

# U.S. CONGRESSMAN ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

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## AMERICAN SAMOA GETS OVER \$33 MILLION FOR FY2000 PLUS OPTION TO BORROW \$18.6 MILLION

I am very pleased to report that the President has signed an Omnibus Budget bill which includes over \$33 million for American Samoa for FY2000.

To reach agreement, White House and Congressional negotiators in the end agreed to give all departments covered in the bill a cut less than one-half of one percent from the proposed FY2000 levels, and American Samoa is included. That causes each federal department (with limited exceptions) to cut its budget by .38 percent from previously set FY2000 levels. If the cut was applied evenly across all programs within the Department of the Interior, ASG would have received \$87,000 less for government operations, however, that was not case. Although he had the discretion to cut any program up to 15 percent, the Secretary of the Interior recently announced that ASG's operations budget and CIP funds will remain unaffected. I want to thank Secretary Babbitt and his staff in the Office of Insular Affairs for their strong support for our federal funding, especially in light of our current financial situation in American Samoa.

The bill also includes an additional \$400,000 per year for the Children's Health Insurance Program, and an increase in the rate that Medicare will reimburse the medical authority for services provided to our elderly residents.

In the same bill, a provision is included to give ASG the option to borrow \$18.6 million as a loan against its share of the tobacco settlement. Of this amount, \$14.3 million could be used for debt reduction, and \$4.3 million for government reform. If ASG chooses to borrow this money, it will only have to pay back the amount it



*Congressman Faleomavaega and Vice President Al Gore took advantage of a recent event at the White House to discuss a few matters of interest to American Samoa. Also pictured are Mrs. Tipper Gore and Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin.*

borrow plus interest at a rate of 5.4 percent. And, let me emphasize, **there will be no fees and no extra charges assessed like other financial institutions normally would.** Many people in Congress worked hard to make this an option for our local government, and I especially want to thank the Governor for his initiative and support, and the Fono leadership and members for their patience in withholding judgment on the proposal until it was finalized.

## MAUA E AMERIKA SAMOA LE SILIA MA LE \$33 MILIONA MO LE TAUSAGA 2000 MA LE AIA E NONO AI SE \$18.6 MILIONA

Ua ou fiafia tele e fa'ailoa atu ua sainia e le Peresitene le pili tu'u'afataasi e aofia ai le silia ma le \$33 miliona mo Amerika Samoa.

I le i'uga, na maua ai loa se maliliea i le va o sui o le Fale Pa'epa'e ma le Konekeresi, ma vaea ai loa tupe fa'asoasoa a ofisa uma o loo aofia i lena pili i le afa o le tasi pasene mai i le aofa'i na mua'i talosagaina mo le 2000, e aofia ai ma Amerika Samoa. O lea i'uga ua mafua ai ona fa'amalosia ia lava ofisa uma, e aofia ai ma le Initeria, ina ia fa'aitiitia a latou tupe fa'asoasoa i se .38 pasene mai i aofa'iga na latou mua'i fuafuaina mo le ofisa aoao (department) i le tausaga 2000.

Pe ana fa'atinoina tutusa lena fuafuaga i polokalame uma a le Ofisa o le Initeria, semanu ua fa'aitiitia le tupe galue a Amerika Samoa i se aofa'i e \$87,000. Peita'i, sa fa'alauiloa taluai nei e le Susuga a le Failautusi o le Initeria o le a le afaina le tupe galue atoa ma tupe fa'aagaaga mo galuega autu (CIP funds) a le tatou malo. E ui lava ina iai le aia sa'oloto i le Alii Failautusi e vaea ai se vaega e o'o lava i le 15 pasene i so'o se polokalame, ae ua le fa'apena ona faia i tupe fa'asoasoa fuafuaina mo le tatou malo. Ou te fa'afetai tele ai i le Susuga a Bruce Babbitt fa'apea lana' aufaigaluega i le OIA mo le latou sapaapaia malosi

o tulaga tau i le tatou tupe fa'asoasoa mai i le Feterale, aemaise ai lava lena vaiata i le mafatiaga o loo iai nei le tatou malo.

