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Folafolaga - American Samoa

On this historic day of August 21, 2014, we mark the landing of the Hōkūle'a in the Territory of American Samoa. The people of the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u, Manu'a and Swains, extend a warm welcome to the va'a Hōkūle'a, Tautai Nainoa Thompson and to its crew. We extend to you warmest Samoan welcome to our shores. You have bravely navigated vast distances of the Pacific Ocean and other oceans of the world. You have emulated the spirit of voyaging and exploration of our common Polynesian ancestors. We welcome you, the descendants of our ancestors, back to one of your ancient island homes. You are part of the Samoan family. We also extend a warm welcome to Mr. Daniel J. Basta of NOAA, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer, National Geographic Society - Mission Blue; Jean-Michel Cousteau, Oceanographer, Ocean Future's Society; Jim Bacon, Superintendent, National Park of American Samoa, and friends that you have brought with you who share your vision of caring for each other and for the natural and cultural environment.

The American Samoa Government and its people honor the hard work and vision of the Hōkūle'a Voyaging Society, its members and founders, which has brought people in the Pacific and around the world closer together. The Society's mission statement and proven voyaging successes is enough to inspire the revival or creation of voyaging societies around the world, including here in American Samoa.

Founded on a legacy of Pacific Ocean exploration, the Polynesian Voyaging Society seeks to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging and the spirit of exploration through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their communities to respect and care for themselves, each other, and their natural and cultural environments.

We, the American Samoa Government and its people, now join the family of the world whom Hōkūle'a has inspired and declare our commitment to care for each other and the natural and cultural environments within which we live. We acknowledge the need to be good stewards of each other and of our natural and cultural environments for the sake of the longevity of our Samoan Culture and way of life. We thank Hōkūle'a and its crew and its public and private sponsors for bringing this message of hope and inspiration to our shores.

In Honor Of The First Visit Of Hōkūle'a And Its Crew To American Samoa
And The Vision Of The Hōkūle'a Voyaging Society

LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA
GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Date: July 14, 2014