

**39TH LEGISLATURE
1ST REGULAR SESSION**

(ADMIN/BY REQ)

**S.R. NO. 39-25
IN THE SENATE**

14 FEBRUARY 2025

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

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

SUBJECT:

CONFIRMATION—DIRECTOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SEARCH AND RESCUE

SUMMARY:

This resolution confirms the Governor’s appointment of Mr. Utumoea’au Alefosio as Director of the American Samoa Search and Rescue Department.

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	WITHDRAWN			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. 39-25

2 INTRODUCED BY:



3
4 "A SENATE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE GOVERNOR'S
5 NOMINATION OF UTUMOE'A AU ALEFOSIO AS DIRECTOR OF THE
6 AMERICAN SAMOA SEARCH AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT"

7
8 WHEREAS, by letter dated February 11, 2025 to the Honorable Tualo Manaia
9 E. Fruean, President of the Senate, Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula
10 submitted the name of Mr. Utumoea'au Alefosio to the Legislature,
11 pursuant to Sections 4.0111(b) and 4.0112(a)(f) of the A.S.C.A. for
12 confirmation as Director of the Department of Search and Rescue;
13 and

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

16
17 "...I hereby submit my appointment of Mr. Utumoea'au Alefosio as
18 Director of the Department of Search and Rescue.

19
20 I respectfully request that you and your colleagues review and
21 confirm him as Director of the Department of Search and Rescue."

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

25
26 THAT, the nomination of Mr. Utumoea'au Alefosio as Director of the Search and
27 Rescue Department is hereby confirmed; and

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to
30 transmit this resolution to Honorable Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, Governor of
31 American Samoa; and a copy to Mr. Utumoea'au Alefosio.

32
33 ----- END -----

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

(TALOSAGA/KOVANA)

**IMM NU. 39-25
I LE MAOTA MAUALUGA**

14 FEPUARI 2025

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

TU'UINA ATU I LE KOMITI:

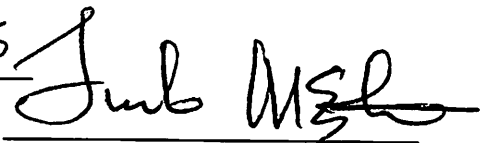
MATA'UPU:

FAAMAONIGA— FAATONU, OFISA SUESUE MA GALUEGA LAVEAI A AMERIKA SAMOA

'OTO'OTOGA:

O lenei iugafono e faamaonia ai le tofiga a le Kovana, o le Susuga ia Utumoea'au Alefosio e avea ma Faatonu o le Ofisa Suesue ma Galuega Laveai a Amerika Samoa.

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. 39-25 
2 FAAULUFALEINA E: _____
3

4 “O SE IUGAFONO A LE MAOTA MAUALUGA E FAAMAONIA AI LE TOFIGA A
5 LE KOVANA O UTUMOEAE’AU ALEFOSIO E AVEA MA FAATONU O LE OFISA
6 SUESUE MA GALUEGA LAVEAI A AMERIKA SAMOA.”
7

8 TALUAI, i lana tusi ia Fepuari 11, 2025, i le afioga ia Tualo Manaia E. Fruean,
9 Peresetene o le Senate, na faaoo mai ai e le afioga i le Kovana Pulaali’i
10 Nikolao Pula, le suafa o Utumoea’au Alefosio i le Fonofaitulafono e tusa ai
11 ma maga 4.0111(e) ma 4.0112 (a)(f), T.T.A.S., ina ia faamaonia e avea ma
12 Faatonu o le Ofisa Suesue ma Galuega Laveai a Amerika Samoa; ma
13

14 TALUAI, i se vaega o lana tusi, na faapea ai le afioga i le Kovana:

15 “...ua ou faaoo atu la’u tofiga o Utumoea’au Alefosio e fai o ia ma
16 Faatonusili o le Ofisa Suesue ma Galuega Laveai a Amerika Samoa.
17

18 Ou te fautuaina ma le fa’aaloalo lau Afioga ma le Maota ina ia iloilo ma
19 faamaonia o ia e avea ma Faatonusili o le Ofisa Suesue ma Galuega Laveai
20 a Amerika Samoa.”
21

22 O LENEI, O LE MEA LEA, IA FAAIUGAFONOINA AI E LE SENATE O LE
23 TERITORI O AMERIKA SAMOA:
24

25 E FAAPEA, ua faamaonia nei Utumoea’au Alefosio e avea ma Faatonu o le Ofisa Suesue
26 ma Galuega Laveai a Amerika Samoa; ma
27

28 IA TOE FAAIUGAFONOINA FOI, e faapea e talosaga le Failautusi o le Senate e faaoo
29 atu lenei iugafono i le Afioga ia Talauega E.V. Ale, Kovana le tumau o Amerika Samoa;
30 ma se kopi ia Save Liuato Afa Tuitele.
31

32 ----- IUGA -----

Utumoea'au Alefosio

P.O. Box 112

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Email: ualefosio77@gmail.com

Phone: 622-3392 / 782-3048

PROFILE SUMMARY:

Composed and Self-motivated Law Enforcement Officer with 16 years of successive experience in managing investigations, law & order, security, public service, law enforcement training and police force activities. Profound knowledge in core investigations, public safety programs, emergency response, and police community relations. Adept at conducting investigations and diffusing potentially instable situations with tact and negotiation. Highly capable of directing and leading police personnel to meet law enforcement objectives coupled with exceptional comprehension of gathering evidence and complying with legal requirements. Exceptional communicator with notable success in management of operations focused on lowered crime, heightened security, strengthened productivity and overall quality of life across the community.

Dedicated Criminal Justice Instructor with 9 years of experience, playing a vital role in educating and inspiring students about various aspects of the criminal justice field, including law enforcement, corrections, criminology, and legal studies. Knowledgeable with a blend of academic expertise, real-world experience, and a commitment to developing an active and engaging learning environment.

Qualified "First Responder" with 16 years of experience who is among the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency, providing immediate medical assistance or other necessary support to those in need until further help arrives, often including basic first aid, CPR and initial assessment of the situation; this role can encompass various professions like police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) depending of the specific emergency scenario.

EDUCATION:

Certificate – Police Academy

Department of Public Safety, American Samoa

1999

Associate of Science Degree – Criminal Justice

American Samoa Community College, Mapusaga, AS

2000 – 2002

Bachelor of Arts Degree – Interdisciplinary Studies and Criminal Justice

San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

2010 – 2013

Master of Science Degree – Organizational Leadership
Argosy University, Honolulu, HI
2014 – 2015

CERTIFICATIONS:

Advanced Investigation
Department of Public Safety, AS
August 2001

Hazardous Materials First Responder (Federal OSHA Standard)
UC Davis Extension, University of California, CA
August 2002

WMD Law Enforcement Protective Measures
US Department of Homeland Security
Center for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston, AL
January 2004

Domestic Violence (ASCA Title 47)
Police Lieutenant & Instructor – Eteuati Leiato
Department of Public Safety, AS
February 2005

Police Motorcycle Instructor
Northwestern State University – Ypsilanti, MI
In conjunction with Harley-Davidson Motor Company
July 2008

Instructor – Police Traffic Laser/RADAR (Stalker X-Series LIDAR)
Stalker Traffic Technologies – Bill Fagan
Department of Public Safety, AS
September 2011

Alco-Sensor V-XL @ Point of Arrest
Department of Public Safety, AS
In conjunction with Intoximeters Inc., CA
Authorized Instructor – Mark E. Gilmer
October 2012

Dignitary and VIP Protection and Security
Instructor & Lead Consultant – Ernest Haleck
Commissioner of Public Safety, AS
February 2014

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
Certified DRE Instructor – Vaughn Gates
California Highway Patrol (CHP), CA
December 2014

DUI and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
California Highway Patrol Academy (CHP)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
December 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

United States Navy
Great Lakes, IL
February, 1998

- United States Navy Veteran with excellent military experience.
- Qualified for the Navy College Fund for scoring more than 50% on the ASVAB.
- Served in coherence with military practices and exhibited honor, and dedication.
- Accustomed to teamwork and commitment to excellence.
- Accustomed with attention to detail no matter how small.
- Perform night watch in assigned areas.
- Strong emotional intelligence and committed to successfully handling stress in high-pressure situations.
- Strong technical and critical thinking skills with commitment to safety, security and defense.

