



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box PPA

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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Information Release Authorization Form

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

- Newspaper
- Radio/Television
- Public Notice

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, or Tumau Lokeni Iese, Environmental Awareness & Education Division Manager at 633-2304 or 733-5940. Fa'afetai tele lava.

- Governor's Office, Tapuitema
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Malama TV Channel 4 News
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV V103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM104.7 Radio Station

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e  
Director, AS-EPA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/29/11

**Description:**

Title/Heading:

**Plastic Shopping Bag Ban Task Force Island Wide Enforcement**



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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Plastic Shopping Bag Ban Task Force Island Wide Enforcement**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency would like to inform the public that the first days, which started February 23, 2011, of the Plastic Shopping Bag Ban (PSBB) enforcement drive, have been very successful. Many retail and wholesale merchants were prepared and have stopped giving out plastic bags to their customers. Majority of businesses have started using paper bags, cardboard boxes or asking their customers to bring in their own cloth bags. The PSBB Taskforce, consisting of American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), Department of Commerce (DOC), and Department of Public Safety (DPS), has enforcement teams inspecting stores and restaurants all across the Territory. The teams have been issuing Stop Orders to stores that are not complying with the PSBB. The PSBB Taskforce has inspected over 300 businesses and has issued 112 Stop Orders as of March 21, 2011. The Taskforce is very pleased with the number of stores and restaurants that have complied. The PSBB Taskforce is now planning the next round of enforcement inspections for businesses that have been served with Stop Orders to ensure compliance and issue citations to those that refuse to follow the law.

AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e and the PSBB Taskforce would like to thank all the merchants and restaurants who have already come into compliance. They also encourage all businesses affected by the PSBB to comply with the law to avoid any unnecessary fines or punishments.