



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 010 – 2023

**AN ORDER AMENDING THE AMERICAN SAMOA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN SAMOA INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN AND
REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER 004 – 2016**

Section 1: Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7 of the American Samoa Revised Constitution and the American Samoa Code Annotated, §4.0111.

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Government aims to protect the marine and terrestrial resources of the Territory and associated habitat to promote sustainable use of these resources and to foster the Fa'aSamoa; and

WHEREAS, scientific research indicates that these resources and their associated habitats are under threat from invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the globalization of trade and travel have promoted the movement of these species; and

WHEREAS, global and regional climate change has enhanced the transport and proliferation of these species; and

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that these invasive species can alter species biodiversity, natural biological ecosystems, and ecological cycles; and

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that these alterations threaten forestry, agriculture, fisheries, public health, and therefore food and economic security; and

WHEREAS, several established invasive species have already affected the resources in the Territory; and

WHEREAS, the movement and proliferation of invasive species needs to be prevented, managed, and monitored through a territorial plan and an advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa, as an island territory, faces threats in dealing with invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of an advisory committee and action plan to deal with the threats of invasive species will: (1) increase awareness of their threats; (2) initiate cooperation to prevent and minimize their impacts; and (3) improve decision making through the sharing of experiences, data, and expertise.

Section 3: Purpose

The purpose of this Executive Order is to create the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee (“Committee”) and the American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan (“Action Plan”). Set forth herein shall be the responsibilities and duties of the Committee and the contents of the Action Plan

Section 4: Creation of the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee; purposes, duties, responsibilities, and membership

- a. This Executive Order creates the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee;
- b. The purpose of the Committee is to provide leadership, coordination, and direction for invasive species prevention, control, and eradication in American Samoa.
- c. The membership of the Committee shall be composed of at least one member from:
 - Office of the Governor
 - Office of Samoan Affairs
 - American Samoa Community College Land Grant
 - Department of Treasury (Customs Division)
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Port Administration
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - American Samoa Historic Preservation Office
 - American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
 - Department of Public Works
 - American Samoa Power Authority
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
 - American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
 - Governor’s Biodiversity Conservation Office
 - Governor’s Resilience Office
- d. The Committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair for 2-year terms.
- e. A quorum of eight (8) members is necessary to hold a meeting and vote on decisions. Decisions shall be made by majority vote.

- f. The Committee may seek technical assistance from relevant federal and regional agencies, educational institutions, and NGOs, including but not limited to:

Natural Resources Conservation Service/ United States Department of
Agriculture
National Park of American Samoa
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Coast Guard
National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
Ridge to Reefs
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of Insular Affairs

- g. The Committee shall be responsible for the creation and implementation of the Action Plan.
- h. The committee may review and evaluate invasive species management efforts and provide letters of support for the invasive species project proposals of government agencies and other organizations.
- i. The Committee shall seek funding through grants. Local government agencies, programs, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply for invasive project funding when applicable. All of these entities are encouraged to coordinate funding request to pull the Territory in the best position to be awarded funding and maximize utilization of those resources.
- j. The Committee may establish subcommittees and working groups as it deems necessary, including but not limited to marine, terrestrial, education, and outreach.
- k. The Committee or its subcommittees shall meet at least once every six (6) months.

Section 5: American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan

- a. This Executive Order calls for the creation of the American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan.
- b. The Action Plan shall provide the framework and principles to manage invasive species. It may contain the general approaches to prevent, control, monitor and manage the spread of invasive species in collaboration with its partners. Respective partners who obtain funding for their invasive projects are responsible for the method(s) and consultation used to carry out their projects in accordance with the Action Plan.
- c. The Action Plan shall include an education and outreach component to solicit the views and recommendations of relevant stakeholders for projects funded by this Committee (as applicable).

- d. The Action Plan should consider compatibility with relevant state, national, regional, and international conventions and strategies and coordinate its efforts with those programs and strategies when appropriate and relevant to American Samoa.
- e. The Action Plan shall contain a monitoring and evaluation system to evaluate its implementation and must be adaptable to address future issues and scenarios involving invasive species.
- f. The Action Plan shall include lists of invasive species currently established in American Samoa as well as lists of priority species of which to prevent introduction into the Territory.
- g. The Action Plan is an evolving document and should be amended as needed. The Committee shall review the Action Plan at least once every two (2) years.


Section 6: Repealer

Executive Order 004 – 2016 is hereby repealed.

Section 7: Effective Date

This order shall take effect immediately.

8/24/23
Date:



TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
Acting Governor of American Samoa