

For Official Release
PR 01-05032023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
May 3, 2023



Secretary Raimondo's Governor Roundtable Meeting



The Honorable Governor Lemanu Mauga joined a roundtable meeting with the US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo (standing) and Governors from other states and territories.

The Governors' Roundtable Meeting with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo was held on May 3rd, 2023, and was well attended by more than twenty Governors from States and U.S. Territories.

The conference meeting was an opportunity for the Governor of American Samoa to share about relevant issues facing the territory today, and learn from other State Governors on how they are tackling similar challenges. During the roundtable meeting, the Honorable Lemanu highlighted the

unique challenges that American Samoa faces as a remote U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean. One of the critical issues facing American Samoa is its remote location, which presents multiple challenges to the territory's economic advancement and infrastructure development. At the conference, Honorable Lemanu emphasized the need to make American Samoa the US Pacific hub for technology, healthcare, education, and economic trade.

Governor Lemanu commended his fellow Territorial Governors for their efforts to boost economic growth and innovation. During the meeting, it was noted that permitting and immigration were among the key issues discussed. Additionally, the Honorable Governor mentioned that American Samoa has its own immigration system.

This process is distinct from the US Federal immigration policies, and a permit is required to enter American Samoa for work or residency purposes. It was clarified in the meeting that American Samoa maintains exclusive control over its immigration and residency policies. The American Samoa government has initiated various infrastructural investments with the ultimate goal for American Samoa to be a US Pacific regional hub in healthcare, education, information technology and overall economic trade.

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Mr. Jasjit Singh, Executive Director of SelectUSA greets Governor Lemanu at the roundtable meeting with Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo.



(Left to Right): Assistant Director of Commerce Michael McDonald, Governor's Chief of Staff Loa Tauapa'i Tuimavave, the Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, SelectUSA Executive Director Jasjit Singh, American Samoa Director of Commerce Petti Matila