



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
American Samoa Government  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-1993

DECLARATION OF TERRITORIAL DISASTER DUE TO THE  
TARO LEAF BLIGHT

WHEREAS, taro is the primary staple food for the people of American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, the taro leaf blight caused by the fungus Phytophthora colocasiae has infested the island of Tutuila; and

WHEREAS, said infestation currently affects 90%-100% of the crop with 100% infestation inevitable within a matter of weeks; and

WHEREAS, the disease has reached epidemic proportions which will result in the complete loss of a primary food source for the American Samoan people; and

WHEREAS, this epidemic also results in extreme loss of income for farmers who grow taro,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Malaetasi M. Togafau, Acting Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do declare that a Territorial Disaster exists due to the loss of the primary staple food as a result of the infestation of Taro Leaf Blight.

FURTHER, I request the full cooperation of the people of American Samoa in battling this disease, and I also request all possible assistance, financial and otherwise, from the United States government in this time of Territorial Disaster.

All executive agencies, departments and offices of the American Samoa Government shall cooperate fully with the Department of Agriculture and render all possible assistance during this emergency.

DATED: 9/17/93

  
MALAETASI M. TOGAFAU  
Acting Governor