O lo'o aofia fo'i i lena pili se fa'aopoopoga e \$400,000 i tausaga ta'itasi uma mo le polokalame e maua ai inisia tau i le soifua maloloina mo fanau, atoa fo'i ma le si'itia o le pasene poo le tupe fa'atusatusa e totogi atu e le Ofisa o le Medicare i le tatou maota o gasegase mo le tautua poo le tausiga o le soifua maloloina o tatou tagata matutua.

I lea fo'i lava tulafono, o loo aofia ai ma se fa'atagana ua tu'uina atu ai i le tatou malo le aia mo sana filifiliga sa'oloto e nono ai pe fa'atagasia se aofa'iga tupe e \$18.6 miliona mai i ana lava tupe o lo'o fuafua e maua mai i le maliliea fa'atasi ma Setete e 46 e mafua lea i se moliva fa'a-tulafono e fa'asaga i kamupani o loo gaosia sikaleti po'o tapa'a. Afai o le a nonoina e Amerika Samoa lena tupe e \$18.6 miliona, o lona vaevaeina po'o se fa'atatau i lona fa'aaogaina e fa'apenei: e \$14.3 miliona e fuafua mo le fa'aitiitia po'o le totogiina le aitalafu o lo'o iai nei, ae \$4.3 miliona e mo le toe afuafua lea po'o le toe fa'atulagaina o le tatou malo i se tulaga mautu ma taofia ai le toe afaina i ana tupe fa'asoasoa i le lumana'i, e pei ona iai nei i ni tausaga e tele.

Afai la e fa'atagasia e Amerika Samoa lena tupe, e na'o le aofa'i lava o le tupe o le a nonoina ma le initeresi (interest) e toe totogi. E leai se isi lava tupe poo se fa'asiliga i ona talaatu e totogiina e pei ona masani ai le tele o faletupe i tulaga tau i tupe nono.

E to'atele ni Alii Faipule o le Konekeresi a le Iunaite Setete

### *Fa'aaauu i le Itulau 3*

*Congressman Faleomavaega and Governor Tauese Sunia met with Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations and members of his delegation to discuss several international issues that concern American Samoa. The Congressional delegation visited several countries in the Asia-Pacific area. Also pictured is Chairman Gilman's wife Georgia.*



## AMERICAN SAMOA WILL GET POSTAGE STAMP TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

I am so pleased that the U.S. Postal Service has agreed to issue a stamp commemorating the centennial of American Samoa's political union with the United States. The draft stamp design that I reviewed recently is beautiful, it includes an "alia" in the water in the foreground and the green mountains in the background. According to Postmaster General William Henderson, the stamp will be issued in 2000. The change of decision by the USPS and its Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, which twice rejected the proposal, came only after the involvement of many high level officials including those at the White House, the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Department of Interior, the Governor's Office, and myself. I also received a petition signed by more than 15,000 Samoans and non-Samoan alike, calling on the USPS to issue a stamp. The petition was later submitted to the USPS.

The issuance of a commemorative stamp for American Samoa's centennial has been a priority of mine and the goal of the last two administrations in the territory. Both Governor Tauese, and Governor Lutali before him, worked hard to make this commemorative stamp a reality. The Tauese administration is to be commended for its efforts and a special thank you to Secretary Babbitt for his unqualified support on this matter. Secretary Babbitt was personally involved in the effort and he provided the leadership which resulted in a joint letter from a number of influential members of the Clinton administration in support of a commemorative stamp for American Samoa.

