

**39TH LEGISLATURE  
1ST REGULAR SESSION**

**(ADMIN/BY REQ)**

**S.R. NO. 39-15  
IN THE SENATE**

04 FEPUARI 2025

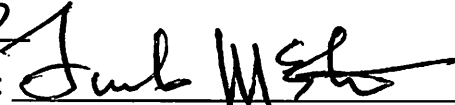
INTRODUCED BY: Sen. Tualo Manaia Fruean, D-6

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

**SUBJECT:**  
CONFIRMATION—DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**SUMMARY:**  
This resolution confirms the Governor's appointment of Ms. Magdeline Pepe Petaia as Director of the Department of Commerce.

OWN VOTE			LEGISLATIVE VOTE		
YES	NO		YES	NO	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1ST READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMITTEE REPORT			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2ND READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3RD READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE CALENDAR DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMITTED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORDERED TO LIE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN			

1 S.R. NO. 39-15  
2 INTRODUCED BY: 

3  
4 "A SENATE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE GOVERNOR'S  
5 NOMINATION OF MS. MAGDELINE PEPE PETAIA AS DIRECTOR OF THE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE."

7  
8 WHEREAS, by letter dated January 28, 2025, to the Honorable Tualo Manaiā  
9 Fruean, President of the Senate, Governor Governor Pulaali'i  
10 Nikolao Pula, submitted the name of Ms. Magdeline Pepe Petaia to  
11 the Legislature, pursuant to A.S.C.A. 4.0111 (b) & 4.0112 (a) (f), for  
12 confirmation as Director of the Department of Commerce; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in his letter the Governor stated in part:

15 "...I hereby submit my appointment of Ms. Magdeline Pepe Petaia  
16 as Director of the Department of Commerce.

17  
18 I respectfully request that you and your colleagues review her  
19 nomination and confirm her as Director of the Department of  
20 Commerce."  
21

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
23 TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA:

24  
25 THAT, the nomination of Ms. Magdeline Pepe Petaia as Director of the  
26 Department of Commerce is hereby confirmed; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to  
29 transmit this resolution to the Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula,  
30 Governor of American Samoa; and a copy to Ms. Magdeline Pepe Petaia.

31 ----- END -----

**NOFOA'IGA TOLUSEFULU-IVA  
FONO TELE MUAMUA**

**(TALOSAGA/KOVANA)**

**IMM NU. 39-15  
I LE MAOTA MAUALUGA**

04 FEPUARI 2025

FA'AULUFALEINA E: Senatoa Tuaolo Manaia E. Fruean, Itumalo - 6

TU'UINA ATU I LE KOMITI:

**MATA'UPU:**

FAAMAONIGA—FAATONUSILI, MATAGALUEGA O FEFAATAUA'IGA

**'OTO'OTOGA:**

O lenei Iugafono e faamaonia ai le tofia e le Afioga i le Kovana o Magdeline Pepe Petaia e fai ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o Fefaataua'iga.

LANA PALOTA MONI			PALOTAGA A FAIPULE		
IOE	LEAI		IOE	LEAI	ASO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA MUAMUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RIPOTI A LE KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ALUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ATOLU			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO I LE KALENA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TU'U ATU LE ISI KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FA'ATONU E FA'ATA'ATIA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOE TAOFI			

1 I.M.M. NU. 39-15  
2 FAAULUFALEINA E: Jurb Welo  
3

4 “O SE IUGAFONO A LE MAOTA MAUALUGA E FAAMAONIA AI LE  
5 TOFIGA A LE KOVANA O MAGDELINE PEPE PETAIA E FAI MA  
6 FAATONUSILI O LE MATAGALUEGA O FEFAATAUA’IGA.”

7  
8 TALUAI, i lana tusi ia Ianuari 28, 2025, i le Afioga ia Tualo Manaia E.  
9 Fruean, Peresetene o le Maota Maualuga, na faaoo atu ai e le Afioga  
10 i le Kovana, Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula le suafa o Magdeline Pepe Petaia  
11 e faamaonia e fai ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o Fefaataua’iga e  
12 tusa ai ma maga 4.0111(e) ma 4.0112 (a)(f), T.T.A.S; ma  
13

14 TALUAI, i se vaega o lana tusi, na faapea mai ai le Afioga i le Kovana:  
15 “...ua ou faaoo atu la’u tofiga o Magdeline Pepe Petaia e avea ma  
16 Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o Fefaataua’iga.  
17

18 Ou te talosagaina ai lau Afioga ma le Maota mo sa outou iloiloga ma  
19 le faamaoniaina o ia e avea ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o  
20 Fefaataua’iga.”  
21

22 O LENEI, O LE MEA LEA, IA FAAIUGAFONOINA AI E LE MAOTA  
23 MAUALUGA O LE TERITORI O AMERIKA SAMOA:

24  
25 E FAAPEA, ua faamaonia nei le tofiga o Magdeline Pepe Petaia e avea ma  
26 Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o Fefaataua’iga; ma  
27

28 IA TOE FAAIUGAFONOINA FOI, e faapea e talosaga le Failautusi o le Maota  
29 Maualuga e faaoo atu lenei Iugafono i le Afioga ia Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula, Kovana  
30 o Amerika Samoa; ma se kopi ia Magdeline Pepe Petaia.

31 ----- IUGA -----



# Magdalene Pepe Petaia (Lina)

Dedicated to serve the people of American Samoa to meet the mission of the Department of Commerce with integrity and humility.

