PACIFIC Atamai
INTERDISCIPLINARY, PRESERVICE, CONTINUING EDUCATION

MORNING Atamai
Guest Profile



ALOFAELEUMA FAUALO

Advocate
Chairman of the American Samoa Center for Independent Living

LIVED EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND

I was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) at a young age and have lived my life navigating physical limitations while building strength in resilience and purpose. Growing up in American Samoa, I faced challenges accessing resources, services, and opportunities for people with disabilities. Over the years, I have become an advocate not only for myself but for others in my community, especially those with disabilities. Today, I serve as Chairman of the American Samoa Center for Independent Living (ACIL), where I work to empower individuals with disabilities and promote independent living.

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Alofaeleuma Faualo
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ABOUT ME

My Story

I am a 21-year-old advocate, creative, and leader from American Samoa. My journey has been shaped by living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, but also by my passion to uplift others and create change. I believe that disability does not define our limits—it reveals our strength. Through storytelling, I strive to bring awareness and inspire others to see ability beyond disability.

My Work/Education

I attended Tafuna High School and have and was currently attending ASCC. Right now, I continue learning through self-development, especially in digital art, content creation, and leadership. I am currently the Chairman of the American Samoa Center for Independent Living (ASCIL), where I help with advocacy efforts and community outreach. I also work on creative projects, including digital art, storytelling, and media content that highlight disability awareness and resilience.

Why this Matters to Me

This work matters deeply to me because people with disabilities are often overlooked during emergencies and disasters. I have seen how lack of accessibility and preparedness can put our lives at greater risk. I want to ensure that our voices are heard and included in planning and response efforts. Building a resilient community means including everyone, especially the most vulnerable, and I am committed to being part of that change.