

**39TH LEGISLATURE
1ST REGULAR SESSION**

(ADMIN/BY REQ)

**S.R. NO. 39-08
IN THE SENATE**

28 JANUARY 2025

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

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

SUBJECT:

CONFIRMATION—DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SUMMARY:

This resolution confirms the Governor’s appointment of Dr. Saipale Fuimaono as the Director of the Department of Public Health.

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	WITHDRAWN			

S.R. NO. 39-08
INTRODUCED BY: [Signature]

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“A SENATE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE GOVERNOR’S
NOMINATION OF DR. SAIPALE FUIMAONO AS DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.”

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 23, 2025, to the Tualo Manaia E. Fruean,
President of the Senate, Governor Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula, submitted
the name of Dr. Saipale Fuimaono to the Legislature, pursuant to
sections 4.0111(b) and 4.0112(a)(f), A.S.C.A., for confirmation as
Director of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, in his letter the Governor stated in part:

“...I hereby submit my appointment of Dr. Saipale Fuimaono as
Director of the Department of Public Health.

I respectfully request that you and your colleagues review his
nomination and confirm him as Director of the Department of Public
Health.”

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

THAT, the nomination of Dr. Saipale Fuimaono as Director of the Department of
Public Health is hereby confirmed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to
transmit this resolution to the Honorable Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula, Governor of
American Samoa; and a copy to Dr. Saipale Fuimaono.

NOFOA'IGA TOLUSEFULU-IVA
FONO TELE MUAMUA

(TALOSAGA/KOVANA)

IMM NU. 39-08
I LE MAOTA MAUALUGA

28 JANUARY 2025

FA'AULUFALEINA E: Senatoa Tuoalo M. Fruean, Itumalo - 6

TU'UINA ATU I LE KOMITI:

MATA'UPU:

FAAMAONIGA— FAATONUSILI, MATAGALUEGA O LE SOIFUA MALOLOINA

'OTO'OTOGA:

O lenei i'ugafono e faamaonia ai le tofiga a le Kovana o Dr. Saipale Fuimaono e avea ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina.

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

I.M.M. NU. 39-08
FAAULUFALEINA E. 

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“O SE I’UGAFONO A LE MAOTA MAUALUGA E FAAMAONIA AI LE TOFIGA A LE KOVANA IA DR. SAIPALE FUIMAONO E AVEA MA FAATONUSILI O LE MATAGALUEGA O LE SOIFUA MALOLOINA.”

TALUAI, i lana tusi ia Ianuari 23, 2025, i le Afioga ia Tualo Manaia Fruean, Peresetene o le Maota Mauualuga, na faao’o atu ai e le afioga i le Kovana, Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula, le suafa o Dr. Saipale Fuimaono i le Fonofaitulafono, e tusa ai ma le maga 4.0111(e) ma 4.0112(a)(f) T.T.A.S, mo le faamaoniga e avea ai ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina; ma

TALUAI, i se vaega o lana tusi, na faapea mai ai le afioga i le Kovana:
“...ua ou faao’o atu la’u tofiga o le susuga ia Dr. Saipale Fuimaono e avea ma Faatonusili mo le Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina.
Ou te faatalosagaina ma le fa’aaloalo lau afioga ma le maota ina ia iloilo ma faamaonia o ia e avea ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina .”

O LENEI, O LE MEA LEA, IA FAAI’UGAFONOINA AI E LE MAOTA MAUALUGA O LE TERITORI O AMERIKA SAMOA:

E FAAPEA, ua faamaonia nei le tofiga o le susuga ia Dr. Saipale Fuimaono e avea ma Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina; ma

IA TOE FAAI’UGAFONOINA FOI, e faapea, e talosagaina le Failautusi o le Maota Mauualuga e faaoo atu lenei i’ugafono i le Afioga ia Pulaali’i Nikolao Pula, Kovana o Amerika Samoa; ma se kopi i le susuga ia Dr. Saipale Fuimaono.