Three years ago and in close consultation with Governor Tauese, we moved forward to have a centennial stamp, a centennial coin and a centennial resolution issued for this special occasion. It

## MAUA E AMERIKA SAMOA SE FA'AILOGA MELI FA'APITOA MO LE FA'AMANATUINA O LE 100 TAUSAGA

Ua ou fiafia tele ina ua ioe le Ofisa o Fale Meli a le Iunaite Setete e tusia se fa'aailoga meli fa'apitoe mo le fa'amanatuina ole 100 tausaga o le feagaiga fa'a-malo i le va o Amerika Samoa ma le Iunaite Setete. O se ata tusi fa'ata'ita'i la o lenei fa'aailoga meli na ou va'ai iai taluai nei o lo'o va'aia ai se "alia" o lo'o folau i le sami atoa ma se atumauga i ona tua atu. Ua fa'aailoga mai e le Alii Pule Aoa o Fale Meli o William Henderson o le maua lea fa'aailoga meli i le tausaga e 2000. Sa fa'alua ona te'ena le tatou talosaga e le Ofisa o Fale Meli faapea le latou Komiti Fautua, ae ua toe suia lenei fa'aailoga ina ua u'una'ina malosi i le fesoasoani mai a nisi o ofisa maualuluga e aofia ai le Fale Pa'epa'e, Maota Fono e Lua a le Iunaite Setete, Initeria, Ofisa ole Kovana, ma lo'u tagata. Sa ou mauaina fo'i se pepa tagi na sainia e le silia ma le 15,000 o Samoa ma isi o i latou na sapaapaia le tatou talosaga. Sa ou fa'ao'o lenei tagi i le Ofisa o Fale Meli ina ia latou fa'autagia.

O lenei mataupu sa avea ma sini ia te a'u faapea fo'i Alii Kovana poo Puleaga faa-malo e lua taluai i le tatou teritori. O le Susuga a Kovana Tauese fa'apea Kovana Lutali sa galulue malosi ina ia tino



*Congressman Faleonavaega and the Afioga a Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese took time off during the Samoan Language Conference at Fatu-O-Aiga to discuss a number of issues and areas of mutual interest between American Samoa, Samoa (Western) and the U.S.*

appears now that we will have the stamp. With respect to the centennial coin, my colleague, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has introduced legislation to mint special quarters for American Samoa, the District of Columbia and the other territories. This bill has the support of the Chairman of the Subcommittee it has been referred to, and will move soon. I also will introduce a resolution recognizing American Samoa's contribution to the United States, and that should complete the trio.

lenei fa'amoemoe. Ou te viia ai le Susuga a Kovana Tauese ma le Puleaga i galuega fa'amalosi e tele na faia mo lenei mataupu, fa'apea fo'i le Susuga a le Failautusi o Bruce Babbitt o le Initeria mo lana ta'ita'iga ma le galue le tua'oaia ua tosina mai ai nisi ali'i maualuluga i le Pule'aga a le Peresitene e lagolagoina le tatou talosaga.

I le tolu tausaga taluai, atoa ma feutaga'iga i le va lelei ma le Susuga a Kovana Tauese, sa galueaina ai loa se fa'amoemoe ina ia maua se fa'aailoga meli, se tupe siliva, fa'apea se i'ugafono tusitusia mo le tatou aso fa'amanatu fa'apitoe. O lea ua foliga mai o le a fa'atino tulaga i le fa'aailoga meli. I le tulaga tau i se tupe siliva, ua mae'a ona fa'aofi e se tasi o a'u uo mamae, le Tama'ita'i Faipule o Eleanor Holmes Norton, se pili ina ia lolomi ai ni seleni siliva mo Amerika Samoa, DC ma isi teritori. O lo'o sapaapaia lenei pili e le Ta'ita'i Komiti o le Soa-Komiti lea ua fa'aofi atu iai. O le a ou fa'aofiina fo'i se mau i le Konekeresi mo se i'ugafono ina ia aloa'ia ai Amerika Samoa e tusa o lana tautua i le Iunaite Setete i le 100 tausaga o le a mavae atu, ona atoa ai lea o tulaga ia e tolu e pei ona faamoemoeina.



