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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 12, 2016

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 004-2016**

**AN ORDER CREATING THE AMERICAN SAMOA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN SAMOA INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN**

**Section 1: Authority**

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7, 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 in order to promote sustainable use of these resources and to foster the Fa'a Samoa; and,

WHEREAS, scientific research indicates that these resources are under threat from invasive species;

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, American Samoa as an island territory, like the other island states in the South Pacific, faces the same threats and situation in dealing with invasive species;

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) inspire 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 3. Creation of the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee; purposes, duties, responsibilities, and membership**

- a. This Executive Order creates the Committee;
- b. The membership of the Committee shall be composed of at least one member from: Department of Marine and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, American Samoa Community College Land Grant, American Samoa Customs Division.
- c. Relevant federal and regional agencies may provide technical assistance as seen fit by this Committee.
- d. The Committee shall be responsible for the creation and implementation of the Action Plan.
- e. The initial budget for the Committee shall be provided by a grant from the Department of Interior.
- f. The Committee may establish subcommittees as it deems necessary.
- g. The Committee shall meet at least once every 2 months.

### **Section 4. American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan**


- a. This Executive Order calls for the creation of the Action Plan.
- b. The Action Plan shall provide the framework and principles to deal with invasive species. It shall contain the general approaches to control the spread of invasive species and will specify actions to be taken by the Committee and its partners.
- c. The Action Plan shall include an education and outreach component to solicit the views and recommendations of relevant stakeholders.
- d. The Action Plan shall be compatible with relevant state, national, regional and international conventions and strategies and coordinate its efforts with those programs and strategies when appropriate.

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.

**Section 5. Effective Date**

This order shall take effect upon the date of signature.

Dated: December ~~13th~~, 2016.



Lemanu P. Mauga  
Lt. Governor of American Samoa  
(Acting Governor)