

Strengthening Disaster Resilience in our **Community**



Amerika Samoa 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit 2023

September 26 - 28, 2023

**Maota o Tupulaga Metotisi Hall
Tafuna, Amerika Samoa**

Hosted By

The Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

in partnership with

The Governor's Resilience Office (GRO)





The Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

Serial No.: 712 – 23

September 18, 2023

Talofa!

It is with great pleasure that I extend a very warm welcome to our honored guests, those from the nations and organizations of our Pacific region, as well as our partners from the U.S. federal government – namely FEMA and the Department of the Interior. Afio Mai – welcome to our islands.

“Strengthening Disaster Resilience in our Community” is the theme of this 2nd Annual Amerika Samoa Disaster Resilience Summit. I can think of no more fitting theme. Our Territory is not immune to the fast pace effects of climate change in the Pacific and around the world.

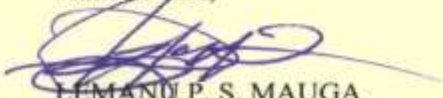
In a recent workshop where we engaged other federal partners on similar issues, I had the opportunity to tell them that, as the Governor of a small island territory, I am keenly aware of the effects of climate change, its impact on natural disasters, and the need to do what it takes to be a resilient community. All who live on these beautiful Pacific islands are keenly aware of this.

The people of American Samoa regularly see first-hand the devastating effects of extreme weather events on our physical infrastructure. We are vulnerable to widespread food insecurity, water insecurity, lack of access to social services, and in some of the worst cases, forced displacements. We bear the brunt of these climate impacts brought on by the actions of industrialized nations even though our carbon footprint is very small.

Our Territory is in clear and present danger with the everchanging weather. We need to address and respond to climate change’s adverse impacts with a matter of urgency. Our actions today are our investments in securing cleaner water, air, environment, and reducing carbon footprints for healthier generations in the future.

The support and partnership shown your organization’s participation in this endeavor speak volumes of your commitment to assuring our efforts are strengthened. Your presence in American Samoa during this event is greatly appreciated and commendable as we all stand together to ensure the safety and security of the lives of our people. Thank you all for being a part of this informative, educational summit where we can learn from local, regional, and federal partners how to make our community – our home – more resilient.

Faafetai Tele,



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor



The Honorable Uifa'atali Amata Coleman Radewagen Congresswoman

UIFA'ATALI AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
AMERICAN SAMOA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

WOMEN VETERANS TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5200

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDIAN AND INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

INDO-PACIFIC TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDO PACIFIC
VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

September 20, 2023

ODAPM 2nd Annual Amerika Samoa Disaster Resilience Summit

Talofa lava,

Thank you all for your work in the important efforts of disaster preparedness, response, and planning.

I recently had the solemn experience of setting foot in the area of Maui and historic Lahaina that was utterly destroyed by the sudden wildfire, and had a congressional briefing on site from FEMA. They are examining all the ways that immense tragedy got to that point, and it's a terrible reminder of how important disaster readiness can be.

You have your role in that, and the federal government has a share in supporting your work here. Like you, I'm concerned with reports of a possible government shutdown. I know without doubt, that the vast majority of my colleagues don't want that outcome; most of them strongly support adding funds to current disaster responses – in Maui, flooding in California, hurricanes in Florida, and more.

My fervent hope and expectation is that any such shutdown is still avoidable, or will be very short, and I hold out hope there will be a successful Continuing Resolution or a breakthrough in negotiations. History says it will be resolved, and we will move forward.

All of us know that our islands are not immune from major natural disasters.

The terrible 2009 tsunami came with so little warning. Cyclone Gita caused great damage. Every year there are hurricanes in the region.

In our own volcanic island chain, we've had rumblings, and elsewhere in the Pacific others have experienced worse. I was recently in Papua, New Guinea, where our dedicated military from our Indo-Pacific Command was assisting with the response to a volcano there in Bougainville, where the ash-fall had interrupted drinking water sources and food supply for thousands. We can never anticipate all the possibilities, but it's so important to plan and prepare for urgent action.

I am confident that FEMA will be fully funded for the next fiscal year, as it was for the current year, and I look forward to passing along any reports from Congress.

Thank you to Governor Lemanu Peleti Sialega Mauga, Lieutenant Governor Talauuga Eleasalo Va'alele Ale, for your leadership, and especially the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management, and Director Lisa Tuato'o, for your outstanding work, and putting together this Summit.

Your efforts are commendable and will make a difference in the next response. God bless you, American Samoa, and your discussions at this summit.

Soifua ma ia manuia!

Sincerely,

Uifa'atali Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress



The Honorable Uifa'atali Amata Coleman Radewagen Congresswoman

UIFA'ATALI AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
AMERICAN SAMOA



COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NEAR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
INDO-PACIFIC TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
WOMEN VETERANS TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-5200

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDO PACIFIC
VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nuunuu i lau tofā faaleAtua ma lau utaga o'oo'o tainane sou finagalo alofa sa ma mamalu o le atunuu tofi. Ou te faatulou ma ou ava atu.

Talofa lava, E momoli atu le agaga faafetai i lo outou mamalu uma e tusa ma a outou galuega tāua ia nofo sauniuni ai i mala e tutupu mai, ma tapenaga i le tali atu faapea le fuafuaina o tonu e ao ona faataunuu.

Na se'i mavae atu lo'u tu vae i Maui ma le nofoaga ua lauiloa o Lahaina, lea sa faaumatia e le afi mu faafuasei, ma na fono faailoa ai le konekeresi ma le FEMA i lea nofoaga. O loo latou taga'i i ala uma na oo atu ai lenei mala tele, ua o se faamanatu faigata, i le tāua o le nofo sauniuni i mala e o'o mai.

O loo i ai la outou vaega ma e i ai foi le vaega a le malo feterale i le lagolagoina o la outou galuega i i nei. Faapei o loo outou mamalu, o loo atugalū foi lo'u nei tagata i ni ripoti e uiga i le ono tapunia o le malo. E le tauilo o le toatele o la matou vaega e lē finagalo i lea taunuuga; o loo lagolago malosi e le toatele o i latou le faaopopo o seleni i taumafaiga o loo faia nei e tali atu ai i mala o loo tutupu, e pei o le mu i Maui, o lologa i Kalefonia, o le afā i Florida ma le tele o nisi pagatia. O lo'u naunauta'iga ma le faamoemoe maualuga e mafai lava ona vaoia le tapunia o le malo, pe puupuu foi se taimi o le a tapuni ai, ma ou te talosia ina ia manuia se l'ugafono Faaauau pe maua foi se ai o le feutagaiga, ma tatou aga atu ai i luma.

Ua silafia uma le ono lamatia o tatou atu motu mai mala tele faanatura. Na oo mai le galu lolo poo le sunami i le 2009 ma e le i lava se lapata'iga na maua. E telē le afaina na tupu mai i le matagi o Kita (*Gita*). Ua le utuva i tausaga afā e tupu mai. Ua tatou lagona i o tatou atu motu le taalili, faapea foi nisi o motu o le Pasefika e sili atu aafiaga na latou feagai. Talu ai nei sa ou i Papua Niu Kini, o loo i ai nei a tatou vaega au mai le Pasefika, o loo fesoasoani i taumafaiga e tali atu ai ona o se mauga mu i totonu o Bougainville, lea ua afaina ai puna o vai taumafa ma mea taumafa i le taitoafe ona o lefulefu pa'u mai le mauga mu. Tatou te le tau masina ma mea tutupu, ae sili ona tāua le tapena ma sauniuni mo gaioiga faataalise.

