



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 010A – 2007

#### **AN ORDER RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO AMELIORATE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE TERRITORY; SETTING FORTH ASG'S SHORT AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS TO THIS WORTHY EFFORT**

**WHEREAS**, American Samoa recognizes that protecting the environment is a major step needed to promote the health, welfare and safety of mankind throughout the world; we understand the importance of undertaking our part of the responsibility and satisfying our global duty on a local level. Global warming and climate change are a growing concern to public health and the environment world wide and in our Territory and we know in order to slow the effects of global warming we must reduce the emission of greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, we understand we are part of a greater issue and therefore must be part of a greater solution. This need is even more apparent when the problem involves aspects of environmental degradation directly affecting our population as well as our brothers and sisters on other islands. American Samoa realizes it can only do its part and the best way for us to help fight climate change and global warming is to start changing our own actions and behavior; we cannot wait for others to change; and

**WHEREAS**, global warming and climate change are important issues to American Samoa and other island nations, as they impose significant and undeniable repercussions to our land and way of life, including:

- A loss of landmass and shore line from an increase in sea level;
- An increase in food cost and dependence upon off-island food sources because of projected decreases in local agricultural production due to the increase in temperature, loss of land mass and higher rate of pest infestation;
- Potential need for the relocation of our population and the resulting loss of spiritual connection to the land our families have occupied for centuries;
- Coral reef loss due to increases in water temperature and depth; and
- An increase in mortality and economic losses from an increase in the number and strength of tropical storms and lack of reef protection;

**WHEREAS**, American Samoa acknowledges the enormous contribution made by motor vehicle emissions to the total amount of worldwide greenhouse gas pollution. In showing its concern for the regulation of greenhouse gases from automobiles, American Samoa joined several US states and citizen groups in a lawsuit requiring the USEPA to set carbon dioxide standards for mobile sources. The US Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of American Samoa and its fellow plaintiffs, requiring USEPA to re-examine its lack of established standards; and

**WHEREAS**, American Samoa also understands the contributions made by the generation of electricity used in homes and businesses. We also realize that many of our daily activities can have a profound impact on the environment, including our coral reefs. In declaring American Samoa's intention to be a leader in the fight against climate change and global warming.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, by the authority vested in the Governor of American Samoa under the Revised Constitution and laws of American Samoa it is hereby ordered that the initiatives set forth below addressing Climate Change be taken.


- Beginning with the model year 2008, all new passenger and light-duty vehicles purchased by ASG must have a minimum combined USEPA fuel efficiency rating of 20 mpg.
- ASG will no longer purchase 4-wheel drive vehicles except in circumstances where a definite need can be shown.
- ASG will also begin to add hybrid vehicles [passenger and light-duty trucks] to its fleet beginning with a hybrid purchase rate of 5% for the model year 2008 and incrementally increase at the rate of 5% per year to 50% by model year 2017.
- Effective January 1, 2009, the ASG will ban the importation of all vehicles manufactured prior to the model year 1999.
- All fuel stations in the territory (private, commercial and governmental) will be required to install and maintain auto-shut off and "Vapor Recovery" Nozzles on all fuel pumps by January 1, 2008.
- ASG will immediately begin replacing all incandescent light bulbs currently used in ASG facilities with compact florescent bulbs. Compact florescent bulbs utilize about 75% less electricity to produce the same light as incandescent bulbs.
- All new ASG appliance and electronic purchases will be required to have an USEPA Energy Star approval. These devices use between 30-75% less energy than their conventional counterparts.
- In order to combat the destruction of coral reefs by increased algae blooms, the importation of all high phosphorous (greater than 11%) detergents will be banned beginning October 1, 2007.

By taking these initial steps, the American Samoa Government will motivate local vendors to bring hybrid and higher fuel efficiency vehicles as well as other energy efficient products to our island. This will make these vehicles and products more attractive and readily available to the buying public. The new options available to consumers will stimulate the economy and create an increase in new job opportunities.

The increased use of higher efficiency, lower emission vehicles and products on the island by both ASG and the public will appreciably decrease the amount of fossil fuels consumed and greenhouse gases released by American Samoa. This decrease will be an initial step by American Samoa in doing our part to fight the worldwide problem of climate change and global warming.

This Executive Order shall become effective immediately.

Dated: 21 August, 2007.



TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO  
Governor of American Samoa