



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12-1992

JOINT WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS GAO RECOMMENDATIONS

The House and Senate Appropriation Sub-Committees' of the United States Congress mandate in their reports for the proposed fiscal year 1993 budget for American Samoa the formation of a joint working group between the local government and the Department of the Interior to develop a plan to address the management and financial problems identified in the GAO Report. The joint group must be formed by December 31, 1992, and the first quarterly report is due March 31, 1993.

In consideration of the foregoing mandate, therefore, I hereby designate the following American Samoa Government (ASG) personnel as members of the ASG Task Force to work with whomever the Department of the Interior designates as its liaison to carry out this mandate.

1. Chief of Staff
2. Governor's Audit Compliance Officer
3. Director of Treasury
4. Director of Budget
5. Director of Public Works
6. Director of Procurement
7. Attorney General
8. Director of Health
9. Director of Human Resources

The Task Force shall develop an integrated plan (1) to identify the types of resources needed to address the recommendations, (2) to develop a database necessary to track the progress of each item addressed, (3) to recommend changes in policies or laws to carry out the changes, (4) to develop a project schedule for the accomplishment of each task and reporting requirements, and (5) to recommend to the Governor any other structural changes that are necessary to carry out the above mandate. The proposed plan is due in my office for review and approval by October 31, 1992.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Peter F. Coleman, Governor
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The Chief of Staff is designated as Chairman of the Task Force. He shall be responsible for the management of the Task Force's work and the coordination of all the governmental resources necessary to complete the tasks involved. The Chairman shall also act as the main contact point between the ASG and the Department of the Interior representative assigned to the joint group.

The Executive Order is effective September 17, 1992, and shall continue until the Task Force finishes its work.

Dated: Sept. 18, 1992


PETER TALI' COLEMAN

HOUSE LANGUAGE

A recent GAO report has pointed out a number of problems with financial management in American Samoa, which have led to a growing deficit. Responses to the Committee's questions about the findings of the report from both the Government of American Samoa and the Department of Interior indicate that there are many things that can and should be done to improve American Samoa's financial management systems and procedures, but that concerted and joint efforts will be required if results are to be achieved. Therefore, the Committee requests the American Samoa Government and the Department to form a joint working group to develop a specific plan of action to respond to each of the areas needing improvement, as discussed in the GAO report. These would include administration of health care, especially off-island medical referrals, procurement reforms, anti-deficiency measures, personnel and hiring reforms, tax reform, and other issues. The plan should include specific objectives and action items to achieve those objectives, with timetables for achievement established, and regular reporting mechanisms included. The Committee requests a preliminary report on the establishment of the working group by December 31, 1992, and a report on the plan by March 31, 1993. Thereafter, the Committee expects quarterly reports on the status of each milestone in the plan, and will look at the progress in carrying out the plan when reviewing requests for increases in operations funding in the future.

SENATE LANGUAGE

The Committee expects the American Samoa Government to continue to work to address its financial management problems, in cooperation with the Department and other financial experts, as appropriate. The Department should endeavor to make funds available, as necessary, from the technical assistance program to aid in any reform efforts. Progress in addressing the concerns raised in the recent GAO report should be reported to the Committee quarterly.