



Job Corps faces serious threat of being shut down by USDOL

by Rhonda Annesley, editor

Job Corps has joined the list of agencies currently facing a serious threat of being shut down by the US Department of Labor (DOL), according to Vaitutu Areta, who works at MTC Maui Job Corps. American Samoa has a formal Memorandum Of Understanding with Hawaii Job Corps, where students from American Samoa can enroll in the program at the Hawaii Job Corps campuses Waimanalo and Maui.

The first local student participated in the program via the MOU in late 2023. At the time, then Gov Lemanu P. S. Mauga said, “This is a great opportunity for our youth to find their career paths and acquire the skills they need for their future...”

The transfer of recruitment responsibilities was formalized in August with the signing of the official MOU at the Hawaii Job Corps Campus in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

The Job Corps program was initially introduced in American Samoa around 1997, spearheaded by then House Speaker Nua Saoluaga, who appointed the late Afimutasi Gus Hannemann to oversee federal government affairs for the House leadership and manage the implementation of the Job Corps program in the territory.

Over the years, numerous students from American Samoa have successfully enrolled in and completed the Job Corps Program in

Hawai'i, while others have pursued the program at centers on the mainland.

Areta, as part of the Maui Job Corps center, points out that in March of this year, the DOL “terminated the contract with the company that conducted background checks for new enrollees, resulting in a standstill in the enrollment process. As a result, around 12,000 students are waiting to be accepted into the program.”

She further notes that “no decision has been made yet on the future of Job Corps.”

Areta continued that they “are doing everything we can to keep Job Corps strong, including working closely with the National Job Corps Association and other operators to conduct an aggressive outreach campaign, which launched this morning.

“Centers are reaching out to their communities, employer partners, local elected officials, students, parents, employees, and other supporters, urging them to contact their members of Congress.

“The goal is simple: flood Congress with positive, personal stories about Job Corps and encourage them to keep funding the program and resume enrollment immediately.

“MTC leaders are also meeting with members of Congress this week and sharing ideas with the DOL on how to make Job Corps more efficient and effective. (Continued on page 7)

Claims of Samoa PM's involvement in high profile murder unsubstantiated

By Samoa News staff

Samoa Police will not prosecute the case against a woman who alleges Prime Minister Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa is connected to the high profile murder of academic and writer Dr. Caroline Sinavaiana Gabbard in May 2024.

Instead, the case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Defendant, Lise Marie Schmidt, represented by lawyer Tanya Toailoa, appeared before District Court Judge Talasa Saaga last week Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Samoa media outlets are reporting the Police have referred the matter to the Attorney General's Office who appointed lawyer Magele Leone Su'a Mailo to prosecute, given the relationship between some of the witnesses and police.

Judge Saaga granted a continuance to June 3 for the prosecution to finalize the charges against the defendant who has yet to enter a plea.

Police charged Schmidt in

March following a letter she wrote to the Attorney General and copied to the Minister of Police and Police Commissioner that made serious allegations of the Prime Minister's involvement in the death of Dr Gabbard.

She alleged having conversations and meetings with the Prime Minister and claimed she was instructed to retrieve evidence allegedly connected to the death.

Schmidt was charged after a police investigation and Police Commissioner Auapaau Logoitino Filipo said the claims were unsubstantiated and could not be verified.

The defendant however said she was never investigated by the police regarding her allegations.

The Prime Minister told a recent press conference the police had concluded their investigation and the allegations were untrue and she would not waste her time pursuing it.



The First Nations of Lutruwita Tasmania, Performing Lines Tasmania, in association with Ten Days on the Island Arts Festival, opened the SA/MOA (sacred/centre) Exhibition this year, where siapo mamanu made by local artists Su'a Uilisone Fitiao and Reggie Meredith Fitiao, founders of Faasamoa Arts nonprofit, and others by ASCC students were a part of the exhibit.

A siapo mamanu (freehand style) tapa that was started in Leone village was also completed with the Lutruwita community on site as a symbol of connecting the communities near and far.

“For us, this siapo mamanu was a very important step in bonding with others. With a few paogo brushes and some natural dyes from home, our workshop in Lutruwita provided an inclusive feel that all hands are needed to complete this Siapo,” explained Reggie Fitiao.

[Courtesy photo]

Samoan children as young as 6 adopted, made to work as house slaves

By Gill Bonnett, RNZ Immigration Reporter

Samoan children as young as six are being adopted overseas and being made to work as house slaves, suffering threats, beatings and rape.

Kris Teikamata — a social worker at a community agency — spoke about the harrowing cases she encountered in her work, from 2019 to 2024, with children who had escaped their abusers in Auckland and Wellington.

“They’re incredibly traumatized because it’s years and years and years of physical abuse, physical labor and a lot of the time, sexual abuse, either by the siblings or other family members. They were definitely threatened, they were definitely coerced and they had no freedom. When I met each girl, [by then] 17, 18, 19 years old, it was like meeting a 50-year-old. The light had gone out of their eyes. They were just really withdrawn and shut down.”

In one case a church minister raped his adopted daughter and got her pregnant.

Teikamata and her team helped 10 Samoan teenagers who had managed to escape their homes, and slavery — two boys and eight girls — with health, housing and counseling. She fears they are the tip of the iceberg, and that many remain under lock and key.

