



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
American Samoa Government  
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Peter T. Coleman, Governor  
Galea'i P. Poumele, Lt. Governor

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11-1992

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL  
STATUS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, since 1900, and more particularly during the recent past, the ultimate political destiny of Tutuila and Manu'a has become a matter of much discussion, concern, and importance to our People, and including the concerns over our family land system, ocean resources, and environment: and

WHEREAS, it is now 16 years since American Samoa elected its own chief executive by popular vote, and in the context of ever increasing political awareness among the people, it is appropriate for us at this time to review our political relationship with the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, all of the other American territories and/or possessions have already reviewed and renegotiated or are in the process of renegotiating their relationships with the United States resulting in the establishment of what they consider or hope to be better and improved relationships with the United States, particularly recognizing issues of great importance to the Pacific and its island people; and

WHEREAS, after due consultation with the leaders of the Fono and the Secretary of Interior, and pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of American Samoa under the provisions of Article IV of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Section 4.0302 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, I, PETER TALI COLEMAN, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby order and decree as follows:

Section 1. Creation; composition; term of existence

- (a) There is established the Future Political Status Commission (herein referred to as "The Commission").
- (b) The commission shall consist of 6 members from the

executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government and the private sector, as follows: the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Lealaifuaneva P. Reid, Judge Seuvaai Mere Betham and Rev. Dr. Ulisese Sala.

(c) The members of the Commission shall elect their own chairman and vice chairman in its initial session.

(d) The Commission shall exist until December 31, 1992, or longer as extended by the Governor.

## Section 2. Duties

The Commission shall:

(1) Study alternative forms of political status open to American Samoa and assess the advantages and disadvantages of each;

(2) Study and appraise the history, development, and present status of political units comparable or relevant to American Samoa both within and without the jurisdiction of the United States;

(3) Present a report of its findings and recommendations as soon as possible to the Governor and Legislature, and issue subsequent reports as the study develops and the circumstances warrant.

## Section 3. Powers

The Commission has the power to:

(1) Hold hearings, compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, order the production of documents and other tangible evidence, administer oaths and cite for contempt;

(2) Employ necessary staff, including but not limited to legal counsels or consultants and experts;

(3) Purchase necessary materials and make necessary publications;

(4) Engage in necessary travel within American Samoa and abroad;


(5) Take other necessary action for the performance of the

functions assigned under Section 2.

Section 4. Funding

The Legislature shall appropriate the necessary funds it deems adequate from FY 1992 unappropriated local revenues for the operation of the Commission. These funds can be expended only on the authority of the Chairman of the Commission or his designee.

Dated: August 5, 1992

  
PETER TALI COLEMAN  
GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA

\*Note

Legal Counsel to the Commission:

1. Albert Mailo, Governor's Legal Counsel
2. Gata E. Gurr, Legislative Counsel
3. Afa Ripley, Deputy Attorney General

Secretary: HC Pulefaasisina P. Tuiasosopo

Assistant Secretary: Leoo V. Ma'o (from the Fono)

Assistant Secretary: Wally Utu

Typists/Clerks: Mrs. Violet Richmond

Mrs. Leaisa A. Ieremia