



CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact: Jean Souza
808-246-2860
Jean.Souza@noaa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2014

**PRESENTATION HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA and
the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
“Cultural Respect & Community Involvement – Fogava’a e tasi i Amerika Samoa”**

This multi-media presentation and talk story will feature two key individuals who, with the community, developed a new direction for the national marine sanctuary in American Samoa. Gene Brighthouse is the Superintendent for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, and High Talking Chief Atuatasi Lelei Peau served as the Deputy Director of the American Samoa Department of Commerce during the sanctuary expansion.

Learn how territorial co-managers and sanctuary staff developed an effective village/community protocol and engaged villages, resulting in the formation of the largest of the 13 national marine sanctuaries in the U.S.

Gene Brighthouse, who is Samoan and raised in Samoa, has been Sanctuary Superintendent of the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary since 2008. Prior to that, she worked for the American Samoa Department of Commerce/American Samoa Coastal Management Program for 18 years. Mrs. Brighthouse has a Masters Degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa with an emphasis in environmental planning.

High Talking Chief Atuatasi is a ranking high chief from the village council of Fagasa; previously, he was ranking chief from Manu’a. Mr. Peau served as the Deputy Director of the American Samoa Department of Commerce, the co-management office for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. Mr. Peau holds a degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

WHAT: Presentation and Talk Story on Cultural Respect & Community Involvement-Fogava’a e tasi i Amerika Samoa

WHEN: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: King Kaumualii Elementary School Cafeteria, 4380 Hanamaulu Road, Hanamaulu

WHO: Gene Brighthouse and Atuatasi Lelei Peau

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is located in the cradle of Polynesia’s oldest culture and is thought to support the greatest diversity of marine life in the national marine sanctuary system, including a wide variety of coral and other invertebrates, fishes, turtles, marine mammals and marine plants. The sanctuary protects extensive coral reefs, including some of the oldest and largest

Porites coral heads in the world, along with deep water reefs, hydrothermal vent communities, and rare marine archaeological resources, and also encompassing important fishing grounds, the southernmost point in the U.S., and waters surrounding one of the world's smallest atolls. The sanctuary is also the only true tropical reef within the national marine sanctuary system, and is the most remote location within that system. NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries co-manages the sanctuary with the American Samoa Government and works closely with communities adjacent to the sanctuary, all within the context of Samoa cultural traditions and practices.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawai'i through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.

DLNR's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

On the Web:

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa <http://americansamoa.noaa.gov>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:

<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/>