“They were brought over as a child or a teenager, sometimes they knew the family in Samoa, sometimes they didn’t — they had promised them a better life over here, an education and citizenship.

“When they arrived they would generally always be put into slavery. They would have to get up at 5, 6 in the morning, start cleaning, start breakfast, do the washing, then go to school and then after school again do cleaning and dinner and the chores — and do that everyday until a certain age, until they were workable.

“Then they were sent out to factories in Auckland or Wellington and their bank account was taken away from them and their Eftpos card. They were given \$20 a week. From the age of 16 they were put to work. And they were also not allowed to have a phone — most of them had no contact with family back in Samoa.

‘A THOUSAND KIDS A YEAR... AND IT’S STILL GOING ON’

Nothing stopped the abusive families from being able to adopt again and they did, she said. A recent briefing to ministers reiterated that New Zealanders with criminal histories or significant child wel-

fare records have used overseas courts to approve adoptions, which were recognized under New Zealand law without further checks.

“When I delved more into it, I just found out that it was a very easy process to adopt from Samoa,” she said. “There’s no checks, it’s a very easy process. So about a thousand kids [a year] are today being adopted from Samoa, it’s such a high number — whereas other countries have checks or very robust systems. And it’s still going on.”

As children, they could not play with friends and all of their movements were controlled.

Oranga Tamariki uplifted younger children, who were sometimes siblings of older children who had escaped. “The ones that I met had escaped and found a friend or were homeless or had reached out to the police.”

When they were reunited with their birth parents on video calls, it was clear they came from loving families who had been deceived, she said.

While some adoptive parents faced court for assault, only one has been prosecuted for trafficking.

Government, police and Oranga Tamariki were aware and in talks with the Samoan government, she said.

Adoption Action member and researcher Anne Else said several opportunities to overhaul the 70-year-old Adoption Act had been thwarted, and the whole legislation needed ripping up.

“The entire law needs to be redone, it dates back to 1955 for goodness sake,” she said. “But there’s a big difference between understanding how badly and urgently the law needs changing and actually getting it done.

“Oranga Tamariki are trying, I know, to work with for example Tonga to try and make sure that their law is a bit more conformant with ours, and ensure there are more checks done to avoid these exploitative cases.”

Children from other countries had been sold for adoption, she said, and the adoption rules depended on which country they came from. Even the Hague Convention, which is supposed to provide safeguards between countries, was no guarantee.

Immigration minister Erica Stanford said other ministers were looking at what can be done to crack down on trafficking through international adoption.

“If there are non-genuine adoptions and potential trafficking, we need to get on top of that. It falls outside of the legislation that I am responsible

for, but there are other ministers who have it on their radars because we’re all worried about it. I’ve read a recent report on it and it was pretty horrifying. So it is being looked at.”

A meeting was held between New Zealand and Samoa authorities in March. A summary of discussions said it focused on aligning policies, information sharing, and ‘culturally grounded frameworks’



Teikamata and her team helped 10 Samoan teenagers who had managed to escape their homes, and slavery — two boys and eight girls — with health, housing and counseling. She fears they are the tip of the iceberg, and that many remain under lock and key.

[courtesy photo]

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title "FAGAIMA" of the village of TAFUNA by LARRY SIMOU SANITOA of the village of TAFUNA, county of TUALAUTA, WESTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title "FAGAIMA" shall be registered in the name of LARRY SIMOU SANITOA in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: MARCH 21, 2025 THRU MAY 20, 2025
SIGNED: Divine Iuli Falaniko, Territorial Registrar

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauiina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga leni ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauiina o le suafa matai o "FAGAIMA" o le nu'u o TAFUNA e LARRY SIMOU SANITOA o TAFUNA faalupega o TUALAUTA, falelima i SISIFO.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafnagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai leni fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauiina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o "FAGAIMA" e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

03/24 & 05/20/2025

that uphold the rights, identity, lowing earlier work in 2018 and and wellbeing of children, fol- 2021.



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PO Box 1215 / Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799
Ph. (684) 699-2420
Fx. (684) 699-5272

The Tool Shop has openings for **Cashiers and a Purchasing Clerk** at our Tafuna store.

The successful candidates must be bilingual in Samoan and English, honest, prompt and want to learn. This is an ideal opportunity for someone with previous experience or graduating from ASCC or High School in a few weeks. This could be a chance for a steady, reliable career. Please come by and drop off a resume/CV, finalists will be asked to come by for an interview.

If hired, we will require proof to be legally employed in American Samoa and submission to drug testing.

What does The Tool Shop have to offer? We offer very competitive pay after a three month probationary period and a full benefits package after one year. This includes paid leave, paid holidays, matching retirement savings plan and quarterly bonuses based on company profit. With safe, dependable, on time performance bonuses can and do, amount to an extra six weeks plus, pay per year (58 weeks pay for 52 weeks) work.

Please drop off your resume at The Tool Shop in Tafuna, on the Daniel Inouye Industrial Park Road.

Drunk young man causes trouble at his family's home

by Samoa News staff

On March 16, 2025, Fagatogo Police Station (FPS) received a call from a concerned father reporting his son who was allegedly causing a disturbance at their home.

He was later arrested and charged with:

Count 1: Public Peace Disturbance, a class B misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of \$500.00, or both;

Count 2: Private Peace Disturbance (DV), a class C misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to fifteen days, a fine of \$300.00, or both; and,

Count 3: Property Damage in the Third Degree (DV), a class B misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of \$500.00, or both.

