



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001 -2007

AN ORDER CREATING THE AMERICAN SAMOA CULTURAL STUDIES COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS AND APPOINTING THE INITIAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Preamble

The study of the Samoan culture, which includes at its roots, the Samoan language, customs, traditions, history, legends, myths, among others, is essential to childhood development of all children of American Samoan ancestry in this Territory, and perhaps abroad.

Knowledge of the Samoan culture adds to the education of all children educated in this Territory, especially those of Samoan ancestry, by broadening their horizons and exposing children to new frames of reference, and new ideas that are a major part of the foundation of this Territory in which they receive their education.

Knowledge of the Samoan culture also increases childhood awareness and prepares children for more effective participation as adults in this society, through the introduction and reinforcement of different mores, values and culture. Studying Samoan culture encourages cultural relativity and tolerance among our children who will inherit these islands and the Samoan way of life.

It is paramount that the study of Samoan culture in our public schools be based upon acceptable standards, practices and reliable authorities, in order to ensure that our children are given every benefit of learning and participating in the richness that is the Samoan culture.

Section 2. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated §4.0302.

Section 3. Purpose

This order is created for the following purposes:

(A) To create a commission to review and approve all curriculum materials which will be used in all schools in American Samoa for teaching Samoan culture which shall include, but is not limited to, the Samoan language, grammar, customs and traditions; and

(B) To ensure that all curriculum materials used for teaching Samoan culture, at a minimum, meet accepted standards and practices of the Samoan culture as shall be established and documented by the Commission, and that such materials are based on reliable research, standards and practices that are consistent with Samoan tradition.

(C) To guard the integrity of the written and spoken Samoan language which is taught in educational institutions within the Territory. Further, to ensure that any and all changes to the written or spoken Samoan language, including but not limited to changes in the alphabet or phonics usage, as taught by educational institutions, shall be made only in consideration of protecting the integrity of the language and culture as practiced by our Samoan people.

Section 4. Order

There is herewith created the American Samoa Cultural Studies Commission, which is tasked with the following duties, responsibilities and powers:

(A) The Commission shall review all curriculum sponsored teaching materials, which shall include, but are by no means limited to writings, books, pamphlets, outlines, screen plays, audio recordings, video recordings with or without audio, verbal and/or oral presentations, plays, skits, among others, that are to be used in the teaching of Samoan culture, in accordance with the principles and purposes set forth in Section 3 above. Before any such curriculum sponsored teaching material may be utilized in the instruction, teaching, or explanation of Samoan culture, the Commission must first approve said material for use by the school.

(B) The Commission shall adopt a formal seal which shall be impressed upon each item of approved teaching material. The seal shall remain at all times in the custody of the Commission Officers selected or elected in accordance with Commission rules and bylaws.

(C) For video and audio performances and recordings, the producer, or the school seeking to use the performance or recording, shall have placed physically on the medium housing, a replica of the stamp. The performance or recording itself shall contain a statement that the American Samoa Cultural Studies Commission has approved such material for educational use.

(D) No teaching material may be distributed for educational purposes in a classroom or school subject to the laws of the Territory, for the purpose of and use in teaching the Samoan culture, unless the Commission has approved it, the item bears the Commission stamp, and has been duly recorded pursuant to Section 4(E) below.

(E) The Commission shall keep a ledger of the items that have been approved by the Commission, as well as one copy of every such item for purposes of record keeping and verification of approval. The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the items that the Commission has approved for use in teaching Samoan culture and language in American Samoa schools.

(F) The Governor shall appoint commissioners for a term of four (4) years. The initial membership of the Commission shall be appointed for two, three and four year terms in order to provide for staggered terms thereafter. The Governor shall fill vacancies in the Commission. The Governor may consider the recommendation of the Commission in appointing commissioners to fill vacancies.

(G) The Commission shall elect its own Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. All officers of the Commission shall serve for 1 year.

(H) The Commission is authorized to adopt rules and bylaws which do not conflict with this order or any applicable laws of American Samoa, to govern its own affairs and to aid in executing the tasks which the Commission may undertake in effecting this Order. The Commission shall not conduct any official business until said rules and bylaws have been adopted and filed in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Section 5. Initial Membership

The following individuals shall make up the initial membership of the Commission:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Mr. Mataio Seuamuli	January 31, 2009
Dr. Tafa Muasau	January 31, 2009
Dr. Gertrude Iuli-Sala	January 31, 2009
Philo Jennings	January 31, 2009
HTC Paopailua Joe Fiaui	January 31, 2010
Rev. Elder Leatulagi Fa'alevao	January 31, 2010
Rev. Elise Tafaoa	January 31, 2010
Dr. Salu Hunkin	January 31, 2010
Mrs. Faga Sunia	January 31, 2010
Mrs. Sa'eu Scanlan	January 31, 2010
HC Gaoteote Pala'ie	January 31, 2011
Rev. Sekuini Seva'aetasi	January 31, 2011
Deputy Secretary Afuola Kalasa	January 31, 2011
Dr. Fanuatele T. Vaiaga'e	January 31, 2011

Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi
Senator Pulefa'asisina Palauni Tuiasosopo
Senator Faiivae Galea'i
HTC Fofu I.F. Sunia

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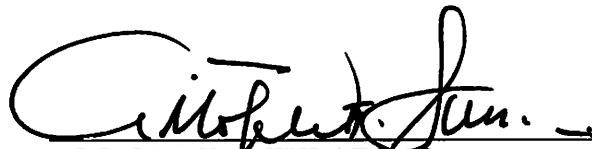
Section 6. Support and Funding

Staff and financial support for Commission activities shall be provided through the Office of the Governor until further notice.

Section 7. Effective Date

This Order shall take effect on February 1, 2007.

Dated: January 12, 2007.


TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

Distribution: As per standard list