

GOVERNOR LOLO M. MOLIGA'S  
CLIMATE CHANGE ORAL REMARKS  
IGIA PLANNERY SESSION

I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH APPRECIATION THE LEADERSHIP ASSUMED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE THREAT IT POSES ON THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY THE INSULAR AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

I AM ALSO GRATEFUL BY THE EFFORTS EXPENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR LEADERSHIP TO PLACE CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY ITEM ON TODAY'S AGENDA AND THE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS TO MITIGATE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEGRADATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR PROTECTIVE ECOSYSTEMS.

AMERICAN SAMOA IS MOST VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON THE OCEAN RESOURCES FOR ITS LIVELIHOOD.

MOREOVER AMERICAN SAMOA IS MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE GIVEN ITS DEPENDENCE ON ITS REEF SYSTEMS NOT ONLY TO SUSTAIN MARINE LIFE TO SUPPORT SUBSISTENCE LIVING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF AMERICAN SAMOA BUT THE REEF SYSTEM ALSO PROVIDES THE PROTECTIVE BARRIER TO STRONG WAVE SURGES CAUSING MAJOR SHORELINE EROSION THREATENING OUR MAIN HIGHWAY AND GOVERNMENT ASSETS LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE OCEAN.

THE RISING TEMPERATURES OF THE OCEAN WATERS CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE DIRECTLY THREATENS THE INTEGRITY OF OUR REEF SYSTEMS PRODUCING DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

THESE EXAMPLES ARE BUT A FEW OF THE DIRECT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON AMERICAN SAMOA.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DMWR DIRECTOR DR. RUTH MATAGI-TOFIGA, WE DEVELOPED PLANS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS. WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED AN ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK AND IDENTIFIED SEVEN FOCUS AREAS, WHILE IDENTIFYING MAIN PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THESE TERRITORIAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK.

AMERICAN SAMOA IS AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING EXPANSION OF OUR DEPENDENCE ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS EMISSIONS CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL WARMING.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR SUPPORTING FINANCIALLY OUR EFFORTS TO EXPLORE THE VIABILITY OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY TO REPLACE FOSSIL FUEL AS OUR BASE LOAD SOURCE FOR THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY.

OUR AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY IS COLLABORATING WITH AN OUTSIDE COMPANY TO ESTABLISH OUR WASTE TO ENERGY ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANT WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE WASTE THUS ELIMINATING THE THREAT ON THE DEGRADATION OF OUR REEF AND ECOSYSTEMS.

THE AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE SECOND PHASE OF ITS SOLAR PROJECT WITH FOCUS ON CONDUCTING WIND POWER GENERATION.

THESE REFLECT SOME OF THE POSITIVE STEPS BEING PURSUED BY AMERICAN SAMOA TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF FOSSIL FUEL EMISSIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

AMERICAN SAMOA IS POISED TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INSULAR AFFAIRS, HONORABLE ESTHER KIA'AINA, TO ADVANCE OUR COLLECTIVE VISION RELATIVE TO MITIGATING FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE CONDITIONS.

WE HAVE PREPARED A DETAILED PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AMERICAN SAMOA ALONG WITH THE DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES THAT WE ARE PROPOSING TO EMPLOY AND IMPLEMENT TO MITIGATE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE, HOWEVER, DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PRESENT IT HOWEVER THE POWER POINT PRESENTATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS FOR APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION.

AGAIN, LET ME THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS TOPIC OF CLIMATE CHANGE THAT WILL HAVE GREAT IMPACT ON OUR RESIDENTS AND ISLANDS.

FA'AFETAI.