The defendant's bail was set at \$500.00.,

The court affidavit stated that on Mar. 16th FPS received a call from a man requesting assistance regarding his son, later identified as Joseph Fa'atiga, who was allegedly causing a disturbance at their house.

Police officers responded to the call and upon arrival at the scene, they observed a man (suspect), who immediately fled when he saw the police unit.

The officers encountered and interviewed the suspect's mother who provided the

authorities with a verbal statement. The suspect's mother alleged that her son got home drunk and started hitting on her door. The suspect was also making unreasonable sounds to open the door and alarmed the neighbors while they were sleeping.

After interviewing the suspect's mother, she requested if she could withdraw her complaint against her son since they were unable to locate him. The officers advised her to contact the FPS if the suspect returned home.

At around 3:44 a.m, the suspect's mother contacted the FPS again and requested immediate assistance. She informed the officers that the suspect had returned home after they left the scene and started smashing window louvers of her home. Police officers responded again and when they arrived at the scene, they found the suspect sitting at the stairs of the second floor of the house.

He was immediately apprehended, and while securing the suspect inside the police unit, the officers detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his breath and person.

Before transporting the suspect for the booking process, the suspect's mother and another relative provided a verbal and written statement about the first and second call.



LBJ Tropical Medical Center
P.O. Box LBJ
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

ADVERTISEMENT - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
REFERENCE: LBJ T AFUNA WAREHOUSE PROJECT LBJ25.13
Publication Date: May 19, 2025

SOLICITATION

Sealed bids are solicited for: LBJ LONG TERM CARE FACILITY RENOVATION PROJECT for LBJ Tropical Medical Center in Fagatogo, Territory of American Samoa.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is composed of one (1) bid package. The LBJTMC is seeking a qualified vendor to provide construction services.

RECEIPT AND OPENING BIDS:

Sealed proposals will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer of LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799, at 2:00 pm Friday, May 23, 2025.

PRE-BID MEETING:

A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 9:00 am at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Engineering Conference Room.

BIDDING DOCUMENT:

Project scope of work may be picked up at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Procurement Office or can be sent via email upon request to the LBJ Acting Director of Purchasing & Supply Chain email at fota.finau@lbj.as or Procurement and Contract Specialist shawn.togia@lbj.as.

BIDDERS REQUIREMENT:

Minimum three (3) years of experience as a construction service provider and must provide proof of experience. Provide Federal and Territory tax clearance certificates.

BIDDERS SECURITY:

Refer to RFP Package.

PERFORMANCE BOND/ LABOR AND MATERIALS BOND:

Refer to RFP Package.

RIGHT OF REFUSAL:

LBJ Tropical Medical Center reserves the right to refuse any bids.

LBJ Tropical Medical Center reserves the right to waive any lawful informality in bidding and awarding as it may be in the best interest of LBJ Tropical Medical Center.

The suspect's relative verbally stated that the suspect was yelling profanities in Samoan at him and the suspect's mother. The suspect was also asking about his pocket knife and threatened to stab him with it. During the second call, the sus-

pect came back home and challenged him to a fight and again threatened to hurt him.

Upon arrival at the FPS, the EMS was requested to treat the suspect but he refused treatment and signed a refusal form.

At about 4:25 a.m., the sus-

pect was booked and confined at the Tafuna Correctional Facility to await the next available sitting of the District Court.

The defendant is identified as a 23-year-old U.S National.



Compiled by Samoa News staff
**ADVANCING GENDER
EQUALITY**

UN Women has appointed Ms. Alison Davidian as the new Representative for its Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO), which supports 14 Pacific Island countries in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Ms. Davidian brings extensive experience in international development, with a focus on gender equality, good governance and peace building. She previously served as UN Women's Special Representative in Afghanistan and has held roles

supporting global and regional policy and programming in peace and security, access to justice, and preventing violence and extremism.

Her career also includes positions with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Center for Transitional Justice and legal advocacy roles in Australia. She holds degrees in Government and Law from the University of Sydney, and a Master of Laws from Harvard University.

"It is an honor to join the UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office and work alongside

partners across the Pacific to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. I look forward to listening and learning from the diverse voices and experiences across the region and building on the important work already underway to support the rights, leadership, and resilience of women and girls. Together with partners, we will work towards a more just, inclusive, and equal Pacific for all," said Ms. Davidian.

[UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office]

**SAMOA WHOOPING
COUGH OUTBREAK**

Samoa's Ministry of Health

has declared its whooping cough outbreak over.

It said last Wednesday that this follows a consistent decline in reported case and no suspected cases in the previous four weeks.

The outbreak of the disease, also known as pertussis, was declared on 28 November last year.

It said that the total of suspected and confirmed cases since the declaration had reached 427.

The Ministry said that while the spread of the disease is under control, people are urged not to be complacent and to check

their children's immunizations are up to date.

[RNZ Pacific]

**PNG CHILDREN'S
DEATHS**

Police in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea have been investigating the deaths of two young children whose bodies were found in an abandoned car outside the city at the beginning of this month.

According to police the four and five year olds were last seen alive at the beginning of March.

Their remains were found in a vehicle at Gereka, just outside Port Moresby.