----- IUGA -----



Saipale

FUIMAONO, MAT, MBBS

CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Dear Governor Elect Pula,

I am writing to express my interest in applying for the position of Director of Health for American Samoa. My love for the people of American Samoa drives my desire to continue expanding and improving health services across the territory.

Since 2012, I have had the honor of serving as the Clinical Director of the Community Health Center, where I have been deeply involved in the development, management, and expansion of primary health services for the people of American Samoa. The Community Health Centers began with one pilot site in Tafuna and I was fortunate to be a part of the management team that expanded the services and capacity at the health center to what it is today. There are now seven service delivery sites, the addition of both lab and pharmacy services, and the inclusion of the CHC (Federally Qualified Community Health Center) as a Medicaid participant. I have worked tirelessly to ensure equitable access to quality care for all, nonresidents included. My role as a physician, and as the Clinical Director has given me a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within our healthcare system.

I have been designated as the Acting Medical Director during the COVID-19 response, where I helped lead the medical and public health efforts during a time of unprecedented challenge. I served as a member of the COVID-19 Task Force where I advised on the executive level decision and planning that managed the impact of COVID-19 on the Territory. This experience provided me with invaluable leadership experience in crisis management and emergency response which further strengthened my ability to coordinate and mobilize resources for the health and safety of our population.

Furthermore, as a member of the Council of Advisors for the Director of Health, I have had the opportunity to work closely with key stakeholders to advise on health policies and strategies to address the evolving needs of our people. I am confident that my background, leadership experience, and dedication to the community make me a strong candidate for this position.

I am committed to promoting health equity, advancing public health initiatives, and ensuring that our healthcare system is resilient, responsive, and accessible to all. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing efforts to enhance the health and well-being of the people of American Samoa.

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684-770-1069

 Dec 11, 2024

SAIPALE FUIMAONO, MAT, MBBS

(684)770-1069

PO Box 1141, Pago Pago, AS 96799

sfuim6@yahoo.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated and compassionate healthcare professional with over 20 years of expertise in leading Public Health initiatives, healthcare management, policy development. Proven success in strategic planning, clinical leadership, and implementing health programs that improve population health outcomes. Over 30 years of experience providing exceptional care to the people of American Samoa.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Public Health Leadership
- Healthcare Administration
- Health Policy & Program Development
- Team Building & Staff Development
- Regulatory Compliance & Risk Management
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Community Health Engagement
- Crisis Management & Emergency Preparedness
- Budgeting & Financial Oversight
- Strategic Planning & Execution

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Director
American Samoa Department of Health

Community Health Center - (Federally Qualified Community Health Centers)
2012 – Present

- Lead the overall management and strategic direction of the Community Health Center, improving health outcomes for the population served by the American Samoa Community Health Centers.
- Develop and implement health policies in collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies.
- Manage budgets of up to \$3 million, ensuring efficient allocation of resources for clinical services.
- Spearhead public health campaigns addressing critical issues such as disease prevention, maternal health, and chronic diseases.
- Lead multidisciplinary teams, fostering professional development and ensuring high performance.

Key Achievements:

- Oversaw the development of local medical procedures and protocols of response plans for 6 outbreaks between 2016-2020.
- **Increased the number of physicians** to provide health care services to the underserved community.
- Advocated and implemented **Medicaid funding** to the patients serviced at the Community Health Centers, resulting in provision of **free health care services** to the all patients.
- Opening of new **satellite pharmacy** at the Tafuna Health Center to better serve the patients on the western side of Tutuila.
- Adding of new **Access Points** of care to the Community Health Centers (FQHC) to include clinics in **Amouli, Leone, Ta'u and Ofu**.
- Opening of the new **inpatient Mental Health** facility in Fagaalu (2015).
- Added new **Access Points** at **Fagaalu and Aunuu** to the Community Health Centers.
- Lead Clinical Team during the Health Resources Services Administration Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Operational Site Visits in 2017 and 2019 lifting BPHC compliance restrictions on CHC.
- CHC achieved a three year funding cycle (from 1 year to 3 year funding periods).
- Expanded Services for Behavioral Health added to approved Scope of Services at the CHC.
- **Approved CLIA (Clinical Lab Improvement Amendments) Certification** for the Tafuna Health Center Laboratory (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services).
- Advocate, plan and implemented **Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)** program treatment program at the Community Health Center.
- Implemented **NEW 340B** federal drug pricing program to provide free Bicillin and discounted medication for all CHC patients.