## CENSUS 2000 IS VERY IMPORTANT...PART 2

As I wrote in the last newsletter, it is very important that we have an accurate population count in the next census in April, 2000. Let me remind you again, the counts from the American Samoa census next year will be the basis for determining funding levels for many federal programs we participate in over the next ten years.

By now, our schools in American Samoa should have received from the Local Census Office copies of the census materials for inclusion in their classroom curriculum activities.

I have been discussing with the Census Bureau several issues concerning the census plans for American Samoa as well as

for the rest of the United States. As we all know, there are large populations of Samoans in Hawaii, California and other parts of the U.S. Mainland and I want to make sure that they are accurately accounted for as well.

At my urging, the Census Bureau has agreed to produce census advertisements and promotion messages, at the minimum, in Samoan and English, for as many media as possible that are available in American Samoa. The Census Bureau also agreed to have ads for TV, radio and print media. Some of the ads will be produced locally and our local media will be contacted directly by the Census Bureau or its advertising contractor for the placement of these ads.

Upon receipt of my letter in which I voiced strong objection to the use of an incorrect Samoan translation on the Language Identification Flashcard, the Census Bureau accepted the Samoan translation that I offered and agreed to reprint the message. The Language Identification Flashcard will be used nationally to identify the language spoken by families that may not understand English.

Finally, there are many full and part-time temporary jobs available during the Census and anyone interested should contact the Local Census Office in Pago Pago for more information.

*While attending a conference with Japanese Parliamentarians in Japan, Congressman Faleomavaega also met with some of the Samoan soldiers and their families that are stationed in Camp Zama. They discussed matters of concern to soldiers stationed abroad.*



## AMERICAN SAMOA RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$6.2 MILLION TO REMOVE VESSELS FROM THE REEF

I am so delighted that American Samoa was given an additional \$6.2 million for the removal of the long liner vessels that have been an eye sore and danger to the lives of our people for so many years. Authorized under the Oil Pollution Act Fund, the funds allowed the NOAA, in consultation with the Coast Guard and the American Samoa Government, to fully remove the vessels.

For the past three years, I have been working closely with Senator Daniel Inouye on this matter and in the process we consulted with officials at the White House Council on Environmental Quality to try and obtain funds for the removal of the vessels. Based on a joint request between Senator Inouye and myself, Vice President Al Gore became personally involved and pushed our request through the White House and other federal agencies. Vice President Gore should be thanked for taking this matter up, as well as Senator Inouye who has been a tremendous help in getting these funds. Also, I want to thank Governor Tauese Sunia for his continued leadership on this matter, and High Chief Faumuina Tagisia of Leloaloe for his tireless efforts in pushing to get this matter resolved once and for all.

It would have been unnecessary for the federal government to spend millions of dollars to clean up this mess if American Samoa had laws requiring all vessels entering our harbor to be bonded so that in the event of hurricanes, as it was in this case, insurance would already be in place to cover the expenses.

I respectfully and earnestly call upon the Governor and the



*Congressman Faleomavaega and The Honorable Carol Mosely-Braun (2nd from Right) discussed her new post during the swearing in ceremony at the White House for Ms. Mosely-Braun as the new U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand--which also covers Samoa. Also pictured are (L-R) Minnie Tuia Tuana'itau, and Dr. Salu Hunkin.*

Fono to enact a law that would require all vessels coming to American Samoa to be bonded. I would be more than happy to work together with everyone to prepare a such needed legislation.

## MAUA E AMERIKA SAMOA SE \$6.2 MILIONA FA'AOPPOPO AUA LE AVE'ESEA O VA'A FAGOTA MAI LE GATAIFALE

Ua tumu a'u i le lagona fa'aga'eitia ina ua maua se isi tupe fa'aopopo e \$6.2 miliona mai i le Feterale aua le tau togafitia o va'a fagota ua le gata ina matavale i le maimoa i le tatou gataifale ae fa'apea fo'i ona fai ma popolega i le soifua puipuia o le tatou atunu'u. I se faatagaga i lalo o vaegatupe fa'aagaaga mo fa'alavelave mata'utia e mafua i suau'u (Oil Pollution Act Fund), sa tuuina atu ai leni fesoasoani tau tupe i ofisa nei e iai le NOAA, Coast Guard faapea le tatou malo i Amerika Samoa aua taumafaiga mo le ave'esea o nei va'a fagota mai i le a'au o loo pa'ulia ai.