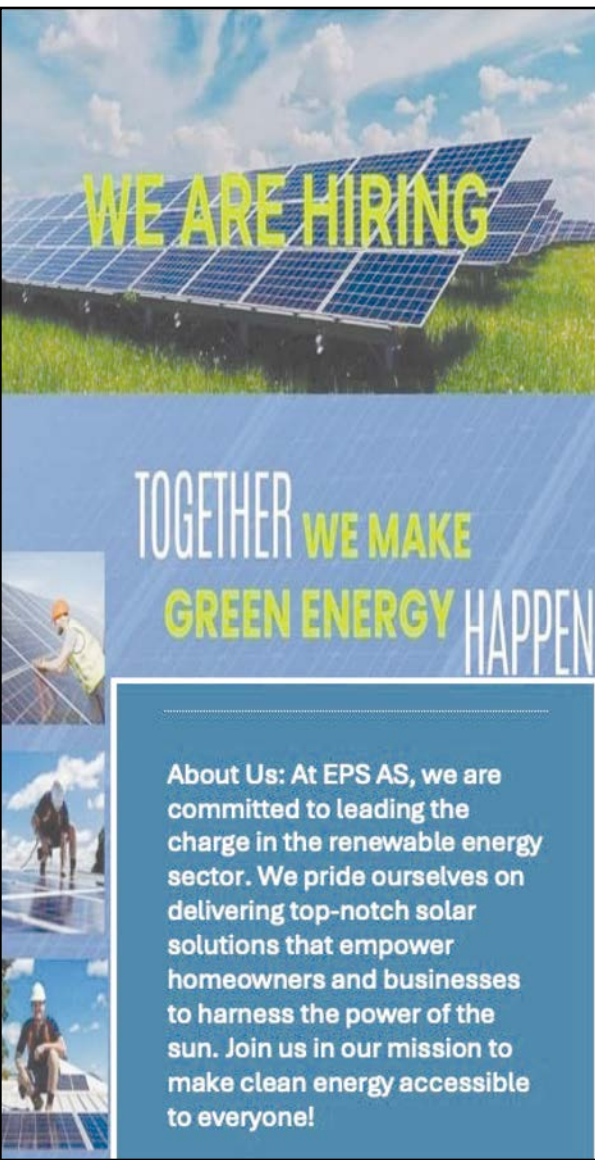
(Continued on page 4)

63rd Samoa Independence Day a scaled down event

GROUPS THAT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE MUST REGISTER BY MAY 31

Compiled by Samoa News staff
Special guests invited for Samoa's 63rd Independence celebration are American Samoa Governor, Pulaali'i Nikolau Pula and Ulu o Toelau, Esera Fofu Tuisano. The independence commemoration starts on Sunday, June 1, with a church service at the Mulivai Cathedral led by the National Council of Churches (NCC).
Chairman of the Independence Committee and Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Agafili Shem Leo confirmed the brief program and its details.


Agafili also confirmed the attendance of the special guests in a press conference on Monday, sitting alongside other committee members, Police Commissioner Auapaau Logoitino Filipo and Fire Commissioner Tanuvasa Petone Mauga.
The actual celebration will kick off on Monday, June 2, which is also the public holiday where schools, government ministries and entities are among those participating in the march.
Held in front of the Fiamē Mataafa Faumuina Mulinu II building, the march will take place after the hoisting of the



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flag by one of the members of the Council of Deputies.
The change of venue for the celebration is due to ongoing construction in front of the Parliament House in Mulinu.
Tanuvasa is taking charge of organizing the march and

has urged schools, the government and groups that intend to participate to register now until May 31.
He asked participants to provide key information such as school roll, milestones they have achieved, to assist the

organizing committee with their preparations.
The police band will entertain the public and guests after the march before the flag is lowered later on in the evening.
(Source: Samoa Observer)



Independence Committee, Fire Commissioner, Tanuvasa Petone Mauga, Police Commissioner, Auapaau Logoitino Filipo and the MPMC CEO, Agafili Shem Leo
(Photo: Samoa Observer)

► Pacific News in Briefs...

Continued from page 3

A postmortem was conducted at Port Moresby General Hospital on May 6, to determine the cause of death.
NBC reported the Police Commissioner David Manning saying the Crimes Investigation Team is working around the clock to gather evidence and identify witnesses.
He also expressed grave concern over the increasing trend of child abuse in the country, condemning these as despicable acts and betrayals of trust.

He has urged parents and guardians to take their responsibilities seriously and he reminded the public of the 'Lukautim Pikinini Act', which carries severe penalties for negligence and abuse.

[RNZ Pacific] **BODY OF WOMAN FOUND SUNDAY IN SAMOA**

The Police are investigating the discovery of the body of a dead woman found at the Fulusou River on Sunday.
There are no details about the woman and what led to her death.
But Police Commissioner, Auapaau Logoitino Filipo, said they have spoken to the woman's husband to try and piece together the details of what had

led to her death, and how her body ended up in the river.
This is the start of a full length investigation into her death, he said.
"Our initial investigation shows that the woman was sleeping while the husband had gone to fetch food," Auapaau said, adding that is all they can say at the moment.
The woman's body was taken to the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital morgue to await a post mortem, and the outcome of the

Police investigation.
[Samoa Observer]
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TRIAL
A jury trial is set for July in a federal child pornography case in the Northern Marianas.
The case is against Nicolas Franklin Salas Palacios, who faces charges of possession of and access with intent to view child pornography.
He has entered a plea of not guilty.
(Continued on page 6)

Police arrest drunk at Fagaalu Park during routine patrol

by Samoa News staff

On March 15, 2025, police officers arrested a man who was allegedly causing a disturbance at the public park in Fagaalu.

He was immediately arrested and later charged with Count 1: Public Peace Disturbance, a class B misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of \$500.00, or both.

There was no bail set for the defendant.

According to the court affidavit, on Mar. 15, 2025, upon conducting a routine patrol at Fagaalu park around 11:00 p.m., the officers observed multiple people holding down an unknown male. The unknown male was yelling out profanities in Samoan and shouting out the Samoan war cry (fa’aumu) while others were trying to calm him down.

An unknown man then approached the officers and

asked for help because the man being held down was highly intoxicated.

The officers immediately apprehended the unknown man (later identified as the suspect) who was intoxicated. During his arrest, the suspect yanked his arms away from the officers and continued to yell out profanities. He also challenged the officers to a fistfight, but the officers were able to detain him and put him into the police unit.

Upon escorting the suspect, the officers detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his breath and clothing. He was then transported to the police station and was identified as Lana Toelupe.

Toelupe was later booked and confined at the Tafuna Correctional Facility to await the next available sitting of the District Court.

The defendant is identified as a 29-year-old citizen of Samoa.

Democratic Rep. McIver charged with assault after skirmish at ICE center, New Jersey prosecutor says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Rep. LaMonica McIver is being charged with assault after a skirmish with federal officers outside an immigration detention center, said New Jersey’s top federal prosecutor, who also announced Monday that she was dropping a trespassing case against the Newark mayor whose arrest led to the disturbance.

Interim U.S. Attorney Alina Habba wrote on social media that McIver is facing a charge of assaulting, impeding or interfering with law enforcement, but court papers providing details were not immediately released or publicly available online.

The prosecution of McIver is a rare federal criminal case against a sitting member of Congress for allegations other than fraud or corruption. The case instantly taps into a much broader and more consequential power struggle between a Trump administration engaged in a sweeping overhaul of immigration policy and a Democratic party scrambling for ways to respond.

Within minutes of Habba’s announcement, McIver’s Democratic colleagues cast the

prosecution as an infringement on lawmakers’ official duties to serve their constituents and an effort to silence their opposition to an immigration policy that helped propel the president back into power but now has emerged as divisive fault line in American political discourse.

At the same time, Habba announced that her office agreed to dismiss a misdemeanor charge against Democratic Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who was arrested after he attempted to join McIver and two other members of New Jersey’s congressional delegation inspecting the facility in their oversight capacity. Habba said the decision was reached “for the sake of moving forward” and said she has invited the mayor to tour the Delaney Hall detention center and will join him herself.

“The citizens of New Jersey deserve unified leadership so we can get to work to keep our state safe,” Habba said in a statement.

McIver has denied any wrongdoing and has accused federal agents of escalating the situation by arresting the mayor. She denounced the charge as “purely political” and

(Continued on page 6)



American Samoa Telecommunications Authority
Chairman
Avamua Dave Haleck

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Position / Title
Chief Executive Officer

Reports To
Chairman of the Board

Position Type
Full Time

Posting Date
May 16, 2025

Deadline
May 29, 2025

Purpose

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ASTCA is the top executive responsible for leading and transforming the organization to deliver reliable, innovative, and affordable telecommunications services. The CEO provides strategic vision, ensures operational excellence, manages undersea fiber network development, and secures regional partnerships to maximize bandwidth capacity and connectivity for American Samoa. The CEO represents ASTCA at the highest levels locally, regionally, and internationally.

Principal Job Duties

Executive Leadership & Governance

- Lead the executive team and drive a culture of collaboration, innovation, and accountability.
- Uphold corporate governance standards and maintain regulatory compliance across all functions.
- Report transparently and effectively to the ASTCA Board of Directors.

Strategic & Operational Leadership

- Develop and execute strategic plans to meet ASTCA's long-term goals and market positioning.
- Guide digital transformation initiatives, including next-generation networks (5G, fiber optics, IoT).
- Maintain and expand ASTCA's undersea fiber optic cable network to ensure global-class broadband services.
- Oversee international capacity negotiations and carrier partnerships to secure optimal connectivity routes and bandwidth opportunities for the territory.

Regulatory & Compliance Oversight

- Ensure full compliance with local, federal, and international telecommunications laws and standards, including strict adherence to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations and reporting requirements.
- Maintain strong relationships with regulatory bodies and proactively adapt to regulatory changes affecting operations
- Lead internal audits and risk assessments to uphold regulatory and operational integrity.

Financial Management

- Develop and manage ASTCA's operating and capital budgets with full financial responsibility.
- Optimize resource allocation and ensure sustainable profitability and growth.
- Oversee corporate risk management, business continuity planning, and disaster recovery protocols.

Government & International Relations

- Act as the principal representative of ASTCA in regulatory and policy discussions with local and federal government entities.
- Negotiate regional and international partnerships, joint ventures, and agreements for undersea cable access, bandwidth procurement, and long-term capacity deals.
- Build strategic alliances with Pacific Island telecommunications providers and international subsea cable consortia.

Customer & Community Focus

- Champion a customer-first culture to continuously improve the customer experience and satisfaction.
- Ensure access and affordability of telecommunications services across all communities, including rural and underserved areas.
- Lead community and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Innovation & Growth

- Identify emerging technologies and growth opportunities for revenue diversification.
- Foster a culture of internal innovation and continuous improvement.

Supervisory Status

This position supervises others and is responsible for being results oriented, collaborative, delegate effectively, and embrace the organization's core values, ensuring team effectiveness.

C-Level Core Competencies

- Visionary & Transformational Leadership
- Executive Decision-Making & Strategic Planning
- Financial Stewardship & Investment Leadership
- Global & Regional Telecommunications Market Expertise
- Crisis & Risk Management
- International Diplomacy & Negotiation skills (undersea cable & capacity deals)
- Regulatory Compliance & Ethics
- Board & Stakeholder Engagement
- Change Management & Organizational Culture Development

Required Qualifications and Education

Education and/or Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Telecommunications, Engineering, or related field.
- Master's degree (MBA, MPA, or equivalent) highly preferred.
- Minimum of 10 years in senior leadership roles, with at least 5 years as a C-level executive within telecommunications or a closely related industry.
- Demonstrated success managing large-scale infrastructure, including undersea cable networks or international carrier relations.
- Experience in government -affiliated, public sector, or utility environments a plus.
- Outstanding leadership and organizational skills.
- Superior communication, negotiation, and stakeholder relationship management abilities.
- Deep understanding of global telecommunications infrastructure, undersea fiber systems, and international capacity markets.
- Knowledge of industry regulations and compliance requirements in alignment with FCC regulations.
- Ability to innovate and adapt in a competitive, rapidly evolving market
- **Language Skills:** Good English and Samoa verbal and written skills; report writing skills.
- **Reasoning Ability:** capable of making decisions under pressure that will result in best practice outcome, adapt to change with situations or environments, identify weakness or strength of staff or project.
- **Computer Skills: PC literate** – Windows Program; Engineering applications a plus
- **Physical Demands:** lift to 40lbs, able to fully stretch arms/legs, good motor skills.

Working Conditions

This position will be required to work primarily in an indoor business environment with moderate noise levels, and, with or without reasonable accommodation required:

- Must be able to be in motion for a minimum of 75% of the time.
- Constantly operated technical equipment and tools used in the service of installation, maintenance, and repair.
- Often ascends/descends stairs, ladders or climbing poles,
- Constantly positions self in the work environment, to include bending, crawling, reaching and working in a close quarter.
- The person in this position frequently communicates with peers, supervisors, vendors, and employees to exchange accurate information and answer questions, Must be able to detect objects at a distance,
- On occasion will move up to 20 pounds of equipment objects,
- Works in an indoor and outdoor business that often requires travel in outdoor weather conditions.

Have Questions?

Contact ASTCA Human Resources.

- ☎ 684-699-3000 ext. 9070, 9055, 9734 ✉ hr@astca.net 📞 684-699-9032
- 🌐 www.astca.net 📘 astca684

How To Apply

Please submit a complete ASTCA Employment Application and your Resume to ASTCA before the deadline; include copies of credentials, if any, and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (as applicable), pre employment clearances and test negative on pre-employment drug test. ASTCA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements, as necessary. You can also scan the QR code to apply online.



Scan to Apply Online!

Democratic Rep...

Continued from page 5

said prosecutors are distorting her actions in an effort to deter legislative oversight. “This administration will never stop me from working for the people in our district and standing up for what is right,” she said in a statement. “I am thankful for the outpouring of support I have received and I look forward to the truth being laid out clearly in court.” A nearly two-minute clip released by the Homeland Security Department shows McIver on the facility side of a chain-link fence just before the arrest of the mayor on the street side of the fence. She and uniformed officials go through the gate and she joins others shouting “surround the mayor.” The video shows McIver in a tightly packed group of people and officers. At one point her left elbow and then her right elbow push into an officer wearing a dark face covering and an olive green uniform emblazoned with the word “Police” on it.

It isn’t clear from bodycam video whether that contact was

intentional, incidental or a result of jostling in the chaotic scene.

In a post on X, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said McIver was being charged after a “thorough review of the video footage” and investigation by Homeland Security Investigations.

“Assaults on federal law enforcement will not be tolerated,” Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a post on X. “This Administration will always protect those who work tirelessly to keep America safe.”

McIver’s attorney called the decision to charge her “spectacularly inappropriate,” saying she went to Delaney Hall “to do her job” and she has the responsibility as a member of Congress to oversee U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s treatment of detainees. As of Monday night, neither McIver nor her attorneys had gotten charging documents from prosecutors, according to an emailed statement from a spokesperson for her attorney.

Pacific News in Briefs...

Continued from page 4

The indictment includes a forfeiture notice, signaling that if convicted, the accused may be required to forfeit specific items or face a money judgment as an alternative.

He remains detained at the Department of Corrections pending trial.

[RNZ Pacific]

STARLINK

Starlink has been installed at Rotuma Government Station in Fiji, as part of a broader project to connect 10 rural and maritime government stations across the country.

Fiji’s government said this

technological advancement will allow civil servants to access real-time information and improve communication with headquarters, while also opening digital doors for nearby communities.

