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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 016 - 2010

AN ORDER SUSPENDING THE HIRING OF NEW GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, SUSPENDING DISCRETIONARY GOVERNMENT TRAVEL AND SUSPENDING INCREMENTAL SALARY INCREASES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

WHEREAS, sharply declining tax revenues precipitated by the shedding of jobs and continuing difficult economic conditions in the Territory related and in large part due to, among other factors, federally mandated increases to the minimum wage, the closure of the COS Samoa Packing facility, the winding down and conclusion of both the census and employment programs funded by the National Emergency Grant, and the widespread impact of weak national and international financial markets and the continuing global recession, and;

WHEREAS, due to current economic conditions an urgent need exists to reduce operational and non-essential costs incurred by the American Samoa Government, and

WHEREAS, the immediate and significant financial constraints faced by all government agencies and departments within the executive branch require that the measures included in this order be taken, but may also necessitate that further action be taken in the near future, including reducing government work days or the number of government work hours, so that obligations may be met and the government may operate within its means.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the authority vested in me as Governor of American Samoa, by the Constitution and laws of American Samoa it is hereby ordered:

1. That all new hiring by governmental agencies and departments within the executive branch be suspended indefinitely. The application of any person being considered for government employment in an executive agency or department during the time this order is effective shall be referred from the department or agency director to the Governor with a statement of justification and need. Essential personnel shall be exempted from this requirement.
2. Travel not essential to program or department needs for agencies and departments within the executive branch is hereby suspended. This includes off-island travel and local travel, meaning the discretionary use of government vehicles, and travel from Manu'a to Tutuila and Tutuila to Manu'a.

3. Incremental salary increases allowable pursuant to A.S.A.C 4.0409 for career service employees of the American Samoa Government and any other discretionary salary increase for any other employee within the executive branch are hereby suspended.

4. The Legislature and Judiciary are asked to implement similar measures to reduce operational costs to their respective branches of government.

This order shall become effective immediately and shall be effective until it is rescinded or repealed.

Dated: December 2, 2010,


TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa