

Lemanu P.S. Mauga
Governor



Talauega E.V. Ale
Lieutenant Governor

PROCLAMATION

2021 NATIONAL WIC BREASTFEEDING WEEK

WHEREAS, breastfeeding remains the most natural way of feeding infants and serves as part of a foundation for life-long health and wellness; and,

WHEREAS, exclusive breastfeeding, recommended and supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, provides benefits that are not received by partially breastfed infants; and,

WHEREAS, infants receiving human milk are protected against serious long term health conditions including obesity, respiratory and ear infections, asthmas, allergies, diarrhea, childhood cancer, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and less than optimal brain development; and,

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes strong family bonds while providing economical and societal benefits through lowered health care costs; and,

WHEREAS, a united effort is needed from business, communities, governmental leaders and health care providers to support breastfeeding; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Human and Social Services, American Samoa WIC Program (ASWIC) has adopted the “2021 World Breastfeeding Week” theme – **PROTECT BREASTFEEDING: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!** Breastfeeding significantly improves the health, survival and wellbeing of infants, children and their mothers. Together, we all need to highlights the links between breastfeeding and survival, health and wellbeing of women, children and nations; and,

WHEREAS, government and businesses can ensure that working mothers have an appropriate place and reasonable break time to express breast milk for their nursing child, and communities can support existing laws that protect a mother’s right to breast-feed her child in any public location; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service and the American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services promote breastfeeding through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) as well as through other food assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to support breastfeeding in American Samoa, the ASWIC employs mothers who have breastfeeding experience as breastfeeding peer counselors to offer breastfeeding education, support, and role modeling using the Loving Support evidenced-based model as its framework; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2021, as “WIC NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING WEEK” in American Samoa and I call upon all government and business leaders and health professionals to celebrate with appropriate events and activities to acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of breastfeeding mothers, fathers, their families, the health and medical professionals and others who provide support, encouragement and help so mothers succeed with breastfeeding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of July 2021.

Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga
Governor of American Samoa