The initiative is also designed to improve coordination during emergency situations.

[RNZ Pacific]

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
The Pacific Islands Forum secretary-general Baron Waqa is visiting New Zealand this week.

He will meet New Zealand’s Foreign Affairs Minister Win-

ston Peters and Pacific Peoples Minister Shane Reti.

Ulu o Tokelau Esera Tuisano will also make his first official visit to New Zealand, ahead of New Zealand and Tokelau celebrating a centenary of their constitutional relationship next year.

Peters said regular face-

to-face dialogue is crucial for underpinning New Zealand’s relationships throughout the region.

[RNZ Pacific]

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC COUNCIL

New Zealand is hosting the council of the University of the South Pacific on Monday.

Twelve Pacific countries will be represented at the meeting.

Pacific Peoples and Universities Minister Shane Reti said New Zealand’s role as hosts reflects the country’s steadfast commitment to advancing tertiary education through Pacific regionalism

[RNZ Pacific]



LBJ Tropical Medical Center

P.O. Box LBJ

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

ADVERTISEMENT - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) REFERENCE: LBJ LONG TERM CARE FACILITY RENOVATION PROJECT

LBJ25.12

Publication Date: May 19, 2025

SOLICITATION

Sealed bids are solicited for: LBJ LONG TERM CARE FACILITY RENOVATION PROJECT for LBJ Tropical Medical Center in Fagaalu, Territory of American Samoa.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is composed of one (1) bid package. The LBJTMC is seeking a qualified vendor to provide construction services.

RECEIPT AND OPENING BIDS:

Sealed proposals will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer of LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799, at 2:00 pm Friday, May 23, 2025.

PRE-BID MEETING:

A Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 10:00 am at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Engineering Conference Room.

BIDDING DOCUMENT:

Project scope of work may be picked up at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Procurement Office or can be sent via email upon request to the LBJ Acting Director of Purchasing & Supply Chain email at fota.finau@lbj.as or Procurement and Contract Specialist shawn.togia@lbj.as.

BIDDERS REQUIREMENT:

Minimum three (3) years of experience as a construction service provider and must provide proof of experience. Provide Federal and Territory tax clearance certificates.

BIDDERS SECURITY:

Refer to RFP Package.

PERFORMANCE BOND/ LABOR AND MATERIALS BOND:

Refer to RFP Package.

RIGHT OF REFUSAL:

LBJ Tropical Medical Center reserves the right to refuse any bids.

LBJ Tropical Medical Center reserves the right to waive any lawful informality in bidding and awarding as it may be in the best interest of LBJ Tropical Medical Center.



Deputy Representative Eri Taniguchi, UNW Fiji MCO Rep Alison Davidian and UN Fiji Resident Coordinator Dirk Wagener after Rep Davidian was recently appointed to head the MCO which supports advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

[courtesy photo]

How uproar over a Māori haka, beloved in New Zealand life, sowed chaos and gridlock in Parliament

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The haka, a chanting dance of challenge, is sacred to New Zealand’s Māori people but it’s become a beloved cultural institution among New Zealanders of all races. Spine-tingling performances at sports events, funerals and graduations often go viral online, a non-partisan point of pride for the country abroad.

But one haka performed in protest in New Zealand’s Parliament by three legislators last November has provoked fierce division among lawmakers about whether it was an act of peaceful dissent, or disruptive and even intimidating to their opponents. A vote to approve unprecedented, lengthy bans from Parliament for the Māori party lawmakers who enacted the protest was unexpectedly suspended on Tuesday. Debate will resume in June, when it threatens to gridlock the legislative agenda until politicians from all parties reach consensus on what the punishment should be. Hundreds of protesters against the sanctions waited outside Parliament’s front doors in New Zealand’s capital, Wellington, on Tuesday to greet the Māori party lawmakers with a haka when they emerged.

WHAT IS THE HAKA?

The haka was once viewed as a war dance, but that understanding has changed in New Zealand as it has been embraced in a range of celebratory, somber and ceremonial settings. It’s an expression of Māori identity and while sacred, it can be performed by people of any race who are educated by Māori in the words, movements and cultural protocols.

Emotional haka have generated news headlines in the past year when performed by soldiers farewelling a New Zealander who died fighting in Ukraine, and in Paris by athletes from New Zealand’s Olympic team. While the best-known haka is “ka mate,” the chant often performed by the All Blacks rugby team before games, there are many variants.

WHY WAS THIS ONE CONTROVERSIAL?

Last November’s protest wasn’t the first time a haka has rung out in Parliament. Performances regularly follow the passage of laws important to Māori. But some lawmakers decried this one for two reasons:

because the legislators from Te Pāti Māori, the Māori Party, left their seats and strode across the floor toward government politicians while performing it, and because it disrupted the vote on a proposed law.

When asked how the Māori party would vote on a bill they said would dismantle Indigenous rights, Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke — New Zealand’s youngest parliamentarian, at 22 — tore up a copy of the law and began the haka, joined by two of her colleagues.

The law, an attempt to rewrite New Zealand’s founding treaty between Māori tribal leaders and the British crown, was widely unpopular and has since been defeated. But for six months, a committee of the lawmakers’ peers have fought furiously about how — or whether — their protest of it should be punished.

WHY IS DEBATE ABOUT IT STILL GOING?