I le tolu tausaga ua mavae atu, sa ou galue malosi ai ma le fa'alagolago i le fesoasoani a le Alii Senatoa o Daniel Inouye aua leni fa'amoemoe. Ona o sa ma'ua tusi fai fa'atasi, sa faapena loa ona fesoasoani mai le Susuga a le Sui Peresitene o Al Gore ma u'una'i leni talosaga i totonu o le Fale Pa'epa'e faapea ma isi ofisa o le Feterale. Ou

te fa'afetai tele ai i le Sui Peresitene o Gore, fa'apea fo'i le Senatoa o Inouye mo le fesoasoani malosi i leni taumafaiga. E le gata i lea, ou te fa'afetai tele fo'i ia Kovana Tauese Sunia i lona lagolago malosi aemaise le Afioga i le Ma'opu, Faumuina Tagisiaalii o le Afio'aga o Leloaloe mo lana tautua le mapu ina ia fo'ia leni mataupu.

Ou te manatu, a na fa'atulafonoina va'a uma e malaga mai i le tatou taulaga i Amerika Samoa ina ia iai se inisiua aua fa'alavelave fa'afuase'i e tutupu mai e pei o afa, semanu o le mana'omia le fa'aaluina o leni anoano o miliona i tupe e tau togafitia ai leni fa'afitauli. Ua ou fa'aailoa ai ma le fa'aaloalo tele ma ou fa'atagisia finagalo o le tatou Malo faapea le Fono Faitulafono ina ia pasia se tulafono e saisaitia ai va'a uma e malaga mai i le tatou taulaga ina ia inisiuina. Ua ou ofoina atu la'u fesoasoani e galulue fa'atasi ma i latou uma e sapaia leni manatu ina ia fa'amautuina se tulafono fa'apenei.

## TAUA TELE LE TUSIGA IGOA PO'O LE FAITAU AOFA'IGA O TAGATA I LE TAUSAGA 2000...VAEGA 2

E pei ona ou faailoa atu taluai, o le a ou taumafai lava e fa'atalanoaina atili le taua tele o le faitauina o tatou tagataanu'u uma i le Tusiga Igoa o lo'o loma nei ia Aperila, 2000. Ou te toe fa'amanatu atili atu ai, o leni faitau aofa'iga o tagata o lo'o nonofo i Amerika Samoa, o le a avea lea ma fa'avae autu aua le fa'atupeina o le anoano o polokalame a le Feterale i tausaga ta'itasi uma e 10 o lo'o lumana'i.

Ua tatau nei ona tau'a'oina e tatou a'oga uma i Amerika Samoa mai i le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa kopi o tusitusiga ua fuafua mo fanau a'o'oga ina ia fa'alauteleina ai lo latou malamalama i le uiga ma le taua o le Tusiga Igoa po'o le faitau aofa'iga o tagata.

Sa ou fa'atalanoaina ma le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa a le Iunaite Setete nisi o mataupu e uiga i fa'atatauga o loo fuafua mo le Tusiga Igoa i Amerika Samoa faapea ma le Iunaite Setete atoa.

Sa ou u'una'ina malosi le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa ina ia saunia

ni fa'aaliga e totogi i tupe, i le gagana Samoa ma le fa'a-Papalagi aua le fa'alauiloaina i le tatou atunu'u, leni mataupu o le tusiga igoa. Ua fa'aailoa mai la, o le a fa'apena lava ona faia mo fa'aaliga i luga o le TV, leitio, fa'apea ma nusipepa. O nisi o nei fa'aaliga atonu o le a tusia ma galueina i Amerika Samoa lava. O le a fa'afeso'ota'i sa'o atu lava e le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa pisinisi a le tatou atunu'u i ia matata aua le fa'ataunu'uina o lea fa'amoemoga.