Ou te faamoemoe o le a faatupe atoatoa le FEMA i le tausaga faaletupe a sau nei, faapei o lenei tausaga, ma ou te faailoa atu mo lo outou silafia ni ripoti mai le Konekeresi. E momoli le faafetai i le afioga i le Kovana Sili, Lemanu Peleti Sialega Mauga, le afioga i le Kovana Lutena, Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale, i la oulua faatautaiga, ae maise ai le Ofisa e Fesoasoani i tau o Mala ma o loo Pulea Suau'u, ma le susuga i le Faatonu ia Lisa Tuato'o, mo le tautua matavela ma le tuu faatasiga o lenei Fesilafaiga.

Malo le fai o le faiva, e le taumate o le a aoga lo outou sao i le nofo sauniuni. Faamanuia le Atua ia te outou, ae maise Amerika Samoa, ma ia tau se ai o la outou fesilafa'iga. Soifua ma ia manuia!

Sincerely,

Uifa'atali Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress

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Lisa Tautalatasi Tuato'o

Director
Chief Petroleum Officer
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

Talofa, Malo e Lelei, Bula, Hafa Adai, Aloha, Hola and Greetings

Fa'afetai Tele to Reverend Salu Aiolupo and Senior Pastor Osasa Aukuso.

Special acknowledgements to Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Governor and Honorable Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale, Lieutenant Governor, Honorable Uifaatali Aumua Amata Radewagen, Congresswoman of American Samoa, our co-host Director Reverend Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono and the ASG Cabinet members for your invaluable support. Thank you Honorable Michael J Kruse, Chief Justice of the High Court, Honorable Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, President of the Senate and Honorable Senators, Honorable Savali Talavou Ale, Speaker of the House and Honorable Representatives of the Legislature of American Samoa.

Tremendous appreciation to our distinguished guests, esteemed leaders and partners from the federal government and the Pacific region who traveled far for this event. *Thank you, Fa'afetai Tele Lava.*

There are not enough languages to thank each and every one of you for your invaluable contribution, unwavering support, prayers, and well wishes that make the 2nd annual Amerika Samoa Disaster Resilience summit a great success! Our united collaboration speaks volumes of your commitment in ensuring our community remains resilient in the aftermath of disasters and adapt to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from all untimely disasters. Our isolated fragmented efforts are only successful and strengthened when joined together. That is our most desired outcome achieved in these three days. For that, we are eternally grateful!

A Samoan proverb:

O le tele o sulu e maua ai figota, e mama se avega pe a ta amo fa'atasi – My strength does not come from me alone but from many. Through collaboration, the most difficult challenges can be overcome.

Thank you again and pray for God's blessings and traveling mercies on you all as you return home. *Fa'afetai tele lava ma faamanuia le Atua i tiute, galuega ma le toe malaga atu i aiga,*

Very Respectfully,



Rev. Dr. Ama'amalele Tofaeono

Director
The Governor's Resilience Office

O le upu a le atunu'u, *'E lē sili le ta'i na i lo o le tapua'i.'* O le faiva foi o le tapua'iga, o le momoli lea o le fa'afetai ma le fa'amâlô ia i latou na alo-faiva, na afua ai ona tau i manū le fa'amoemoe. O le agaga lea, e avea ai a'u ma sui o le Ofisa o Suiga o le Tau (*Governor's Resilience Office*), e fa'aleoina se fa'afetai tele i mâlô fa'aaloaloga, fa'auluuluga o matagaluega, aoga, fa'alapotopotoga, Ekalesia ma le mamalu o le atunuu na auai mai, ua fa'ai'uina ai i le to'afilemū ma le manuia leni polokalama fa'alea'oa'oga. Ou te faafetai tele foi i le afioga i le Faatonu, Director Lisa Tuatoo ma le aufaigaluega a le ODAPM, ona o le taulamua ma le fita-i-tuga i leni a'oa'oga tâua, auâ lava le saogalemu ma le ola

tausa'afia o tagatâ-nu'u o Amerika Samoa. Ia fa'amanuia tele le Atua i lo outou soifua, ma ia ia te outou lona filemu!

As Co-host of 'Strengthening Disaster Resilience Summit 2023,' I would like to express on behalf of the Governor's Resilience Office (GRO), our deepest gratitude to Director Lisa Tuatoo - Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) and her hard-labored, professional and an energetic team. Thank you for organizing and ensuring that this event might become an efficient, and as an effective medium and platform to enhance our island-peoples' thrive for prosperity, security and resilience. I acknowledge the great and marvelous contributions of our honored guest-speakers, esteemed leaders and all those, who, in one way or another, offer their unrelenting support through resourcing and enriching our territory's inhabitants with every knowledge – theoretic and/or practical, in our solidarity quest for a safe, healthy, wealthy, and resilience livelihood of all American Samoans. Thank you so much...*Fa'afetai tele... Shalom!*

Rev. Dr. Ama'amalele Tofaeono
Director – Governor's Resilience Office

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

- 7:30 AM** **Arrival and Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM** **Summit Opening Ceremony – Welcoming Remarks**
Master of Ceremony: Director Lisa Tautalatasi Tuato'o
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management
Morning Prayer by Reverend Salu Aiolupo
Alofau Metotisi
Special Remarks by The Honorable Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale,
Acting Governor of American Samoa
- 9:00 AM** **Keynote Speaker - Honorable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster**
Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) and Samoa Tourism
Government of Samoa
- 9:30 AM** **Ms. Tammy Littrell**
Deputy Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IX
- 9:45 AM** **Dr. Siautu Alefaio-Tugia**
Associate Professor of Psychology
Massey University, Disaster Resilience
- 10:00 AM** **Honorable Tagaloa Cooper-Halo**
Director of Climate Change Resilience Program
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)
- 10:15 AM** **Ms. Vanitha Sivarajan**
Ecologist
U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs
- 10:30 AM** **Ms. Renise Bayne, Regional Disaster Officer**
Mr. Lipea Uta Sui, AS Operations Coordinator
American Red Cross
- 10:45 AM** **Ms. Casuallen Atuatasi, Ph. D.**
Research Coordinator
American Samoa Cancer Coalition
- 11:15 AM** **Ms. Fesola'i Molly Faamanatu Nielsen**
Assistant CEO, Disaster Management Office
Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Government of Samoa
- 11:30 AM** **Ms. Angelica Saavedra**
Grants Management Director
FEMA Region IX
- 11:45 AM** **Ms. Sharon Cuevas**
Region IX Emergency Transportation Representative
US Department of Transportation-Office of Intelligence Security and Emergency Response

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

12:00 PM Working Lunch - Power Hour

- I. Mr. Pauga Joey Cummings**
Chairman
Early Alert System, A.S. Territorial Emergency Communications Committee
- II. Mr. Jim Pedersen**
Pedersen Planning Consultants-Building Codes and GIS Mapping
- III. Mrs. Kelley Tagarino, M. Sc.,**
American Samoa Sea Grant Extension Agent
UH Sea Grant College Program, ASCC-Sea Level Rise
- IV. HC Taulapapa William Sword**
Pacific Energy Country Manager and Civil Engineer

