



Proclamation

Each year, more than 60,000 American Samoans gather throughout the South Pacific to celebrate the day the first American flag was flown over Tutuila: April 17, 1900. This year marks the 109th anniversary of American Samoa becoming a territory of the United States, and the 44th year this event has been celebrated in Hawai'i.

The people of Hawai'i and Samoa have shared strong bonds of friendship since Samoans first arrived on O'ahu in 1919, and many Samoan customs have become a part of our islands' cultural heritage. For the past nine decades, Samoans have played an active role in their communities and made many significant contributions to our islands.

Nuu O Samoa I Hawai'i ma America – U.S.A., a nonprofit organization established in 2007, is celebrating Samoan Heritage Week from April 12 – 18, 2009. The purpose of this week is to remember the contributions of the Samoan people to the development and growth of Hawai'i, as well as thank the 50th state for welcoming Samoans into its 'ohana. Throughout the week, there will be various commemorative events held on 'Oahu, including a flag raising ceremony on April 17.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 12 - 18, 2009**, as

SAMOAN HERITAGE WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to join the Samoan community in celebrating this meaningful occasion.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighth day of April 2009.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i