Usually there’s agreement among parliamentarians about penalties for errant behavior. But this episode polarized the committee considering the lawmakers’ actions.

Its report recommended Maipi-Clarke, who the committee said showed contrition in a letter, be suspended for seven days and her colleagues for 21 days. That’s the harshest penalty ever assigned to New Zealand lawmakers; the previous record was three days.

Parliament Speaker Gerry Brownlee this month scheduled a rare, unlimited debate in Parliament until all parties could find consensus on the penalty, citing the severity of the proposed bans. But minutes after the debate began Tuesday, it was adjourned at the government’s behest after they allowed the Māori party lawmakers to stay until after Thursday’s budget was delivered.

It permitted the government their budget week agenda and meant the Māori lawmakers — opponents of the government — wouldn’t miss one of Parliament’s most significant dates. But the debate about the bans will then resume.

Opposition leader Chris Hipkins, the only opponent of the sanctions to speak before debate was suspended, cited episodes where lawmakers have brawled in Parliament and driven a tractor up the building’s steps.

Job Corp faces serious...

Continued from page 1

“This is a critical time for Job Corps. Thank you for all that you do to help this valuable program navigate this challenging time.

“We our trying to save our job corps for our young adults to achieve to their success but we cannot do it by ourselves we need our community and our congress lady to fight with

our people to save these good programs for our young adults please.”

There has been no formal announcement from the Governor’s Office as to status of the Job Corps program in American Samoa, and it’s unknown at this time who is responsible for its local enrollment process.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DESCRIPTION:

Office Admin and Retail Marketing/Merchandiser

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Perform day-to-day order processing, including filing, data entry, and general office duties
- Perform market surveys of local retail stores focusing on food items
- Answering telephones and responding to electronic communications
- Updating company records, ensuring the accuracy of invoices, purchase orders, and client files
- Maintaining an efficient and usable filing system for both paperwork and electronic documents
- Preparing letters, reports, forms, and other company documents
- Good attention to detail and exceptional organizational and record-keeping skills

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Proof of authorization to work in American Samoa
- Current American Samoa drivers license
- Some marketing experience preferred but not required
- Some office administration experience preferred
- Able to work 8am to 4pm, Monday thru Thursday (4 day work week) in Fagatogo.
- Strong verbal and written communications skills in English and Samoan

Salary depending on experience
Apply via email: bh@wightman-crane.com



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-045-2025

Issuance Date: May 16, 2025

Closing Date: May 23, 2025

No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Roof Repairs for Pago Pago International Airport - Arrivals & Courier Stores Building” located in the village of Tafuna, Territory of American Samoa.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time) Friday, May 23, 2025 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY- PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Pago Pago International Airport Conference Room. The mandatory site visit will immediately follow the pre-bid meeting. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Conference and site visit.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours free of charge or email rachel.siaumau@op.as.gov.

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.

6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Frederick U. Ledoux
Chief Procurement Officer

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL TALANOA TALKS IN APIA — PACIFIC REGIONALISM



May 16, 2024 — The Pacific islands Forum Review of the Regional Architecture, which began in 2024, is a strategic undertaking to ensure that the Pacific’s regional system is responsive and fit for purpose to implement the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific continent.

Done in 4 phases, Phases 1 and 2 have been completed. They looked at understanding the status of the regional architecture to deliver on the Leaders priorities as well as consider ways to strengthen collective positioning through, collaboration, coherence and coordination within the system.

Phases 1 and 2 have laid the analytical and institutional Groundwork for the Political phase – Phase 3 of the Review which began in Samoa from May 15-16.

This was done mainly through the High Level Political Talanoa for leaders and political actors to engage with the findings of the review to date, consider the political choices ahead and shape a strategic future oriented architecture/ system.

Through honest conversation and eventual recommendations, the High Level political Talanoa has the unique opportunity to shape the architecture to ensure Pacific regionalism remains relevant and transformative.

While in Samoa, the Political Talanoa involved the Prime Minister Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa, Leader of the Opposition, Ministers, senior government officials and representatives of CROP and non-CROP agencies based in Samoa.

The High Level Persons group that facilitated the political Talanoa involved 3 representatives of each of the 3 subregional groupings namely

- Hon Gerald Zachios Minister of Education for the Republic of the Marshall islands (Micronesia)
- Sir Dr Jimmie Rodgers Special Duties adviser Ministry of the Prime Minister/Cabinet of the Solomon Islands (Melanesia)
- CEO Peseta Noumea Simi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa (Polynesia).

The final report of the review of the Regional Architecture and recommendations will be considered at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting to be held in the Solomon Islands in early September.

(Source: Press Release- Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Trade, Government Of Samoa)

[Courtesy photo]



FREE

CAR SEAT CHECK



ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS RIDING IN THEIR CAR SEAT CORRECTLY

have a certified child passenger safety technician educate you on proper car seat education, harnessing, and installation.

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED:

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

CALL OR STOP BY YOUR NEAREST CHECK-UP STATION:



Traffic Division - CPST
Child Care Division - CPST
Office of Highway Safety - CPST
Capt. Mose Maino - CPST



684.699-1911
684-633-1571
684-633-1111
684-633-5000



Tafuna Sub Station West - Traffic Division
DHSS - Tedi of Samoa - Fagatogo
2nd Floor, Fagatogo Central Police Station
Am Samoa Fire Department - Fagatogo