1:00 PM Closing Remarks and Announcements by Director Lisa Tautalatasi Tuato'o
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

1:30 PM Closing Prayer by Deacon Fa'alava'au Levi Levi, Jr.
Voice of Christ Full Gospel Church, Tafuna

2:00 PM Set Up Day 2 Exhibition Booths for Emergency Support Functions Stakeholder Partners

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM Master of Ceremony: Director Lisa Tautalatasi Tuato'o
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

Morning Prayer by Reverend Dr. Ama'amalele Tofaeono
Director, Governor's Resilience Office

Special Remarks by Mr. Benjamin Reder, Deputy Chief
US Army Corp of Engineers, Civil and Public Works Branch-Honolulu District

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Emergency Support Functions Outreach – Stakeholder partners

9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Disaster Management Training Sessions

9:00 AM Ms. Kathryn Lipiecki, Director
FEMA Region IX Hazard Mitigation Division

9:30 AM Ms. Angelica Saavedra, Director
FEMA Region IX -Public Assistance

10:00 AM Mrs. Faleosina Voigt, Director
American Samoa Department of Public Works

10:30 AM Casey Te Beest, Hydrology Assistant
ASP/UA-Water Resources Research Center

11:00 AM Mr. Falelimu Chuck Leota, Executive Director
American Samoa Telecommunications Authority

11:30 AM Dr. Salote Aoelua-Fanene, Director
Department of Youth and Women's Affairs

12:15 PM Working Lunch - Power Hour

I. Mr. Namulau'ulu Tofilau Tavita Togia, Director
Governor's Biodiversity Conservation Office

II. Mrs. Lynn Pulou-Alaimalo, Director
American Samoa Department of Human Resources

III. Franklin Babauta, Special Assistant
CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management

IV. Dr. Salote Aoelua-Fanene, Director
Department of Youth and Women's Affairs

V. Mr. Casey Te Beest, Hydrology Assistant
ASP/UA-Water Resources Research Center

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

- 1:00 PM** **Panel I Discussions: Communications Emergency Response Coordination**
- I. Mr. Terry Letuli, Deputy Commissioner**
Department of Public Safety
 - II. Mr. Chuck Leota, Executive Director**
American Samoa Telecommunications Authority
 - III. Mr. Justin Tuiasosopo, Chief Executive Officer**
Bluesky American Samoa
 - IV. Mr. Pauga Joey Cummings, Chairman**
Early Alert System, AS Territorial Emergency Communications Committee
 - V. Mr. Tauapa'i N. Laupola, Acting Director**
Office of Public Information-KVZKTV
 - VI. Mr. Jason Betham, Chairman**
American Samoa Chamber of Commerce
- 2:00 PM** **Break**
- 2:10 PM** **Panel II Discussion: Infrastructure-Rebuild and Recovery**
- I. Mr. Benjamin Reder, Project Manager**
US Army Corp of Engineers
 - II. Mrs. Faleosina Voigt, Director**
American Samoa Department of Public Works
 - III. Mrs. Petti Matila, Director**
American Samoa Department of Commerce-PNRS
 - IV. Representative Sauasetoa Tautoloitua Ho-Ching**
CBT Inc & True Value
 - V. Mr. William Spitzenberg, Chief Engineer**
PIOA Consultants, Building Codes Upgrade
 - VI. Mr. Ryan Tuato'o, MBA, Assistant CEO**
American Samoa Power Authority
- 3:10 PM** **Closing Remarks and Announcements by Director Rev. Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono**
Governor's Resilience Office (GRO)
- 3:20 PM** **Closing Prayer by Reverend Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono, GRO**

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2023

7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM Master of Ceremony: Director Lisa Tautalatasi Tuato'o
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management
Morning Prayer by Reverend Dr. Ama'amalele Tofaeono
Director, Governor's Resilience Office
Special Remarks by Ms. Kathryn Lipiecki, Director
FEMA Region IX Hazard Mitigation Division

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Emergency Support Function Outreach Booths – Stakeholder partners

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM Disaster Management Training Sessions

9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Amaamalele Tofaeono, Director
Governor's Resilience Office

9:30 AM Mrs. Jewel Tuiasosopo
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

10:00 AM Mrs. Selaina Tuimavave, Director
Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

10:30 AM Mr. Lefega Fa'amao Asalele, Director
AS Environmental Protection Agency

11:00 AM Mr. Namulau'ulu Tofilau Tavita Togia, Director
Governor's Biodiversity Conservation Office

11:30 AM Mr. Aukusotino Ma'o, Flood Plain Manager
AS-DOC Flood Plain Management Program

12:00 PM Mr. William Spitzenberg, Chief Engineer
PIOA Consultants, Building Codes Upgrade

12:10 PM Working Lunch - Power Hour

- I. Ms. Heather Kerkering, US Geological Survey**
Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (PI-CASC)
- II. Mr. Benjamin Reder, Project Manager**
US Army Corp of Engineers
- III. Mr. Solialealofiotagaloa I. Mutini, Director**
Department of Agriculture-Food Security
- IV. Mr. Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, Director**
Agriculture Community and Natural Resource Division
ASCC Land Grant – Food Security
- V. Mrs. Jewel Tuiasosopo**
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- VI. Mr. Ryan Tuato'o, MBA, Assistant CEO**
American Samoa Power Authority

Amerika Samoa's 2nd Annual Disaster Resilience Summit Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2023

1:10 PM **Closing Remarks by the Honorable Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale,**
Acting Governor
Secretary of State
Governor's Authorized Representative
Chairman, The Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council
Chairman, American Samoa Resilience Commission

1:30 PM **Closing Prayer by Bishop Aukusotino Ma'o, Malaeimi 2nd Ward, LDS**

ROBERT J. FENTON, JR.



FEMA

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

REGION IX



Robert J. Fenton, Jr. is the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 9. Prior to 2015, he served as the Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of Response and Recovery at FEMA Headquarters and was responsible for coordinating the Federal response in support of States during major disasters. He coordinated and integrated Federal interagency all-hazards disaster planning and response operations; managed emergency response teams; and oversaw disaster emergency communications programs.

Mr. Fenton came to FEMA Headquarters in July 2009 to serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Response, where he was instrumental in crafting the reorganization of the Response Directorate and the Office of Response and Recovery, as well as leading the Response Directorate's focused efforts on whole community catastrophic planning, doctrine development, staff training/credentialing, and exercises. Mr. Fenton previously worked at FEMA Headquarters as the Acting Deputy Operations Branch Chief in 2007, leading the development and implementation of the Incident Management Assistance Teams.

From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Fenton served in the dual roles of Director of Disaster Assistance and Acting Director of Disaster Operations in the FEMA Region 9 Office. Mr. Fenton was responsible for the delivery and coordination of all hazards disaster planning, and response and recovery activities in the Region, which serves Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as Guam, American Samoa, the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia. Mr. Fenton also served as Chief of the Region 9 Response Branch, where he led interagency work groups in the development of the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework. He was also responsible for conducting interagency training, coordination, and exercises with Federal Emergency Support Function agencies in preparation for disaster response.