Acting Medical Director of Health

Department of Health

2012-2022

- Served as spokesperson at COVID-19 Task Force Meetings.
- Assisted in overseeing health initiatives and departmental operations to promote community health.
- Analyzed health data and trends to recommend policy changes and allocate resources accordingly.
- Coordinated with health professionals and local agencies to ensure the effective delivery of health services.

Key Achievements:

- Leading the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Campaign December 2019.
- Lead clinical planning and Implementation of the American Samoa Repatriation in Jan - April 2020 bringing home stranded residents from Hawaii and mainland US.

- Lead DOH Medical Team in the COVID-19 preparedness, repatriation, and outbreak response efforts in February 2021.
- The Samoan medical provider for the mental health assessments for all patients under civil commitment (within the criminal justice system).
- Played a pivotal role in the response to communicable disease outbreaks including H1N1, Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, Measles, and COVID-19, coordinating medical emergency response efforts.
- Initiated strategic planning for Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention in American Samoa.
- Signed Non-Communicable Diseases joint resolution with Samoa to address NCD's in both island groups.

Communicable Disease Clinical Director

Department of Health

Communicable Disease Division

2006 -2024

- Managed daily operations of Public Health Communicable Disease programs, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Provide medical screening, diagnosis, treatment and referral for patients at the Communicable Disease (Physical) clinic.
- Managed and coordinated clinical outpatient follow up and case management for Hansen's Disease, STD, Tuberculosis, HIV, Lymphatic Filariasis including drug resistant TB.
- Collaborated with healthcare providers at LBJ Tropical Medical Center to address public health issues and improve patient care delivery.

Key Achievements:

- Multiple studies and surveys on Lymphatic Filariasis published (list).
- Reached low prevalence of microfilaria in American Samoa after multiple Mass Drug Administrations (precursor to elimination).
- Hosted successful PITCA Conference in 2023 for all US Affiliated Pacific Island Jurisdictions.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

University of South Pacific, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji Islands – 1997

Master of Arts Teaching Biology (MAT)

Notre Dame De Namur University, Belmont California – 1990

3. *Resume S. Fuimaono*

Bachelor of Science

Notre Dame De Namur University, Belmont California – 1984

CERTIFICATIONS

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Certified
 - Medical Officer Review Certification (Drug Testing)
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Pacific Islands Primary Care Association - Member
 - Pacific Islands Tuberculosis Controllers Association – Member
 - American Samoa Medical and Dental Association - Member
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SKILLS


- Proficient in clinical care for pediatrics.
 - Clinical management of communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases.
 - Exceptional health communication and public speaking abilities in Samoan and English.
 - Strong negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
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PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Cost-effectiveness analysis of a cluster-randomized, culturally tailored, community health worker home-visiting diabetes intervention versus standard care in American Samoa. *Human resources for health, 2019*
 - Prevalence and risk factors associated with lymphatic filariasis in American Samoa after mass drug administration, *Tropical medicine and health, 2017*
 - Detecting and confirming residual hotspots of lymphatic filariasis transmission in American Samoa 8 years after stopping mass drug administration, *2017 PLoS neglected tropical diseases*
 - Leptospirosis in American Samoa 2010: epidemiology, environmental drivers, and the management of emergence, *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene, 2010.*
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LANGUAGES

- English (Fluent)
- [Samoan] (Fluent)



Saipale

FUIMAONO, MAT, MBBS

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