Ua fa'aailoa mai fo'i e le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa a le Iunaite Setete e tusa ai ma la'u tusi faitio na ave iai ona o le sese ma le tala feagai o le fa'a-Samoaina o se tasi fa'aaliga sa latou saunia i le gagana Samoa, ua latou taliaina ai se fa'aupuga sa'o sa ou auina atu iai.

Ou te fa'aailoa atu fo'i, e tele ni avanoa faigaluega o lo'o maua i leni Tusiga Igoa. Vala'au i le Ofisa o Tusiga Igoa i Pago Pago mo nisi fa'amatalaga au'ili'ili mo ia avanoa faigaluega.

### *Fa'aauau mai i le Itulau 1*

sa fesoasoani ia te a'u i le u'una'ina o leni taumafaiga. Ou te ave ai le fa'amalo tele i Alii Ta'ita'i faapea Sui Faipule o le tatou Fono Faitulafono i Amerika Samoa fa'apea le Susuga a le Kovana ona o le lava fa'apapale. Fa'amalo le fa'autaga mamao ma le onosa'i, sa moe ai le toa se'ia taeao i so outou finagalo fa'aailoa e uiga i leni mataupu. O lea ua i'u le taumafaiga ma maua ai leni auala e fesoasoani ai i lo tatou tulaga pagatia o lo'o iai nei. Alo ane loa lo outou mamalu i le sa'iliga tofa ma le fa'autaga mamao aua se lumana'i mautu o le tatou malo.

*While in DC to attend a conference for the "We The People," Mr. Lemapu Talo (Right) met with Congressman Faleomavaega to discuss the status of the program in American Samoa. Mr. Talo is the Coordinator for the program in American Samoa. Also pictured is Solomona Aoelua of the Congressman's staff.*



## ELECTION LAW IN AMERICAN SAMOA NEEDS REVIEW

Over the years, I have received many complaints from our sons and daughters in the military and those attending school abroad about not receiving their absentee ballot forms in time to be included in the elections or sometimes never at all. Furthermore, many complain that during the 1996 elections, the absentee ballot forms for the run-off election arrived either on the same day of the elections in American Samoa or afterwards.

The current law allows only two weeks between the end of a general election and a run-off. This is a real disservice to over 2000 men and women currently in the military or attending school outside of Ameri-



*Faleomavaega meets with Mavis Maiava and Dr. Earnest Alaimalo to discuss issues facing Samoan students in Higher Education. Ms. Maiava is a graduate student at UH and Dr. Alaimalo works at the Dept. of Psychiatry at UH-School of Medicine.*

can Samoa because the law does not allow enough time for the Election Office to prepare, distribute, and receive back in time absentee ballots in the case of a run-off. It is especially unfair to those members of the military who list American Samoa as their home of record, about 1,000 of them now, because their taxes are paid to the American Samoa Government but they are not provided the full opportunity to vote in all elections. This is like in the old days of "taxation without representation" and it needs to be changed.

In response to these complaints, I urge the Fono to review the current law governing elections in our Territory to address this problem.

## TOE ILOILO LE TULAFONO MO PALOTAGA I AMERIKA SAMOA

I tausaga ua mavae atu, e tele ni faitioga na maua mai i tatou alo ma fanau o loo i le Militeli faapea i latou o loo a'o'oga i fafo atu ona o le tuai ona maua o latou pepa palota, poo nisi fo'i taimi ua le maua lava. E le gata i lea, sa tele ni faitioga ona o le tulaga sa aliali i palotaga i le 1996 ina ua toe faia se palota fa'apitoa fa'alua i nisi o sui tauva, e faapea na fa'ato'a maua nisi pepa palota i le aso lava na faia ai le palota poo ni aso mulimuli ane ae ua tuana'i le palotaga.