Since joining FEMA in 1996, Mr. Fenton has played a significant role in numerous large-scale response and recovery operations in the U.S. He has worked in various executive leadership roles at FEMA headquarters and was appointed the Region 9 administrator in July 2015. Mr. Fenton has also served as the acting FEMA administrator during two presidential transitions.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Fenton served as the Chief of Field Operations for Portable Water Supply System, based in Redwood City, California. In that capacity, he deployed to Central Africa as a lead member of the U.S. emergency response relief effort to bring lifesaving assistance to Rwandan refugees.

HON. TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER



MINISTER
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
— SAMOA TOURISM AUTHORITY —



Hon. Minister Schuster first entered Samoa Parliament in the 2011-2016 XV Parliament as representative for Aana Alofi 3 and was appointed as shadow Minister for Environment by the Tautua Party. He lost his seat in the 2016-2021 XVI Parliament but returned for the XVII Parliament 2021-2026 as a member of the new FAST Party government that won the 2021 general elections.

Hon. Minister Schuster holds the portoflios of Minister for Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Minister for Samoa Tourism Authority, which include climate change, forestry, water resources, and lands.

Hon. Minister is married with 4 children and he is a traditional chief from the village of Satapuala, from the Aana Alofi 4 constituency.

He holds a BA Geography from Victoria University in Wellington NZ (1995) and a MA Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University, Waltham MA, USA (1998).

The Minister has a background in environment, and sustainable development including climate change, where he has worked extensively over the past 30 years, in government, in civil society, and in the private sector. The Minister's work experience covered areas of biodiversity and climate change research, policy development, advocacy, regional and international multilateral environmental agreement, as well as capacity building and evaluations for projects and agencies.

He has extensive experience in community development work, having assisted with sports development including rugby and swimming. He also worked with community based and civil society organizations such as traditional village councils, church and youth groups addressing human rights and environmental concerns.

As the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and Minister for Tourism, his aspirations are for the transformation of Samoa into a green economy that focuses on sustainable energy and low carbon emissions, building climate resilience in all sectors, rebranding into culturally sensitive sustainable tourism, conserving and sustainably managing limited natural resources, and conserving native biodiversity for present and future generations. The Minister is a strong advocate for Blue Pacific unity and cooperation as a united voice when dealing with areas of security, environment, climate change and labor mobility as modes for sustainable economic development.

ROBERT PESAPANE



FEMA

DIRECTOR, RECOVERY DIVISION

REGION IX



Robert Pesapane is Director of the Public Assistance Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX office in Oakland, CA. As the Director of Recovery, Mr. Pesapane supervises the implementation of FEMA's Public and Individual Assistance Programs, including overseeing multi-million recovery grant programs for public infrastructure, disaster survivor temporary housing, debris removal operations, and federal assistance to disaster survivors.

Mr. Pesapane joined Region IX in December 2016 as the Director of National Preparedness and the Federal Preparedness Coordinator where he led the delivery of training, exercises, continuity of operations, planning and analysis technical assistance, radiological emergency preparedness, hazardous materials preparedness, and individual and community preparedness in support of state, territorial, tribal, and local stakeholders.

Mr. Pesapane is currently serving as the Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer directing operations for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. Over the last year, Mr. Pesapane led the establishment of the first in the nation federally supported Community Vaccination Centers as well as mobile vaccination outreach in partnership with community and faith-based organizations.

In addition, Mr. Pesapane has worked in the FEMA Region I and III National Preparedness Divisions as well as FEMA Headquarters within the Response Directorate Planning Division. Mr. Pesapane began his career as a regional planner for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency where he was responsible for all-hazard emergency planning. He was later promoted to R.I. homeland security exercise officer and was responsible for ensuring that the state's homeland security strategy was properly exercised across all first-responder disciplines.

Mr. Pesapane holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Salve Regina University as well as master's degree in International Relations.



DR. SIAUTU ALEFAIO-TUGIA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MASSEY UNIVERSITY

DISASTER RESILIENCE, NEW ZEALAND



Dr Siautu Alefaio (Samoan lineage from the villages of Matautu-Tai, Sāsina, Manunu ma Fagamalo) is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Psychology, Massey University and Global Fellow of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies, Brown University. She is an experienced psychologist practitioner who has worked across various applied psychology contexts in education, health, social services, community, family violence, forensic rehabilitation and disaster humanitarian response in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific. She was awarded her PhD in Education Psychology from Monash University in 2015. As a scholar-practitioner, she combines extensive practice and academic experience to re-inform psychology from Pacific-Indigenous knowledge frameworks. Dr Alefaio founded NIUPatCH (Navigate In Unity Pacific approaches to Community-Humanitarians), a virtual practice-informed research collective in 2016. NIUPatCH shines the light on Pacific-Indigenous community responses of innovation to humanity’s challenging needs across climates of change in Oceania.



LT. COL. CHRISTOPHER PEVEY

HONOLULU DISTRICT COMMANDER

U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS



Lt. Col. Christopher (Ryan) Pevey became the 73rd Honolulu District Commander June 24, 2022. Prior to joining Honolulu District, he most recently served as the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii Engineer. Pevey is from Athens, Georgia and was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April 2004. He served in other command and staff positions to include: Deputy Commander for the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers. Deputy G3 for the 1st Infantry Division; Executive Officer and Operations Officer for the 82nd Engineer Battalion in Kuwait and Fort Riley. Pevey was the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Commander of the 557 EN CO (Horizontal), 864th Engineer Battalion at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington. He also served as the Chief of Operations for the 130th Engineer Brigade and Security Force Assistant Officer in Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10 and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Assault and Obstacle Platoon Leader in Echo Company, 2-9 Infantry Regiment at Camp Casey, Korea. Pevey holds a Bachelor’s Degree in History from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Science Administration, Public Administration from Central Michigan University. His military education includes graduation from the Command and General Staff College, Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Ranger Leader Course, and Airborne School. Pevey’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (5), Army Commendation Medal (4), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Ranger Tab, and Parachutist Badge.

HON. TAGALOA COOPER-HALO

DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PCIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)



Tagaloa Cooper works as a Director, Climate Change Resilience Programme at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP), which is a Non-Profit & Charitable Organizations company with an estimated 139 employees; and founded in 1993., their management level is Director. Tagaloa is currently based in Samoa. SPREP is the premiere intergovernmental regional environmental organization of the Pacific, with 21 Pacific Island Members and five metropolitan Members. SPREP’s mandate is to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP’s core priorities are Climate Change

Resilience, Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection, Environmental Governance, and Waste Management and Pollution Control.

TAMMY LITTRELL



FEMA

DEPUTY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

REGION IX



Tammy L. Littrell serves as the Deputy Regional Administrator, where she leads federal emergency programs in the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in support of 157 American Indian tribes. Ms. Littrell has been a public servant for over 34 years and served as the Acting Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 8, Colorado and Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 2, New York. She also serves as a Senior Executive Staff Member in support of International Affairs.

As the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA in Region 9 in Oakland, California, she built relationships with federal, state, local, and tribal partners in the culturally diverse region of 47 million that spans eight time zones. As the Mission Support Division Director, she provided leadership oversight for 360 employees.

