

Establishment

In 2000, the Samoan Language Commission was established by representatives of the governmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned with the maintenance of revitalization and propagation of the Samoan language.

Its establishment was based on a resolution passed at the first international Samoan Language Conference held in Pago Pago, American Samoa August 2-4, 1999 to “affirm our determination to find ways in which we can cooperate in ensuring that our language survives and flourishes in this millennium.”

Aims or Goals:

The aims or goals of the Commission shall be:

- (a) to share ideas and information about ways in which the Samoan language in both its written and spoken form can be better maintained and promoted in the home, in education, in the media, in the arts and humanities, in the public service, in the law and in everyday life;
- (b) to share and exchange new words created in the Samoan language through the maintenance of a common database and in other ways;
- (c) to share and exchange ideas, information and experiences about the methods of expanding vocabularies, including the retrieval of words no longer used and the coining of new terms;
- (d) to share and exchange information, research and experiences about the methods of learning and teaching the Samoan language;
- (e) to share and exchange ideas, information, and experiences about producing teaching and learning materials, such as books, posters, videos and computer software, and to facilitate the adoption of such materials for use in Samoan language communities;
- (f) to promote aims or goals of the Samoan Language Commission throughout the world;
- (g) to keep the governments of the Samoan language communities informed, when necessary, of the state of the Samoan language

Objectives:

- (a) to increase the number of people who know the Samoan language by increasing the opportunities to learn Samoan;
- (b) to improve the proficiency levels of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the Samoan language;
- (c) to increase the opportunities to use the Samoan language by increasing the number of situations where Samoan can be used;
- (d) to increase the rate at which the Samoan language develops so that it can be used for the full range of modern activities;
- (e) to foster among Samoans and non-Samoans positive attitudes, accurate beliefs, and positive values about the Samoan language;
- (f) to work so that Samoan-English bilingualism becomes a valued part of Samoan communities abroad;
- (g) to encourage the use of indigenous words.