



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ANA GRANT PROVIDES LE FETUA'O WITH NEW TECH EQUIPMENT FOR TEACHING GAGANA SAMOA

HONOLULU (Dec. 17, 2014) - Le Fetua'o Samoan Language Center has purchased a brand new tech learning lab complete with iPads, laptops, a microphone and a keyboard. The purchase of the tech equipment was made possible through a language preservation and maintenance grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

Le Fetua'o recognizes that in this digital age there is a benefit to utilizing technology to teach the Samoan language. The equipment will allow students to create their own Samoan language e-books, videos and other digital media. A partnership developed with Pacific Voices, headed by Dr. Jim Skouge and Mautumua Porotesano will provide training and technical assistance for Le Fetua'o staff.

At a blessing ceremony held on Dec. 6, Le Fetua'o Executive Director and Founder Elisapeta Tu'upo-Alaimaleata shared with students and parents that attend the A 'oga Samoa, "Technology has changed how we teach and learn language. It is just a tool to supplement learning Gagana Samoa but the success is upon you, the learner. We stand as language advocates that these tools will not only build capacity in preserving and maintaining Gagana Samoa but also bridge the gap between home and school learning."

Fepulea'i Lasei Dr. John Mayer congratulated the Samoan community in Hawai'i and shared, "Times have changed; using technology to learn Gagana Samoa is a newer and empowering approach. This opportunity made possible through ANA will help develop more resources to enhance learning the native language."

Rev. Pesi Vitale, coordinator at Fesilafa'i Samoan Language School under Ulua'i Ekalesia Metotisi Samoa i Wai'anae (First Samoan Methodist Church in Wai'anae) provided a blessing for the new equipment.

"We've been blessed with many gifts and talents to help educate our future generations. May we not forget to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for bestowing the knowledge upon our teachers and our leaders," said Vitale.

Teachers at Le Fetua'o have already started technology training. They attended a

language teacher's fall technology symposium hosted by the Hawai'i Association of Language Teachers (HALT) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus. Le Fetuao teachers learned how to create practical language teaching tools using forms, apps and tests.

Students at Le Fetuao Samoan Language Center are very excited to start using the new equipment to develop their skills in technology and learn Samoan language.

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### **About Le Fetuao Samoan Language Center**

In 2013, Le Fetuao was awarded a three-year grant by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), making it the first ANA-funded program in the nation dedicated to Samoan language preservation and maintenance. The center, located in Salt Lake, O'ahu, Hawai'i, provides free Samoan language classes to children in pre-school to high school, as well as parents and community members. The culture preservation program thrives through community collaborations and the efforts of staff dedicated to teaching Samoan language and culture. For more information, please visit [www.lefetuao.com](http://www.lefetuao.com).



PHOTO: Le Fetuao Samoan Language Center pre-school students hold up the school's brand new iPads that will be used to enhance Samoan language education at the Salt Lake, O'ahu-based school. The equipment was blessed and unveiled during a ceremony held Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Island Family Christian Church in Salt Lake.

Le Fetuao Principal Investigator Fepulea'i Lasei Dr. John Mayer (back row, far right) speaks during the ceremony. School Executive Director and Founder Elisapeta Tu'upo-Alaimaleata (back row, far left) and Board Members Gutrenda Silva (back row, center) and Dr. Fa'anofa Lisa Uperesa (not pictured) were on hand for the ceremony.