Ms. Littrell was appointed by prior DHS secretaries to serve as the Deputy Federal Coordinator for the 2018 San Francisco New Year's Eve National Special Security Event, Deputy Federal Emergency Communication Coordinator after Hurricane Katrina, and the DHS Liaison to USNORTHCOM as a Joint Warrior. Tammy received the Coalition Interoperability Award from the US Navy Director of NORAD for her ability to disseminate sensitive information effectively between U.S. European and Joint Forces Command and the Defense Information Systems Agency.

Ms. Littrell has served in leadership positions during both the response and recovery efforts to more than 50+ Federally declared disasters such as COVID-19 for both FEMA R2 and R9 states, tribes, and territories. Chief of Staff in support of the Big Island of Hawaii Volcano, California fires, Typhoons in Saipan, Hurricanes in Florida (Irma/Andrew), Hurricane Sandi in New York, Hurricane Marilyn in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northridge Earthquake. She also served on FEMA'S National Response Team, for the National Special Security Event during the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Tammy also served as the Mission Support Deputy Division Director and Information Technology Branch Chief for Region 8 in Denver, Colorado.

Ms. Littrell has a Master's Professional Certificate in Homeland Security from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver, and A Bachelor of Science in Information Management & Computer Science from the Metropolitan State University of Denver. She also received a leadership certificate from the U.S. Army War College for the Commandant's National Security Program and is a Senior Executive Coach at the Executive Institute.



KATHRYN LIPIECKI

DIRECTOR, MITIGATION DIVISION

— REGION IX —



FEMA

Kathryn (Katie) Lipiecki is director of the Mitigation Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 office in Oakland, California. In this role, she oversees the regional implementation of mitigation programs, including the flood mapping program, Hazard Mitigation Planning program, multi-million-dollar disaster and non-disaster mitigation grants such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, floodplain management and flood insurance programs, and Environmental and Historic Preservation compliance. Prior to joining Region 9 in 2020, Katie was the hazard mitigation division director in Puerto Rico, supporting recovery efforts for hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the 2020 earthquakes. In this role, she oversaw the implementation of various mitigation program areas, including the \$3.6 billion Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and supported the obligation of over \$115 million for 406 mitigations. Katie started with FEMA Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, working in the Floodplain Management & Insurance branch and serving as the Risk Analysis branch chief. Before FEMA, Katie worked for URS Corporation, where she supported FEMA's flood map modernization program. She also volunteered on a local historic preservation commission in Haddonfield, New Jersey, providing guidance on compliance with historic district regulations. She holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York City, where she concentrated in housing policy, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation and American Studies from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Command and General Staff Officers' Common Core course.



ANGELICA SAAVEDRA

DIRECTOR, GRANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

— REGION IX —



FEMA

Angie Saavedra is the new Director of the Region 9 Grants Management Division. She joins us from the Office of Chief Justice Counsel, where she held various roles, most recently as an Attorney Advisor in Region 9. Angie joined FEMA in 2014 as an Attorney Advisor in the Response and Recovery Legal Division. In that role, she advised senior leadership on engagements with the DHS Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. She took on her first leadership role at FEMA as the Deputy Associate Chief Counsel for the Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT), before its transition to the Grant Programs Directorate (GPD). After transitioning PDAT to GPD, Angie completed a detail with GPD, where she helped develop a strategy for the stand-up of the Office of Enterprise Grant Services. Angie then became the Director for the Strategy and Policy Division in the Office of Policy and Program Analysis, leading various line of effort for the agency that included presidential transition planning and execution, development of the 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan, coordination of FEMA's implementation of new executive actions, and guidance on internal and external policy matters, including with the National Security Council. Outside of FEMA, Angie served as primary counsel in the Peace Corps for the Let Girls Learn, a White House initiative to promote girls' education around the world, and she is a proud Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Mongolia). She also worked in the private sector as a commercial litigation and transactional attorney both domestically and internationally.



JEWEL TUIASOSOPO

A.S. CRCP and COASTAL MANAGEMENT LIAISON

— NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION —



Jewel Tuiasosopo serves as the American Samoa Coral Reef Conservation Program and Coastal Zone Management Liaison at Lynker supporting NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management. In this capacity, she provides management assistance to American Samoa’s Coral Reef Advisory Group and the American Samoa Coastal Management Program to maintain programs and meet all program requirements. In addition, she provides technical assistance in the areas of coral reef conservation, planning, and management, restoration ecology, climate change adaptation and planning, and watershed management. Prior to her current role, Jewel served at the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency for 9 years and was an enlisted member of the United States Air Force Reserve. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Chaminade University of Honolulu and a Master’s of Science degree in Environmental Science Management from Southern Illinois University.



BENJAMIN REDER

DEPUTY CHIEF, CIVIL AND PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH, HONOLULU DISTRICT

— U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS —



Benjamin is the Deputy Chief of the Civil and Public Works Branch at the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this capacity, he manages the civil works portfolio across the project lifecycle from inception through construction. He serves on the Collaboration and Public Participation Steering Committee and is an instructor for the “Public Involvement and Team Building in Planning” Prospect Course. Benjamin is a trained facilitator and a budding supervisor. Other duties included Program Manager for Floodplain Management Services, Planning Assistance to States, Continuing Authorities Program, and Silver Jackets. Benjamin started his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2017 as a Lead Planner for the San Francisco District, before moving to the Honolulu District in 2019. During his time in San Francisco District, he worked on flood risk management, regional sediment management and navigation projects. He also served as the Endowed Chair to the Southwestern Division Regional Integration Team at Headquarters (Winter 2019). Benjamin graduated in 2001 from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He graduated in 2011 from the University of Oregon, with a Master’s in Community and Regional Planning. Away from work, Benjamin enjoys playing hard in the water, on land, and in the trees with his family. He has three children, ages two, seven, and nine.



SARA W. LONGAN

DEPUTY CHIEF, REGULATORY DIVISION, ALASKA DISTRICT

— U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS —



Sara W. Longan Sara W. Longan is the Deputy Chief of the Regulatory Division for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. She is responsible for administering and enforcing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program within the Alaska District. Furthermore, she assists with the development of, response to, and/or implementation of the full range of programmatic initiatives and requirements which are directed towards the effective, efficient and consistent application of the Corps Regulatory Program. Longan is an experienced regulator and natural resource manager with over 20 years’ experience, including 18 years in a government regulatory setting. Prior to joining the Alaska District Longan served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) overseeing Divisions such as the Division of Oil & Gas (DOG), State Pipeline Coordinator’s Section (SPCS), and the Division of Geological and

Geophysical Survey (DGGS), serving a team of approximately 1,000 employees. DNR manages 104 million acres of state-owned lands, 60 million acres of submerged lands and 40,000 miles of coastline. Longan was the Executive Director of the North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The NSSI maintains a focus on coordinating science to understand ecosystems in relation to energy development on the North Slope of Alaska. Before, she was the Executive Director of the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) for the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources specializing in oil and gas, mining, transportation, hydropower permitting, 3 Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee Biographies – updated – 3/22/2022 resource development, and Federal land management and Arctic policy and research. She is on the 2016 list of Alaska's Top 40 under 40 and she served on the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council.



