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GOVERNOR

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 006 - 2017**

**AN ORDER RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NEED FOR CONTINUED COMMITMENT FROM THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND, PREPARE FOR, AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS; AND A CONFIRMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO JOINING OTHER LIKE MINDED STATES IN THE UNITED STATES CLIMATE ALLIANCE.**

**Section 1: Authority**

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated § 4.0111.

**Section 2: Purpose**

This Executive Order has two purposes:

- a. To memorialize American Samoa's support for the Paris Agreement and the American Samoa Government's ("ASG") intention to honor the goals of that agreement, and to confirm American Samoa is joining the United States Climate Alliance, as the first Pacific territory to do so.
- b. The existing American Samoa Climate Change Executive Order, evidencing ASG's commitment to ameliorate climate change as promulgated in Executive Order No. 10A-2007, is ten years old and needs to be updated to account for new research and new goals in becoming self sufficient by using renewable energy to meet American Samoa's energy needs.

**Section 3: Order**

- a. The American Samoa Government supports the intent of the Paris Agreement and formally joins other like-minded states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the United States Climate Alliance.

- i. ***Support for the Paris Agreement***

The American Samoa Government finds that on December 12, 2015, one hundred

ninety-five countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted an agreement addressing greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance starting in the year 2020, known as the Paris Agreement. Under the Agreement, the parties will set greenhouse gas reduction goals, record and communicate information through a transparency mechanism, and provide support to undeveloped countries through a finance mechanism. Specifically, the Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- (a) holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- (b) increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- (c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. The Paris Agreement was adopted on November 4, 2016, and is the largest concerted global effort to combat climate change to date. Regardless of federal action, the American Samoa Government supports the goals of the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and its effects on environments, economies, and communities around the world.

Therefore, the purpose of this section is to document the Territory's commitment to combat climate change by systematically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving our resiliency to climate change aligned with the principles and contributing to the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

The Territory recognizes that to promote a statewide response to climate change collaboration and cooperation are needed in:

- (a) early warning systems;
- (b) emergency preparedness;
- (c) slow onset events;
- (d) events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage;
- (e) comprehensive risk assessment and management;
- (f) risk insurance facilities, climate risk pooling, and other insurance solutions;
- (g) non-economic losses; and
- (h) resilience of communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

ii. ***American Samoa joins the US Climate Alliance***

The American Samoa Government hereby joins other like-minded states in the United States Climate Alliance, led by the governors of Washington, New York, and California. As a remote island territory, American Samoa strongly believes in the power of alliances and partnerships to address complex issues such as climate change.

- b. American Samoa affirms its commitment to removing dependence on fossil fuels by shifting to renewable energy sources.

***American Samoa Government supports the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee's adopted a goal of having 50% of American Samoa's energy come from renewable energy resources by 2025 and 100% by 2040.***

- (a) The Territory shall expand strategies and mechanisms to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions territory wide through the reduction of energy use, adoption of renewable energy, and control of air pollution among all agencies, departments, industries, and sectors, including transportation. Such strategies and mechanisms shall utilize the best available science, technologies, and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shall be closely aligned with the climate change principles and goals adopted in the Paris Agreement and American Samoa's share of obligations within the expectations apportioned to the United States in the Paris Agreement, regardless of federal action.
- (b) The Territory shall strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and shall take actions to conserve and enhance long-term sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, by prioritizing the conservation of native upland and coastal forests, wetlands, coral reefs, and restoration of such degraded habitats.
- (c) The Territory recognizes the extensive work completed by the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee, which has created a comprehensive energy plan entitled, 2016 American Samoa Energy Action Plan. The American Samoa Government hereby formally adopts and supports this plan as a detailed pathway to achieving the aforementioned energy independence goals.

**Section 4: Effective date and supersession.**

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its execution by the Governor, and where in conflict with any previous Executive Order the terms of the previous Order are superseded by those herein.

**Dated:** September 20th, 2017

*Lolo M. Moliga*

**LOLO M. MOLIGA**  
Governor