

HIGHLIGHTS OF OIA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS TO AMERICAN SAMOA IN FY 2010

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The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) has provided a substantial amount of financial assistance in the past year to assist American Samoa in a variety of areas including health, education, water, wastewater, ports, and public safety.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- A \$1.4 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) grant was awarded to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center to renovate the OB/GYN Ward. This is OIA's latest project in its effort to renovate and update the entire medical center one ward at a time to allow for continuous operation of the center.
- \$455,000 in CIP funding was awarded to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center to finish the upgrade of the electrical system. To date, OIA has awarded over \$3.5 million for this worthwhile project to bring the LBJ Tropical Medical Center electrical system into compliance with health care codes and standards.
- The design was recently completed for the extension to the Tafuna Family Health Center. OIA contributed \$401,000 to the project while the Department of Health and Human Services contributed \$773,000. The extension will create additional space for offices, a conference room, and a mental health outpatient clinic.
- A \$1.6 million CIP was awarded for the construction of two classroom buildings at the Leone High School. The new buildings will provide an additional 16 classrooms for the high school as well as a resource center for computers.
- A \$900,000 CIP grant was awarded to the Department of Port Administration for the renovation and repair of the Service Wharf at the Port of Pago Pago. The existing structure has deteriorated to such an extent that it will be uneconomical to carry out repairs. The M/V Sili (inter-island ferry) and two tug boats primarily use the Service Wharf, which is adjacent to the Main Wharf. The cost estimate for the construction phase is \$7 million. To date, OIA has allocated over \$4 million to this project while additional funding is planned for future fiscal years.
- A \$340,000 Technical Assistance (TA) grant was awarded to the American Samoa Department of Mental Health and Social Services to establish a comprehensive long term mental health program for tsunami victims.
- OIA, in partnership with NOAA, provided a grant of \$376,236 (\$50,000 from DOI; \$326,236 from NOAA) in Coral Reef Initiative funding to support a variety of projects designed to improve the management of American Samoa's coral reef ecosystems.

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