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GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 002 -2017
THE FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Whereas, the state of public education in the territory does not result in a sufficient number of our graduating high school seniors having adequate skills in core subject areas of math, science, language arts, and the trades to enable them, absent remedial courses, to move on to higher levels of education, or to join the workforce in a skilled trade; and,

Whereas, this is a long-standing and systemic problem that permeates through all grade levels, and has not been effectively addressed for decades; and,

Whereas, most of the legal and structural framework for the provision of public education in American Samoa is rooted in laws adopted in the 1960's and 1970's; and,

Whereas, plans are not being converted into specific actions that would result in immediate improvements; and,

Whereas, the ongoing organizational and funding model for public education in American Samoa may not be sustainable into the future; and,

Whereas, the testing and measurement function operates in a silo such that little feedback of test results is provided to teachers or pupils; and,

Whereas, the metrics in all areas are set low relative to the standards of the rest of the world; and,

Whereas, it is time to review our system of public education from a view that includes a broad spectrum of society, to bring in fresh thinking of qualified and successful individuals from outside the traditional field of education, and promote the idea of new and, if need be, non-traditional solutions to what are now old problems.

Now therefore:

1. **Authority:** This Executive Order issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article 1 Section 15 and Article IV Section 6 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Section 4.011 American Samoa Code Annotated.
2. **Establishment of Task Force:** There is hereby established a Task Force on meeting our near, mid- and long-term educational goals to be known as the Task Force on the Future of Education in American Samoa.

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3. **Purpose:** The Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a. To review the Commissioners' Final Report of the 2013 Governor's Summit on Education ("GSE"), and the Department of Education's ("DOE") 2014 – 2019 Five Year Comprehensive School Based Improvement Plan ("CSBIP"), and such other forward planning documents as may be available through DOE or the American Samoa Community College, ("ASCC"), or elsewhere.
 - b. The Task Force should initially take the measure of real-time progress to date in meeting the goals of the GSE and the CSBIP.
 - c. Review the organizational charts for both DOE and ASCC comparing budgeted to actual positions filled.
 - d. Compare governance models of school systems serving like-sized communities; the Task Force should not be limited to reviewing models from U.S. jurisdictions only.
 - e. Give preliminary consideration to financing sources necessary to adequately fund a meaningful vocational trades program that integrates the resources of both DOE and ASCC.
 - f. Make recommendations with respect to changes in the governance structure of DOE, and, if deemed appropriate, ASCC, that provides our system of public education with the ongoing and future stability and structural integrity to study, review, recommend and thereafter implement whatever bold steps may be needed to address the continuing unsatisfactory results shown by evidence of testing of both teachers and students.
 - g. Draft such statutory changes as may be necessary to accommodate the recommended governance structure.
 - h. Implement specific achievable action items (pick the "low hanging fruit") that will improve the quality of public education during the course of the Task Force's existence.
4. **Membership:** The Task Force shall be composed of seven members to be named by the Governor. The Task Force shall elect its Chairperson and to the extent necessary adopt rules to guide the conduct of its meetings and deliberations.
5. **Assistance of other government agencies:** All ASG departments, agencies and authorities are directed to provide the Task Force with such assistance and cooperation as may be requested.
6. **Effective Date:** The Task Force shall commence its efforts upon the issuance of this Executive Order and the accompanying General Memorandum naming the Task Force members, and it shall conclude its work 90 days hence.

Dated: January 10, 2017



LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa