



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 002 – 2024

AMERICA250 COMMISSION

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, §4.0111 (b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, hereinafter “the Commission”, to coordinate observances and activities to commemorate the anniversary of our nation’s founding;

WHEREAS, the Commission has invited U.S. states and territories to establish local commissions to collaborate in planning activities and programs to celebrate and reflect on this momentous anniversary and the foundational values of individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal and inalienable rights;

WHEREAS, the Semiquincentennial Celebration is an occasion whereby all U.S. Citizens and Nationals may deepen their understanding of the roles played by all states and territories in the development of these foundational values;

WHEREAS, American Samoa annexed its islands to the United States in the Cession of Tutuila and Aunu’u in 1900 and the Cession of Manu’a Islands in 1904, making certain concessions and retaining certain rights;

WHEREAS, the people of American Samoa are mindful of our unique heritage and our contributions as a territory of the United States, including our significant contributions to the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, the establishment of an America250 Commission of American Samoa will foster unity among all residents of the United States while affirming the value and power

of individual historic and cultural experiences by developing an inclusive observance of this anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the America250 Commission of American Samoa will enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the territory.

NOW THEREFORE, I LEMANU P.S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, hereby execute this order.

Section 3: Establishment of the American Samoa Semiquincentennial Commission

There is hereby established, within the Executive Branch of ASG, the American Samoa Semiquincentennial Commission. The commission is comprised of the Governor or his Designee and the Director or Director's designee of:

- a) American Samoa Community College (ASCC)
- b) American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities (ASCACH)
- c) American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC)
- d) American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE)
- e) American Samoa Department of Parks & Recreation (ASDPR)
- f) American Samoa Historical Preservation Office (ASHPO)
- g) American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB)
- h) Feleti Barstow Public Library (FBPL)
- i) Jean P Haydon Museum (Museum)
- j) Office of Archives and Records Management (Archives)
- k) Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA)

Members shall serve for the duration of the Commission's existence, and shall not receive compensation for their service.

Section 4: Commission Duties and Responsibilities

A. The Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 1. meet within 30 days and elect a chair who shall be the primary point of contact with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission also known as America250. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet at least quarterly and as necessary to carry out its duties under this order;
- 2. develop an initial plan and submit it to the Governor within 60 days of this Order. Thereafter, the Commission shall submit annual reports;

3. develop any internal bylaws and operating procedures as necessary to carry out the duties described in this Order;
4. research, plan, coordinate, review, and promote programs, events and activities throughout the Territory to celebrate the semiquincentennial anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and to foster knowledge and understanding of this formative period of United States history and how it has shaped and continues to shape who we are as a people, a territory and a nation;
5. ensure that all programs, events and activities in observance of the semiquincentennial anniversary are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the events surrounding the American Revolution and are accessible by all people in American Samoa.
6. collaborate and engage with all necessary and willing stakeholders in the development of proposals and plans, including the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and local civic, historical, educational, economic, arts and other government and non-government organizations throughout the Territory to organize and participate in programs, events and activities in observance of the semiquincentennial anniversary;
7. consult with and incorporate feedback from representatives of each island of American Samoa in planning its programs, events and activities;
8. complete its work and submit a final report following conclusion of all its activities and events but no later than March 31, 2027. This report shall be maintained with the Territorial Office of Archives and Records Management to be available for preparations of a potential tricentennial commemoration in 2076. Upon submission of that report, the Commission shall be dissolved.

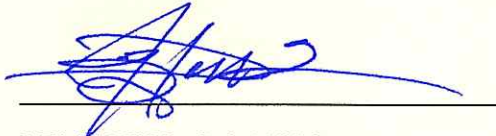
B. The Commission may solicit and accept funding, donations, and gifts to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

Section 5: Support for the Commission

A. The American Samoa Historical Preservation Office shall provide administrative and technical support to the Commission.

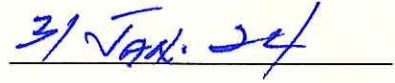
B. All executive agencies should cooperate and support the goals and purposes of this Commission.

This order shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect until the Commission submits its final report pursuant to Section 4(A)(8). Upon submission of that report and dissolution of the Commission, this order shall be rescinded.



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA

Governor of American Samoa



Date