O aiaiga o le tulafono e pei ona iai nei, e na'o le lua vaiaso o loo fa'aavanoaina mai i le i'uga o le ulua'i palota ma le toe faia o se palota fa'alua. Ou te lagona ua le tatau lea tulaga i le silia ma le 2000 o tatou alo ma fanau o loo i le Militeli fa'apea a'o'a'oga i fafo ona o le lava o le

taimi e auina atu ai e le Ofisa o Palotaga pepa palota ma toe fa'afo'i mai i le taimi o se palotaga fa'alua.

Ua sili ona le talafeagai lenei tulaga ia i latou i le Militeli o lo'o tusia Amerika Samoa e avefa ma o latou nofoaga mau, pe tusa ma le 1,000 i latou, ona o loo totogi a latou tupe o lafoga (taxes) i le tatou malo o Amerika Samoa ae o le a le mafai ona aufa'atasi i latou i palotaga uma. Ua pei lenei tulaga o aso anamua na totogi ai pe aoina lafoga a nisi tagata e aunoa ma so latou leo i tualumaga o le faiga malo, ma ou te manatu ai lava ua tatau ona toe talanoaina ma suia lea tulafono.

I le tali atu la i ia faitioga, ua ou talosagaina ai Sui o le Fono ina ia toe iloilo mae'ae'a le tulafono tau palotaga i le tatou malo.

## OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

The following are a few highlights of the activities conducted by my office during the past few months.

**International Relations** I accompanied Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman on a five-country trip that included Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. As a member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the trip helped me tremendously with my duties in the Committee; it provided me with a better understanding of a wide range of issues, especially in terms of national security and economic concerns.

**Fisheries** I introduced legislation to help preserve and restore the nation's coral reef ecosystems. The bill establishes a Coral Reef Restoration and Conservation Program within the Department of Commerce. It provides funding to restore degraded coral reefs and conserve the healthy ones. Of interest to American Samoa, the bill also establishes legal liability to the U.S. for persons who destroy or damage any coral reef in the U.S. The federal government would have authority to seek damages should there be no remedy under local law.

**Speaking Engagements** Keynote speaker at the U.S. Air Force

Security Conference on Arms Control in the Asia-Pacific region; keynote speaker during the Samoan Flag Day commemoration events in Carson, California and Tacoma-Seattle, Washington in remembrance of when American Samoa became part of the United States; commencement speaker at the Pesega College graduation in Upolu; speaker at the Vaiola High School graduation in Savai'i; speaker at the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Conference.

**Visits To Our DC Office** I have observed an increase in the number of visitors from our territory as well as visits by Samoans on the U.S. Mainland and Hawaii. My apology for the incomplete list due to the limited space available in this newsletter but here are some of the visitors that stopped by. Senator-High Chief Faiivae Apelu Galea'i; High Chief Faumuina Tagisiaali'i; Elder Faletoi Faletoi; Rev. Tautalatasi Fanolua; Army Reservist Soli Aoelua; Mavis Maiava; Vai Filiga; Lemapu Talo; Shanna Maugaotega Garcia; Feula Turituri; Etenauga Lam Yuen-Lutu; Voloti Malietoa; Jacinta Titalii; Stanley Tauai Iosua; Dr. Earnest Alaimalo; Fa'aofu Peneueta; Matamuli Punimata; Augustino Suafo'a; Dr. Salu Hunkin; Minnie Tuana'itau Tuia; Freda Thompson; and Evelyn Stevens.

## ATTENTION INTERNET USERS

I have set up an Internet website so you can view many of the documents and learn about the services available in my office from the convenience of your home or office. You may visit my website at the following URL address: <http://www.house.gov/faleomavaega/> You may also write to me at the following E-mail address: [Faleomavaega@mail.house.gov](mailto:Faleomavaega@mail.house.gov)



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