SHARON CUEVAS

REGIONAL EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Sharon Cuevas has over 20 years' experience in transportation, land management and emergency response. Having worked across several disciplines including planning, operations, transportation, research, and safety, along with environmental and response provided a broad background for addressing emerging issues holistically with a whole community approach. Her Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) transportation experience as a Regional Emergency Transportation Representative (RETREP) includes coordinating among all 9 Operating Agencies (FHWA, FTA, FAA, FRA, FMCSA, PHMSA, MARAD, etc.) under the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) umbrella. Her U.S. Forest Service (USFS), experience includes serving as a Wildland Firefighter. And her FEMA experience provided an "all-hazards" approach to expand upon her wildfire expertise. She oversaw the large project closeout of over a billion dollars of grants for public agencies throughout the U.S. Her experience includes working on a wide range of disasters (i.e., hurricanes, tsunamis, tropical storms, lava flows, flooding, etc). And she enjoys helping partners link up with other resources to build capacity and increase preparedness and resiliency.



HEATHER KERKERING

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR & SCIENCE COORDINATOR

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Heather Kerkering is the Science Coordinator for the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (PI CASC), one of the nine regional centers that form the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Center network. Heather Kerkering is a federal Science Coordinator. Kerkering brings over a decade of leadership experience working across government, academic, non profit, and industry sectors to apply the latest science and technology to pressing environmental and climate issues. Most recently, she served as the founder of her own consulting company, Sea Connections Consulting, where, among other things, she provided project management services and advice on strategic planning for government and non-profit organizations. Kerkering is no stranger to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Prior to working as a consultant, Kerkering served as the Director of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) at the UH Mānoa, overseeing operations of the largest region in the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System. She also helped launch the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CenCOOS) at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and served as the CenCOOS Program Manager for several years. She co-edited the first book on Coastal Ocean Observing Systems and has participated in numerous regional, national, and international initiatives to improve the collection, coordination, and application of ocean and atmospheric information to environmental issues.



MICHAEL KERN

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (PREPAREDNESS)

REGION IX



FEMA

Mr. Michael Kern is the Preparedness Analysis Planning Specialist (PAPS) for FEMA's Pacific Area Office in Honolulu focusing on Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. His role in the preparedness division is primarily to support communities in their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) process as well as supporting outreach efforts to

promote individual and community preparedness. For more than a decade, Michael served as the FEMA Regional Voluntary Agency Liaison for the Pacific islands helping bridge efforts between nonprofit, faith-based and community organizations and the federal government in all phases of disaster. Michael has deployed to more than 30 disasters in every phase of an event. Most recently he supervised FEMA's COVID response for American Samoa. He was deployed to the Northern Mariana Islands to lead the initial mass care response to devastating category 5 Super Typhoon Yutu and then launched a pilot home repair program which deployed 400+ volunteers to repair 156 homes. He initiated similar federally supported volunteer efforts after Typhoon Soudelor in Saipan which repaired over 60 homes.



FRANKLIN REYES BABAUTA

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



FRANKLIN REYES BABAUTA was born and raised on Saipan, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). He grew up in a small village with 10 siblings and they lived off the land with farming and fishing. His favorite sports were baseball and playing wargames as a child. After high school, he attended the University of

Guam where he commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1991. Outside of the military, he was a Police Officer with the CNMI Department of Public Safety. His tenure in the Army Reserve began with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. In 2004, he was activated with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He became the Echo Company Commander, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry and deployed to Balad, Iraq. He served 15 years with the Army Reserve and participated in several Peace Keeping Missions in Malaysia and Australia before he transferred to the Guam Army National Guard in 2006. He was assigned to the Guam Army National Guard Headquarters Element in the Operations Section. He was deployed as part of an Embedded Training Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Paktika Province, Afghanistan as the Battalion Team Chief with the 1st Battalion, 203rd Brigade, Regional Command East from 2007 to 2008. Upon his return, he commanded the Guam Army National Guard Headquarters Element, Joint Forces Headquarters, from 2009 to 2012. He deployed with the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard as a member of the Security Forces Advisory Team, Kandahar, Afghanistan, from 2012 to 2013. After 25 years of services in the Army Reserve and Guam Army National Guard, he rose through the ranks and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in June 2015. He received numerous awards with his overseas deployments including three Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, Afghanistan, and Iraq Campaign Medals, etc. He also received his Combat Infantry Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar. During his Law Enforcement career, he was last appointed Deputy Commissioner for Administration in 2003 and Retired from the CNMI Police Department in 2006. He served in the 21st CNMI Legislature as a Congressman representing Precinct 1 in 2020.



DR. SALOTE AOELUA-FANENE

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS



Dr. Salote Aoelua-Fanene currently serves the American Samoa Government under the Lemanu P.S. Mauga-Talauega E.V. Ale Administration as the Director of the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs. She also serves as the Co-Chair of the Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council-Prevention Committee and is a member of the American Samoa Statistical Council. She is the Co-Author of Research Capacity

Strengthening in American Samoa: Fa'avaeina le Fa'atelega o le Tomai Sailiili i Amerika Samoa and the Executive Director of the Aoelua Family Reading Program. Dr. Aoelua-Fanene is also a US Navy Veteran with her Doctorate Degree in Organizational Leadership. Dr. Fanene-Aoelua serves at her church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pago Pago West Stake Music Specialist. Her extensive background consists of serving as an Education Consultant for the American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, serving as a Community Liaison for the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, serving as a Legislative Assistant for the late Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin. She also worked as a Youth Correctional Office for Public Safety and in the US Navy, she was a Cryptologic Technician Operator.



PETTI TAGIPO MATILA

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Petti Tagipo Matila is the Director of Commerce and the youngest cabinet member of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration. She has served in federal and local offices, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs Field Office, the American Samoa Economic Stimulus and Recovery Office, the Office of the Governor, and now the Department of Commerce. Ms. Matila was instrumental in securing American Samoa’s first Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) and CDBG Mitigation (MIT) funding to address the unmet housing needs of American Samoa as a result of Tropical Storm Gita. She works across relevant agencies to design and build the Tualauta Drainage, an approved disaster recovery project under the CDBG-MIT. She is also a member of the Hazard Mitigation Council. Ms. Matila is the co-author of a study entitled Fixing Funding by the Mile, published by the National League of Cities in 2019. She brings over a decade of experience in federal grants management, planning, and implementation.



LYNN PULO ALAIMALO

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES



Lynn Pulo-Alaimalo was born in Lauli’I, American Samoa to the late Lea’ana Tavita Fa’amausili and Nu’uuli Tautu Pulou. Similar to a typical fresh-out-of-high-school islander deluging with great ambition and determination, Mrs. Alaimalo joined the United States Army that later assigned her as a Small Arms and Towed Artillery Repairer. During her tenure in the military, Lynn served as a school’s representative, a personnel specialist and armorer. She traveled the world as a soldier and began her institutional journey in Macedonia where she found the thrive to return back to school. Mrs. Alaimalo has a diverse academic background ranging from completing her Associate of Arts at the City of Colleges of Chicago (Feb 2002), a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix. Lynn attended Concord Law School to pursue an Executive Juris Doctor from Concord Law School and is currently pursuing her Doctorates degree in Organizational Leadership.



