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September 3, 2025

The Hon. Stephen J. Cox
Attorney General, State of Alaska
1031 W 4th Ave #200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Attorney General Cox:

Yesterday, the Alaska Office of Special Prosecutions filed indictments against 10 American Samoan residents of Whittier, Alaska, related to their participation in recent elections. As I shared in August 20, 2025 and May 15, 2025 letters to Attorney General Treg Taylor (attached), the American Samoan community in Alaska has been caught up in a web of contradictory information from state and local officials about their voter eligibility. Further, a majority of those charged are statutory citizens based on a parent or grandparent being born stateside, and all those charged are Fourteenth Amendment citizens based on their birth on U.S. soil in American Samoa, which has been a territory of the United States for over 125 years.

The information I outlined in my August 20, 2025 shows how state and local officials have provided American Samoans contradictory information based on a lack of proper training, education, and oversight. This new information warrants dismissal of all charges.

The memo I provided in my May 15, 2025 letter explains the source of their confusion - the federal government's unconstitutional imposition of so-called "non-citizen" U.S. national status. Your duty is to follow the Constitution's command, that everyone born "in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." No federal statute can change that command.

It is also concerning the amount of departmental resources that are being devoted to these prosecutions as Alaska continues to have one of the highest rates of violent crime in the nation.

Rather than continuing to criminally target U.S. passport-holding American Samoans born on U.S. soil who work hard, pay their taxes, and volunteer in their communities, we ask that you drop all charges and focus on fixing the administration of Alaska elections. The solution here is education and outreach, not criminal prosecution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tafilisaunoa Terefoa".

Tafilisaunoa Terefoa
Executive Director, Pacific Community of Alaska

cc: Chief AAG Jenna Gruenstein, AAG Krystyn Tendy, Communications Director Patty Sullivan