Police Sergeant / Supervisor
Department of Public Safety, AS
1999 -2015

- Experienced police supervisor with 16 years of experience in law enforcement, and first responder.
- Overall experience in working hand in hand with Marine Patrol to protect marine resources, coastal property, and the public; enforcing applicable laws; and investigating complaints and incidents.
- Standard experience in performing CPR, and other basic first aid procedures when necessary.
- Standard experience in working with firemen in extinguishing fires using water hoses and securing the scene.
- Adept at planning, performing personnel management and operation management.

- Outstanding honesty, leadership and problem-solving abilities.
- Review and approved criminal and traffic cases before submitting to the Attorney General for disposition and prosecution.
- Well-versed with officer safety and use of force principles.
- Well-versed with interview and interrogation techniques.
- Well-versed with Traffic enforcement and Patrol procedures
- Expert skills in report writing, evidence handling and conflict resolution.
- Strong knowledge in crime scene investigation
- Strong knowledge with Police Community Relations.
- Experienced with drug enforcement and investigation.
- Known for having patience, professionalism and self-assurance when interacting with different personalities.

Police Academy Instructor

Department of Public Safety, AS

2012 – Present

- Experienced police academy instructor for more than 10 years of teaching and training police officers.
- Well-versed with Titles: 22, and 46 of the American Samoa Code Annotated.
- Certified instructor responsible for training police officers to become police motorcycle operators.
- Certified to train police officers on conducting DUI investigations.
- Strong knowledge with the criminal law and procedures.
- Strong knowledge with the procedures for making traffic stops.
- Expert witness for operation and calibration of Breathalyzer machines.
- Expert witness for operation and calibration of LIDAR and Radar devices.
- Proficient with Courtroom testimony.
- Proficient with the legal environment of law enforcement.
- Proficient with Ethics, Integrity, and Professionalism.

Presiding Bishop

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Auto Ward, AS

2014 – 2019

- Served 5 years as Bishop for the Auto Ward in the Pago Pago Stake.
- Spiritual leader: Teaches, inspires, and sets an example for the ward members. Also help members follow Jesus Christ and live the gospel.
- Financial officer: Oversees the ward's finances, including records and reports.
- Welfare assistance: Helps members who are struggling financially or in other ways to become self-reliant.
- Meetinghouse: Oversees the meetinghouse where members meet.

- **Ward organization:** Coordinates the work of the Elders Quorum and Relief Society presidencies.
- **Priesthood preparation:** Helps men prepare to be ordained to priesthood offices.
- **Temple and family history:** Coordinates the ward's efforts in temple and family history work.
- **Temple Recommend preparation:** Helps members prepare to receive a temple recommend and temple ordinances.
- **Family prayer:** Encourages families to participate in regular family prayer and learn the gospel together.
- **Ward youth:** Responsible for caring for the youth of the ward.

Criminal Justice Instructor

American Samoa Community College, AS

2015 – Present

- Educated Criminal Justice Instructor with 9 years of academic experience.
- Develop and deliver lectures and coursework on various criminal justice topics.
- Prepare and grade assignments, exams, and projects.
- Participate in faculty meetings, committees, and professional development activities.
- Collaborate with colleagues to enhance the quality of the criminal justice program.
- Overall understanding of the Criminal Justice System, its Core Components, and the interrelationship between each component.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing regarding legal matters.
- Strong knowledge of evidence and proof, reasonable doubt, and finding guilt.
- Strong knowledge of the Exclusionary Rule and the Law of Search and Seizure.
- Strong knowledge of the Bill of Rights and strictly with the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments.
- Strong knowledge of the evidential burden of proof in criminal and civil cases.
- Conversant with the legal surroundings of the famous landmark cases in the U.S.

AFFILIATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- One of the first 5 police officers out of the 21ST Police Academy consisting of 83 recruits to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant.
- Graduated at top 5 of the graduating class for police motorcycle instructor course in Ypsilanti, Michigan.
- Graduated from the motorcycle operators course held at OMV at top of the class.
- Written the hazardous pay policy and procedure for operating a police motorcycle with the Department of Public Safety.
- Oversee and managed police checkpoints and road blocks during national campaign saturation enforcements.

- Exposed to many law enforcement agencies in the United States as an observer, advisor, and participant.
- Recognized for outstanding leadership in the “Driver Sober and Get Pulled Over” holiday enforcement national campaign 2012
- Recognized for valuable contribution to the American Samoa Community College’s Accreditation dialogue and processes.
- Active member of the ASCC Faculty Senate Committee.
- Served as Financial Auditor for the Pago Pago Samoa Stake to review financial information to confirm it’s accurate and complies with church regulations.
- Facilitator for the multi-stake youth conference held on July 12-17, 2011 at the Veteran’s Memorial Stadium in Tafuna.
- Active member of the “Village Aumaga” to include the villages of (Auto, Amaua, Avaio, Alega).
- In 2021, was given the matai title “Matui” of the Malepeai family in Faga’itua.
- Active member of the village council responsible for putting offenders behind bars.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

- License Carpenter, American Samoa Government, AS
- Certified Computer Aided Drafter (Auto CAD), CCOC San Jose, CA 1996
- Certified Welder, CCOC San Jose, CA, 1996
- Landscaping Certified, San Jose Job Corps, CA 1996

REFERENCES:

Bishop Fanolua Toilolo
Auto Ward, Pago Pago Samoa Stake
Pago Pago, AS
 (684) 272-3207

Hon. Representative Luaitaua Gene Pan
House of Representative, Sua District #5
Government of American Samoa
saigahman@yahoo.com
 (684) 252-1757 / (684) 782-7301

Mr. Alailepule Henry Va’apuu
Village Mayor: Auto, Amaua, Avaio, Alega
Government of American Samoa
 (684) 254-5446

Dr. Siaumaua Ropeti
Dean of Academic Affairs
American Samoa Community College
Government of American Samoa
s.ropeti@amsamoa.edu

Mrs. Mitzie Jessop-Taase
Senate Counsel, American Samoa Fono
Government of American Samoa
mitziejessop@hotmail.com , mitziejasag@gmail.com

Tusi Fa'amaoniga mo Utumoe Alefosio

Novema 1, 2024

Talofa lava,

E ia te a'u le ava ma le fa'aaloalo tele e ave'a ai le au'auna e fai ma fa'amaoniga o le tautua o Epikopo Utumoe Alefosio. E amata le ma mafutaga ma Utumoe talu mai taimi a'o talavou o ia. O ia o se tagata e ta'alo i so'o se ta'alogā, ma sa tele o le taimi o lona olaga e mafuta ai ma lo'u atali'i matua o Samaeli. Sa ou molimauina lava o ia o se ali'i e lelei tele e fai ma fa'ataitaiga lelei mo isi tupulaga talavou.

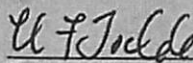
Ua ave'a nei o ia o se tagata matua, o ia o se tagata alofa ma fa'amaoni i so'o se tuite lava sa galue ai o ia. Sa tautua fa'amaoni o ia i le faleleoleo i le tele o tausaga, ma sa fa'aaloaloga o ia e le tele o tagata.

O ia o se tagata e malosi lana molimau i le Talalelei a le Atua. E galue fa'amaoni fo'i o ia i so'o se tiute ma valaauga i totonu o si o matou uarota i Auto. Sa ave'a fo'i o ia ma epikopo lelei a si matou uarota i ni tausaga ua mavae.

Ou te talitonu o ia o se tagata agava'a tele e ave'a ma se ta'ita'i lelei mo le faigamalo fou a Pula ma Pulu. O lea, ou te lagolagoina ai o ia ina ia ave'a e fai ma komesina o le faleleoleo o le malo o Amerika Samoa.