FALEOSINA VOIGT

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Faleosina Voigt, P.E. has been the Director for the Department of Public Works in American Samoa since January 2013. She has over 30 years of experience working for the Department of Public Works, American Samoa Government, as a Civil Engineer, General Manager, Assistant Director, Deputy Director, and now the Director. Born and raised in American Samoa, Faleosina graduated from Leone High School in 1986, and from the American Samoa Community College in 1988 where she earned her AA in Liberal Arts. She later graduated from Idaho State University in 1991 receiving her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Hawaii. She is currently the Chairwoman for the American Samoa Economic Development Authority (ASEDA) and the Professional Land Surveyor Licensing Board (PLSLB). She is overseeing a staff of over 200 members and managing multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects pertaining to roads and highways and public buildings.



SELAINA VAITAUTOLU TUIMAVAVE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES



Selaina Vaitautolu Tuimavave is the Deputy Director for the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources where she has been employed for about 20 years. She received her BS in Fishery Biology from Colorado State University and a Master's in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University. Upon completion of her studies, she returned home to serve her community and implement her passion to protect the island's fragile marine resources. She works with village communities to develop effective resource management and serves as the bridge between science and traditional management of these unique resources.



FALELIMU CHUCK LEOTA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AMERICAN SAMOA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY



Falelimu Chuck Leota is a seasoned technology and telecom executive in the emerging economies of Polynesia. A son of American Samoa, Mr. Leota has been involved in network development, technology, capacity building and business development in American Samoa, Samoa, and the Cook Islands for almost twenty years; of which four (4) years he lived in Apia as part of the earlier Bluesky executive team that oversaw and managed the acquisition of Samoa Tel in 2011-2015. Often recognized for his performance record and reputation for his unrelenting focus and sometimes difficult demeanor in pursuing improved outcomes and increased productivity, Mr. Leota is widely known for allowing individuals to shine from their success and also for allowing them to fail, believing mistakes provide the most significant opportunity for learning and self-improvement. He believes in cross-functional leadership, training, and mentoring to build Samoan capacity in technology and engineering. Today, Mr. Leota is the Chief Executive Officer for the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, entrusted with overseeing the telecommunications needs of the territory, the Hawaiki branch unit submarine cable, and the recent launch of the Samoan archipelago's first 5G mobile network. Mr. Leota considers his most significant accomplishment to be convincing his wife of 20+ years to marry him and being a father to four loving children. Mr. Leota is also a deacon and secretary for his church.



LEFEGA FA'AMAO O. ASALELE

DIRECTOR

A.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



Lefega Fa'amao O. Asalele Jr. is the Director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA). He has held this prominent leadership position since 2018. Mr. Asalele has worked at the AS-EPA for over 20 years in various executive and technical roles. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve with two deployments to Iraq with the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Regiment. He has a Bachelor's degree from Chadron State College in Nebraska and Master's degree from San Diego State University.



AOELUA SOLOMONA VAIOLETAMA **AOELUA**

DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Mr. Aoelua Solomona Vaoletama Aoelua currently serves as the Acting Director of the Office of Public Information-KVZKTV. He is a graduate from Fagaitua High School, and attended our local American Samoa Community College. He went on to Columbia College Hollywood-School of Broadcasting, Orange Coast College to study television and radio production and broadcasting, and to Merritt College to study organizational and human resource management. He is a founding member and past President & Chairman of the board of directors for Pacific Islanders in Communications. Mr. Aoelua interned at KCOP-TV and WLUK learning about TC Studio production and operations; remote production and live coverage. He served in his career as a TV Producer & Director of KVZK-TV, WVUV-Radio as a DJ and Radio Announcer. He later became the Executive Director of Pacific Educational Network (PEN), a non-profit organization in California under the Office of Minority Programming of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in Washington, DC. He served in different capacities and held different positions in the U.S. Department of Commerce-U.S. Census Bureau. Mr. Aoelua served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the late Honorable Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Congressman of American Samoa. He came home and served as the Executive Assistant to then Lieutenant Governor and now Governor of American Samoa, Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga.

SOLIALEALOFIOTAGALOA I.T. **MUTINI**

DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Mr. Solialealofiotagaloa I.T. Mutini currently serves the American Samoa Government under the Lemanu P.S. Mauga-Talauega E.V. Ale Administration as the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Director Mutini is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces-Army and holds a Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Management/Research with an emphasis in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Food Security/Import and Export and represents American Samoa on the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.



RYAN TUATO'O

MANAGER, ASPA MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY



American Samoa
Power Authority

Ryan Tuato'o, a son of Alofau, American Samoa, currently serves as the Manager of the Marketing and Customer Service Division of the American Samoa Power Authority. In his position, Mr. Tuato'o provides oversight and manages the implementation of ASPA Renewable Energy Projects. He has served in this position for 15 years.

AUFA'I APULU ROPETI ARETA

DIRECTOR

ASCC, COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION – LAND GRANT PROGRAM



Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta is currently the Director of the Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR) Division (Land Grant Program) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). Prior to the aforementioned position, Aufa'i served as the ASCC-ACNR Associate Director (2010-2015), and worked in Extension in various capacities for more than 25 years. Aufa'i received his Master of Agriculture degree in Agriculture Extension Education from Colorado State University (CSU) in 2004. His Master's Thesis work focused on The Attitudes of American Samoa's Farmers toward the Logic Model. Aufa'i also graduated from the University of California at Davis (UCD) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences and Management in 1984. Additionally, Aufa'i is currently a member of the American Samoa Government Resilience Commission. Aufa'i is the holder of high orator chief titles "Aufa'i" from Sale'aula village (Savaii, Samoa) and "Apulu" from Faleasi'u village (Upolu, Samoa) in accordance with the Samoan culture.

AOKUSOTINO MAO

PNRS MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR & ACTING BOARD CHAIRMAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Aokusotino Mao oversees the Project Notification Review System within the American Samoa Department of Commerce Coastal Zone Management Program. He reviews land use permits for all American Samoa physical developments. He has been with the Coastal Zone Management program for 20 years and has over ten years of experience in floodplain management. Completed Emergency Management Institute courses E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through NFIP and E0278 Community Rating System. Caring for nature and the environment has always been his passion, and he wants a healthy environment for his children and future generations of American Samoa.

KELLEY L. ANDERSON TAGARINO

AMERICAN SAMOA SEA GRANT EXTENSION AGENT

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM



Kelley Anderson Tagarino is an extension agent for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) and is based in American Samoa (AS) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). As the only Sea Grant Extension agent in AS, Kelley works in a number of different areas, focusing on supporting coastal resilience in AS, supporting the Marine Science Program at the ASCC and the Land Grant Aquaculture Program, and maintaining the PacIOOS water quality sensor located in Pago Pago Harbor and the wave buoy near Aunu'u. Kelley has lived in AS since 2009 and began working with UH Sea Grant in 2013. Previously Kelley was the Marine Science Coordinator for the ASCC where she directed the Marine Science Program as well as the Marine Option (MOP) program and taught Introduction to Oceanography and the associated lab, Introduction to Marine Biology and the associated lab, Natural Marine Resources, the three MOP courses, Introduction to Swimming, and Marine Science Special Projects. Kelley has worked closely with partners to improve sea level rise information in American Samoa to better help our community plan for the future, as she shared in her [TEDXPagoPago talk](#) in 2019. Kelley holds a BS in Wildlife, Conservation, and Ecology from the University of Florida and a Masters of Science in Oceanography from the University of South Florida. Kelley enjoys working with her past students who are now colleagues on issues around resilience in our islands.



