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Governor Lemanu Meets with the Department of Interior to review the Approved Constitutional Amendments



On February 7, 2023, Governor Lemanu met with the Secretary of Interior, Debra Haaland to review the approved Constitutional Amendments for American Samoa. Governor Lemanu thanked Ms. Haaland for her support of American Samoa's Constitutional Convention and for the opportunity to meet with her team in person to discuss the five amendments approved by the people of American Samoa in its November 8, 2022, general election. Governor Lemanu emphasized the need to honor the referendum by the people of American Samoa. Congresswoman Uifa'atali Radewagen who was in attendance echoed Governor Lemanu's request and shared her support for the approved five amendments. Attorney General Fainu'ulelei Alailima-Utu also spoke on behalf of the delegation.

The Secretary of Interior, Ms. Haaland reassured Governor Lemanu that the department is reviewing the constitutional amendments in the spirit of respect for our self-determination. Ms. Haaland stated that a thorough review of the amendments is underway -- mindful that this is the first time in more than 40 years that amendments have been approved by the voters.

In addition to Secretary Haaland, other key DOI officials who were present were Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Carmen Cantor and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Keone Nakoa. The Head and Deputy of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor were present.

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