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Department of Human Resources Launches 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program

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On June 26, 2023, the Department of Human Resources held an official opening ceremony of the highly anticipated Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), organized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Division. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga delivered the keynote address at the ceremony.

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration is a strong advocate for youth development and opportunities, and Governor Lemanu conveyed their full support towards the SYEP program. “The SYEP holds immense promise in fostering the growth and potential of our youth. Lieutenant Governor Talauega and I are committed to empowering them with valuable experiences and shaping a brighter future for the next generation,” Governor Lemanu remarked. He commended the Department of Human Resources and Director Lynn Alaimalo for their dedication to nurture the talent and potential of the youth through the sustained hosting of the SYEP year after year.

Governor Lemanu directly addressed the youth, highlighting the importance of discerning private and public entities as an important factor in their future development. He stated, “Throughout your participation in this program, may you acquire a deep understanding of the existing dynamics between government and private entities. These realms hold great significance for your future endeavors.” Governor Lemanu continued, “This year's theme, ‘Tulitulumatagau ina ia fa’aa’upegaina,’ which means to continuously strive and pursue to be well prepared and equipped. It is our hope that you embrace this initiative to pursue your goals.

Furthermore, Governor Lemanu advised the worksite supervisors to provide effective mentorship to the youth throughout their participation, and expressed his gratitude for their involvement. He stated, “I’d like to thank all the departments, agencies, organizations, and private businesses involved for offering invaluable opportunities to the youth, enabling them to gain firsthand experience in the workforce.”

The SYEP, organized by DHR in collaboration with government departments and agencies, local businesses and organizations, is an eight-week program that offers an incredible opportunity for youth to gain essential skills, explore potential career paths, and cultivate a strong work ethic during the summer break. DHR Director Alaimalo announced that this year’s summer program will host 1,000 youth participants.

The program is designed to provide young participants, aged 16-21, with hands-on experience across various industries, enabling them to develop critical professional skills while earning income. Participants will have the chance to engage in meaningful work, mentorship opportunities, and workshops that promote personal and career development. They have already been assigned worksites during registration, and their first day of work begins today.

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