## Personal

Magdalene Pepe Petaia  
(Lina)

lina.petaia.suisala@gmail.com

(684) 258-1310

P.O. Box 3306 Pago  
Pago, American Samoa  
96799 Pago Pago,  
American Samoa

April 10, 1982

Seattle, Washington

Matai Title: Ali'imuamua  
from Sa'anapu, Upolu

> Daughter of Reverend  
Emau & Sialei Petaia

> Married to Paepaetele  
Taulua Suisala Jr.

## Membership

CCCAS Pago Pago

Deacon's Wife

## Languages

English ●●●●●

Samoan ●●●●●

## Education

**Doctor of Education** Jan 2023 - Present  
Baylor University, Waco, Texas  
Major: Learning and Organizational Change

**Master in Science Administration** Jan 2006 - May 2007  
Trinity Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
Major: Organizational Management  
Emphasis: Human Resources Management

**Bachelor of Arts** Sep 2000 - Jun 2004  
University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii  
Major: Communication and Political Science  
\*Member of the Lambda Pi Eta Honor's Society

**Diploma** Sep 1996 - Jun 2000  
Leone High School, Leone, American Samoa  
\*Student Body President/NHS Vice-President

## Employment

**Urban Planning and Development Assistant Deputy Director** Jan 2021 - Present  
ASG Department of Commerce, Pago Pago, American Samoa

- Oversee the daily operation of the largest division in the Department of Commerce (DOC): Urban Planning and Development, which houses ten fully federally funded programs.
- Serve as the DOC Ethics Officer.

**Community Development Block Grant Manager** May 2013 - Jan 2021  
ASG Department of Commerce, Pago Pago, American Samoa  
Manage and oversee the daily operation of the Community Development Block Grant program, funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Community Development Block Grant Finance Officer** Oct 2012 - May 2013  
ASG Department of Commerce, Pago Pago, American Samoa

## Hobbies

- Free Write
- Interior Decorating
- Play the Flute
- Volunteer at Kana's Child Care Center
- DIY Projects

## Qualities

- Adaptability
- Decision-making
- Empathetic
- Resilient
- Mentorship

Manage all financial components of the Community Development Block Grant accounts.

**Grants Compliance Officer/Economic Growth Specialist** Jul 2011 - Oct 2012

American Samoa Economic & Stimulus Recovery Office/Office of Federal Program

Monitor the compliance of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from the US Department of Justice, Department of Education, Department of Human and Social Services, US Department of Labor, and US Department of Environmental and Protection Agency.

**District Office Special Assistant** Nov 2007 - Mar 2011

American Samoa Congressional District Office, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Assist constituents with US Immigration, Military, Veterans, Education, Social Security, and Vital Statistics matters.

**Staff Assistant** Jan 2007 - Nov 2007

American Samoa Congressional Office, Washington, D.C.

Handle cases for constituents in Vital Statistics & US Immigration and draft letters, press releases, and statements assigned by the Chief of Staff.

**Intern** Oct 2005 - Jan 2007

American Samoa Congressional Office, Washington, D.C.

Study and engage in the operation of the US Congress through the Office of Congressman Faleomavaega.

**Job Corps Coordinator/Legislative Assistant** Feb 2005 - Oct 2005

American Samoa Legislature (Senate), Pago Pago, American Samoa

- Oversee the Job Corps program, administered by the Department of Labor.
- Recorded daily Senate proceedings for Counsel's reference and conduct research for Legislative Counsel.

**Executive Director** Sep 2004 - Feb 2005

Read to Me Samoa, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Oversee educational programs run by the organization and engage in activities to increase literacy in the territory.

**Computer Literacy Specialist** Aug 2004 - Sep 2004

Pacific e-Commerce Development Corporation, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Assist in administering Education 240 course to elementary and high school teachers.

**Senior Residential Manager** May 2003 - May 2004

University of Hawaii at Hilo Housing, Hilo, Hawaii

Organize training sessions, supervise the Resident Assistant, and, oversee the operation of four residential halls.

## Certificates

<b>Center for Homeland Defense &amp; Security</b> Pacific Executive Leaders Program (PELP)	Sep 2022
<b>USA's Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives</b> Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP)	Jun 2015
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Manager's Roles in Assessing Internal Control	Jan 2024
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Ethical Decision Making for Government Employees	Jan 2024
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Ethical Decision Making for Government Employees (American Samoa)	Mar 2022
<b>Graduate School USA</b> GASB UPDATE: Wat, There's More?	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Leadership Island Style	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Island Government Pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> The New OMB Omni-Circular	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Developing Critical Thinking Skills	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Writing Tools for Auditors	Aug 2014
<b>Graduate School USA</b> Understanding and Complying with OMB Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for Grants and Other Agreements	Dec 2011
<b>Office of the Inspector General</b> Fraud Prevention Awareness Training	Apr 2022
<b>FEMA</b> Fundamentals of Grants Management	Nov 2013
<b>ASG Department of Treasury</b> Paperless Purchasing Training	Apr 2013

## Extracurricular Activities

**Rotarian**

**Oct 2020 - Dec 2022**

Rotary Club of Pago Pago, Pago Pago, American Samoa

**Board Member**

**Sep 2016 - Dec 2022**

South Pacific Academy, Pago Pago, American Samoa

## References

**Dora Jane Ah Sue**

Pago Pago, American Samoa

(684) 256-6772, djahsue@gmail.com

**Leifiloa C. Felise**

Anchorage, Alaska

(619) 673-5305, Leifiloa.Felise@anchorageak.gov

**Reinette Thompson-Niko**

Pago Pago, American Samoa

(684) 254-2594, rthompson.niko73@doc.as.gov

**Vaitautolu Fa'afetai l'aulualo Talia**

Pago Pago, American Samoa

(684) 731-1319, vaicampaign24@gmail.com