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## “Over 700 Guest Workers in the First Year of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration”

*“On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Talauega, we applaud you for successfully administering such a substantial number of workers to assist Starkist Samoa and their workforce needs.”*

As America Samoa’s largest private employer, StarKist Samoa Co. with the American Samoa Government welcomed a total of over 700 Guest Workers within the first year of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration, providing opportunities to several families and individuals amid the pandemic.

On April 25, 2022, Attorney General Fainuulelei Ala’ilima-Utu reported that a total of nine hundred and six (906) block permits were issued for potential guest workers, and a total of seven hundred seventy-two (772) guest workers arrived in the territory. Of those who have arrived, two (2) were returned to Samoa immediately, and five (5) of the workers have had their sponsorship terminated by StarKist.

Attorney General Fainu’ulelei praised the Lemanu-Talauega Administration’s initiative to continue the Guest Worker Program. “Your visionary and courageous leadership has allowed StarKist Samoa to continue to operate before and after the COVID-19 community spread... it has provided employment opportunities to over two thousand (2,000) employees, and opportunities for many supporting businesses...” stated the Attorney General.

Attorney General Fainuulelei concludes in his report that seven hundred sixty-five (765) guest workers have signed agreement forms with the Immigration Division of the Department of Legal Affairs, StarKist, and their host families. Additionally, each worker has been issued Immigration Identifications (ID) for employment.

Governor Lemanu commended the Attorney General in his response, “On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Talauega, we applaud you and Chief Immigration Officer Fagamalama Fualaaui for successfully administering such a substantial number of guest workers to assist StarKist Samoa and their workforce needs.” He continued, “Over seven hundred more people have an alternative means to support their families in Samoa.”

In order to remain in the program, every guest worker must show proof of full vaccination as defined by the Department of Health, they must renew their employment ID with the Immigration Office every year, and show proof that they are still residing with the host family.

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