JUSTIN TUIASOSOPO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BLUESKY COMMUNICATIONS



Justin Tuiasosopo is the CEO of Bluesky Communications, and a member of the Board of Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa. He has been serving in his current position for 3 years now, with previous experience in various financial leadership roles. He earned his MBA with a concentration in Accounting from Chaminade University of Honolulu. And he is proud to call Fitiuta, Manu'a his home.

JASON MARIST BETHAM

CHAIRMAN

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jason Marist Betham, Sr., MBA currently serves as the Chairman of the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce. He is the State Director of the American Samoa Small Business Development Center Network. His background includes serving as the Chief Financial Officer of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority from 2014 to 2017. He also served as the Acting Preside/Vice President of the Development Bank of American Samoa from 2005-2014. Mr. Jason Betham served as the Lead and FEMA Point of Contact for DBAS during the Recovery Phase for the tragic September 29, 2009 declared disaster, American Samoa Earthquake, Tsunami and Flooding, FEMA-DR-1859-AS.

PAUGA JOEY CUMMINGS

CHAIRMAN, EARLY ALERT SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE

AMERICAN SAMOA'S EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



Pauga Joey Cummings is the Chairman for the Emergency Alert System sub-committee under American Samoa's Emergency Communications Committee. Cummings is a native of Mississippi and has lived and worked in American Samoa for 20 years. He has 25 years of broadcast experience with expertise in interpersonal and group communications. Cummings was recently named as a National Association of Broadcasters Top 5 "Legendary Manager of the Year" Marconi Award nominee. In addition, he serves the community as part of a large number of organizations including the Lions Club and Rotary Club.

LIPEA UTA SUI

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

AMERICAN SAMOA RED CROSS



In 2019, he joined the Red Cross under San Diego as a paid staff Operations Coordinator and currently holds the position as a Business Operations Coordinator. In his current role, Lipea serves as the Service to the Armed Forces staff lead helping local service members and their families with emergency communication and referrals. He also supported the disaster operations for Tropical Cyclones Vicky and Washi in 2020, working in partnership with FEMA, Lipea is responsible for all disaster preparedness activities in American Samoa and utilizes the help of volunteers to provide these services. Free smoke alarms were installed in 80% of American Samoa villages, including the Manu'a islands of Ta'u, Ofu and Olosega. With the support of the Governor's office, Red Cross disaster preparedness training was offered for all the schools, resulting in 1,070 youth (8-11 years old) who were taught preparedness tips with the Red Cross Pillowcase project. In addition, 3,200 people (from government and private organizations) were provided with Hands Only CPR Training. He is the Volunteer Engagement and Recognition Staff. Lipea's efforts increased the resiliency of local communities to be prepared before disasters strike. As the Red Cross liaison in the AS EOC, he contributed Red Cross perspective for ASG COVID-19 EOC service decision making. During COVID and the border lockdown in American Samoa, Lipea was the Red Cross rep who helped with a Red Cross chartered special flight for stranded Alaskans and a FEMA IMAT's rotation. He also assisted Red Cross support for stranded USA citizens in Apia Samoa from Australia and New Zealand due to USA border close down requested by Apia US Embassy.

Honorable Acknowledgements

Reverend Salu Aiolupo, Alofau Metotisi
Senior Pastor Osasa Aukuso, Firm Foundation Worship Center Christian Church, Tafuna
Deacon Fa'alava'au Levi Levi, Voice of Christ, Full Gospel Church, Tafuna
Bishop Aukusitino Ma'o, Malaeimi 2nd Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
The Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga
The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale

Special Acknowledgements

The Honorable Secretary of Samoan Affairs PC Mauga Tasi Asuega
The Honorable Chief Justice Michael J. Kruse
The Honorable Senate President Tuaolo Manaia Fruean
The Honorable Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale
Mrs. Maryanne Tulafono, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club American Samoa
Attorney General Fainuulelei Falefatu Alailima Utu, Department of Legal Affairs
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PNRS Management Coordinator Aukusitino Ma'o
Chief Engineer William Spitzenberg, PIOA Consultants
Principal Planner Mr. Jim Pedersen, Pedersen Consultants
American Samoa Sea Grant Extension Agent Kelley Tagarino, ASCC Sea Grant
Pacific Energy Country Manager and Civil Engineer HC Taulapapa William Sword
Hydrology Assistant Casey Te Beest, ASPA/UH Water Resources Research Center

Special Thanks to Our Federal Partners

The Honorable Congresswoman HC Uifaatali Aumua Amata Radewagen

Ms. Vanitha Sivarajan, US Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs
Mrs. Lydia Faleafine-Nomura, US Department of the Interior- OIA Field Representative

Mr. Robert Pesapane, FEMA Headquarters, FEMA Public Assistance Director
Mr. Robert J. Fenton Jr., FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator
Ms. Tammy Littrell, FEMA Region IX, Deputy Region Administrator
Ms. Kathryn Lipiecki, FEMA Region IX Director of Mitigation Division
Ms. Angelica Saavedra, FEMA Region IX, Grants Management Director
Mr. Sean McKenney, FEMA Region IX, Pacific Area Office Director
Ms. Alison Kearns, FEMA Region IX Mitigation Division
Mr. Matthew Jepsen, FEMA Region IX Hazard Mitigation Assistance
Mr. Michael Kern, FEMA Region IX Pacific Area Office Preparedness Analysis Planning Specialist
Ms. Christin Wasiewski, FEMA Region IX, Executive Assistant to the Regional Administrator

Lt. Col. Christopher Pevey, US Army Corp of Engineers, Honolulu District Commander
Ms. Sara Longan, US Army Corp of Engineers, Deputy Chief, Regulatory Division
Mr. Benjamin Reder, US Army Corp of Engineers, Deputy Chief, Civil and Public Works Branch-Honolulu District

Mrs. Sharon Cuevas, US Department of Transportation, Region IX Emergency Transportation Representative

Mr. Scott Burch, National Park Service of American Samoa, Superintendent
Mrs. Jewel Tuiasosopo, NOAA, AS CRCP and Coastal Management Liaison,
Heather Kerkering, US Geological Survey-PI CASC, Acting Deputy Director and Science Coordinator

Ms. Renise Bayne, American Red Cross, Regional Disaster Officer

Special Thanks to Our Pacific Partners

Honorable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Samoa Tourism, Government of Samoa

Honorable Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Director of Climate Change Resilience Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)

Ms. Fesola'i Molly Fa'amanatu Nielsen, Assistant CEO, Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Ms. Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy, Pacific Climate Change Centre Manager, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)

Dr. Siautu Alefaio-Tugia, Associate Professor of Psychology, Massey University

Mr. Franklin Babauta, Special Assistant, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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CEO Justin Tuiasosopo, Bluesky Communications

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