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## “ Lt. Governor Talauega presented Territory Wide effort to Support the Kingdom of Tonga”

*“The Pasefika stands united. American Samoa stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Tonga, who have shown such incredible resilience.”*

On Monday morning, April 4, 2022, Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega Ale presented over half a million to the Kingdom of Tonga to aid in the wake of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai eruption, ashfall, and tsunami.

In attendance over zoom was the Prime Minister Honorable Hu’akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister Poasi Tei, Minister for Finance Honable Tatafu Moeaki, members of the American Samoa Government cabinet, and Reverend Tevita Paea, President of the Tongan Community in American Samoa.

“While the people and Government of the Kingdom of Tonga have begun rebuilding and healing from difficulties caused by the disaster, much like American Samoa, the coronavirus has made its way to the shores of Tonga after more than two years of remaining covid free,” stated Lt. Governor Talauega. He continued “The Pasefika stands united. American Samoa stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Tonga, who have shown such incredible resilience.”

As a result of the *Fesoasoani mo Tonga Humanitarian Drive* that took place earlier this year, in total, American Samoa along with the Tongan Community, donated **\$550,000 (\$1.2 million TOP)**, and 18 containers filled with nonperishable goods, clothing, and bottled water. American Samoa will also be sending 5 additional containers of sanitation items and other resources to assist in Tonga’s fight against COVID-19 at a later date.

The Lemanu-Talauega administration would like to express their sincerest gratitude to the people of Tutuila, Manu'a, Aunu'u and Olohega; without your generosity the Fesoasoani mo Toga Humanitarian Drive would not have been a success. We are blessed to receive the support of Church Leaders and their Congregations, District and Village Leaders, Department and Agencies, Companies and Small Businesses, Communities and Schools, Societies and

Organizations, and all individual donors heeded the call for help.

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