Fa'amolemole, a iai se fesili fa'afeso'ota'i mai le numera lea, 272-3207, mo se fa'amatalaga auili'ili.

Ma le fa'aaloalo tele fa'afetai.



Epikopo Fanolua Toilolo
Uarota i Auto, Pago Pago Samoa Stake

Lua'itaua Gene Pan
House Representative, District 5
Lauli'i 3489
Sua County
Pago Pago AS 96799
saiqahman@yahoo.com (684)782-7301

November 2, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

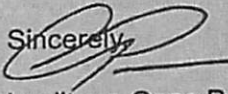
It is with great pleasure that I recommend Bishop Utumoe Alefosio for a leadership position within the new administration. Bishop Alefosio has dedicated over 15 years of service as a law enforcement professional, consistently demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of those in need. In addition to his career in law enforcement, he has devoted considerable time and energy to supporting youth and families within our village and broader community.

Bishop Alefosio is a true servant-leader who leads by example and inspires those around him through his actions. His superior skills in communication, problem-solving, and de-escalation tactics have been critical in fostering trust and cooperation within the communities he has served. These attributes, combined with his deep sense of duty and integrity, make him uniquely qualified to take on the challenges and responsibilities of a leadership role in the new administration.

I am confident that Bishop Alefosio would excel as the Police Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, where his experience, dedication, and vision would undoubtedly make a significant impact. His ability to connect with people from all walks of life and his commitment to public service position him as an outstanding candidate for this role.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss Bishop Alefosio's qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (252) 1757 or (782) 7301. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Lua'itaua Gene Pan
House Representative, District 5

Alailepule Henry Va'apuu
Village Mayor: Auto, Amaua, Avaio, Alega
Government of American Samoa
(684) 254-5446

12/3/2024

Dear ASG,

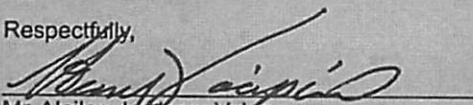
I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Utumoe Alefosio in support of his application for the Police Commissioner position. As a dedicated community leader and Mayor for the villages of Auto, Amaua, Avaio, and Alega, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Alefosio over 7 years and have witnessed firsthand his excellent work ethics, leadership capabilities, and commitment to excellence.

He is a very active member of our village aumaga who participate in standing watch during village curfews, facilitate youth activities, and gives great advise during our village council and meetings. Whenever there's a commotion or disorder in the village, he would always respond with assistance and concern for the safety of our village people. He approaches every task with careful attention to detail and a deep sense of responsibility, guaranteeing that outcomes are not only effective but also impactful.

These qualities make him very well-suited for the responsibilities of a Police Commissioner role. I therefore humbly endorse Mr. Utumoe Alefosio for this position with our new administration.

Please feel free to contact me at 254-5446 if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,


Mr. Alailepule Henry Va'apuu
Village Mayor: Auto, Amaua, Avaio, Alega



American Samoa Community College
Division of Academics, Community & Student Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs

Letter of Reference for Utumoe Alefosio

To Whom It May Concern:

12/02/24

This reference letter confirms invaluable support for Mr. Utumoe Alefosio who is seeking employment with you. I have worked with Utumoe both as his colleague for many years, and now his supervisor for 5 years. Mr. Alefosio is currently working as a Criminal Justice instructor at ASCC, he has thorough and meticulous knowledge of his content and executes it with passion to students he serves.

Utumoe Alefosio brings with him years of experience after serving the community as a police officer for countless years. As his supervisor, he is a very respectable person exhibiting reasonable and practical judgement and arbitration concerning his students and people he works with. He is very vocal about issues and trends he feels will benefit students in his department as well as the whole institution.

Thank you for considering Mr. Utumoe Alefosio for the position, I am certain he will uphold this position with integrity and will become an asset to the American Samoa government. I am confident your selection of Mr. Utumoe Alefosio will result in the vibrant and essential progress of the people in American Samoa

Sincerely

Dr. Siamaua Eliapo Kopeti
Dean of Academics
American Samoa Community College