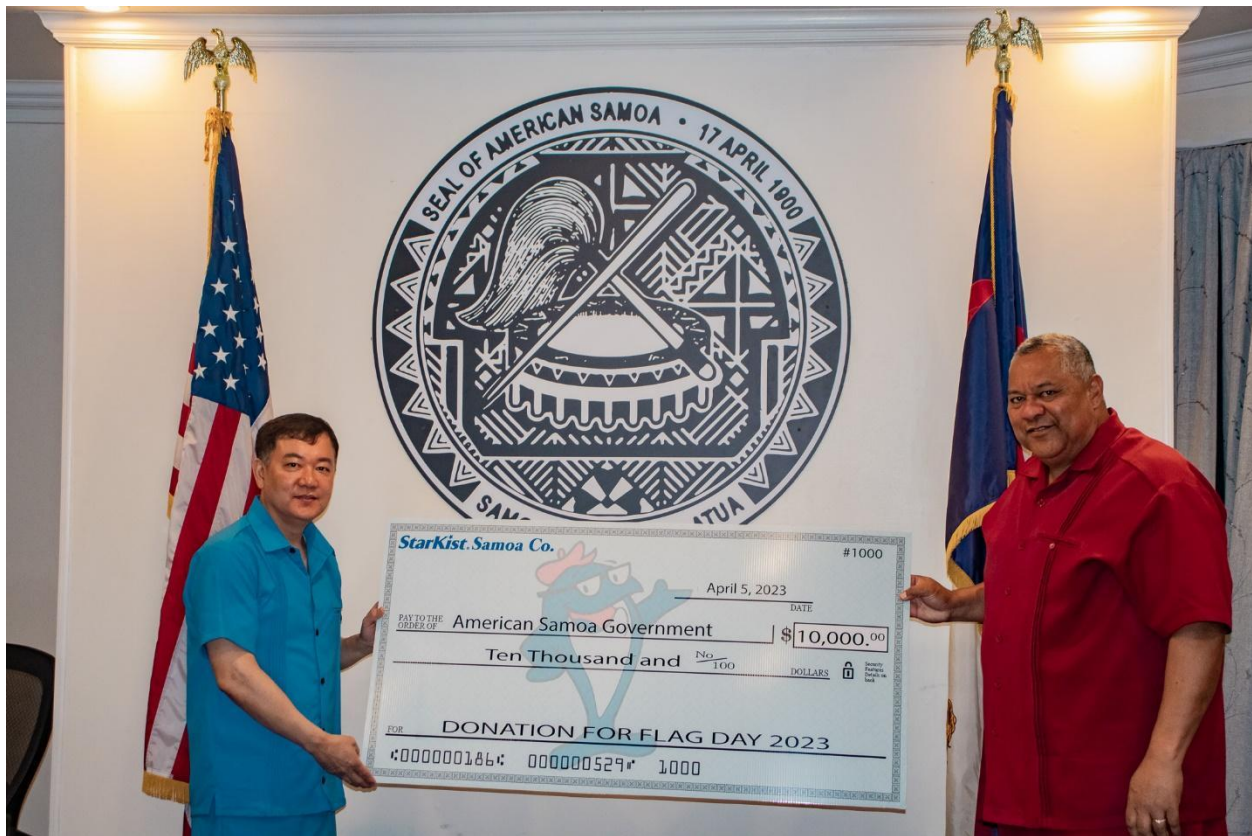


For Official Release
PR 002-04062023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
April 06, 2023



CEO Chae- Ung Um Meets with Governor Lemanu to Discuss Ongoing and New Challenges faced by StarKist Samoa



The President and CEO of Starkist, Chae-Ung Um, and his team met with Governor Lemanu, Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, and Reverend Mageo S. Mageo at the Governor's Conference room on Tuesday morning, April 5, 2023. The meeting focused on building a continuous partnership with the American Samoa Government to identify solutions to help StarKist Samoa's ongoing success. CEO Chae-Ung Um shared that visiting American Samoa is important to his new role and seeing the progress firsthand helps him seek out options to resolve ongoing and new challenges for the plant. StarKist Samoa had to shut down operations for two weeks to allow for structural-related upgrades.

CEO Chae-Ung Um expressed concerns about the National Marine Sanctuary around the Pacific Remote Islands Areas (PRIA) initiated by President Joe Biden. The huge expansion of the National Monument will be detrimental to American Samoa's economy, especially StarKist Samoa, but it will benefit China's fishing fleet. Governor Lemanu shared with the CEO and his team a letter addressed to President Biden discussing the American Samoa Government's position and its awareness of the effects of climate change. In the letter, Governor Lemanu voiced concerns that the executive order will lead to the losses of the tuna industry in American Samoa and almost 5,000 jobs. Congresswoman Amata raised the same concerns with President Biden's administration in a letter dated March 27, 2023.

CEO Chae- Ung Um added that the price of tuna has increased. Energy costs have also gone up and it is challenging to meet the customers' demand for low prices. Governor Lemanu tasked Chief of Staff Loa to work with a group to identify options and solutions to alleviate the increase in pricing.

At the conclusion of the meeting, CEO Chae- Ung Um presented a check of \$10,000 and 300 cases of Wahoo to Governor Lemanu as StarKist Samoa's donation for American Samoa's Flag Day festivities. Governor Lemanu presented gift bags to the team and expressed his sincerest gratitude to CEO Chae-Ung Um and his team for the generous donation.

###



