

Vision Statement for 2024 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): Pacific Islander/Samoan

Disability status (voluntary): Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

AUCD Member Organization: Pacific Center in Human Security (AS UCEDD)

Current Position (role and date range): State Director (1999-Present)

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 31 years

My vision for the Association:

My vision statement is to reimagine individuals with lived experience thriving in diverse communities influencing equitable access to quality of life in all states and territories.

As the State Director for the Pacific Center in Human Security, a UCEDD in American Samoa, I have advanced my knowledge of public policies that positively impact our disability and aging community. The networking amongst UCEDDs and the innovative strategies shared contributed to local solutions in American Samoa and across the Territories. The opportunity to engage in various committees and special interest groups increased my analysis to identify exclusion in policies that impact our disability and aging community and family members in the territories.

My presence serving on the Board will position and advance the contribution of AUCD in health equity, the evolving access to education, technology, and emergency preparedness/management. I anticipate strengthening the relationship of UCEDDs in Land Grant institutions to recognize their valuable contribution and presence responsive to diverse communities.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

My goal is to:

- Expand and elevate AUCD network in Emergency Preparedness/Management
- Diversify resources to advance inclusive policies
- Strengthen the relationship amongst UCEDDs and Institutions

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network:

Serving on the FEMA National Advisory Council as a disability and access functional needs representative granted an opportunity to bridge the gap in various tools and indices

used in decision-making across state, local, tribal, and territories. A recommendation such as *FEMA program should utilize a flexible universal design framework that is inclusive of individual U.S. territory needs and concerns regarding program implementation.*

The diverse representation of the FEMA NAC provided an opportunity to share the inequities of the aging and disability community from the territory lens. The recommendation will establish inclusive guidance to implement and promote a barrier-free process with three principles of multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement for all.

American Samoa is a recipient of CMS Money Follows the Person, granting an opportunity for qualified individuals to transition into the community and navigate the HCBS system. Knowledge gained is shared across the Territories to increase the HCBS momentum and advocacy in diverse communities