

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2025

Source
SR 3

**Senate
Resolve No.**
3



Urging the United States Congress to grant American Samoans the ability to serve as commissioned officers in the uniformed services of the United States and the right to vote in federal elections.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS American Samoa has been an unincorporated territory of the United States since 1900; and

WHEREAS American Samoa is the only inhabited territory of the United States whose residents are considered nationals of the United States but are not citizens; and

WHEREAS United States citizenship is granted at birth to residents of all other inhabited territories of the United States, including Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as nationals of the United States, American Samoans owe permanent allegiance to the United States; and

WHEREAS American Samoans can obtain a United States passport as well as live and work in any location in the United States; and

WHEREAS the 2020 Census showed that the population of American Samoa was 49,710, and in 2023 the United States Census Bureau estimated that there were 268,539 people of Samoan descent living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS American Samoans have contributed greatly to the civic, cultural, economic, and spiritual life of the United States and this state; and

WHEREAS American Samoans have a long history of patriotism and service to the United States, and American Samoa has the highest military enlistment rate of any state or territory; and

WHEREAS American Samoan men who reside in the 50 states or the District of Columbia must register with the Selective Service System and can be drafted into military service; and

WHEREAS, despite the long tradition of military service by American Samoans, federal law prohibits noncitizen nationals of the United States from serving as commissioned officers in the uniformed services of the United States; and

WHEREAS federal law prohibits American Samoans who are nationals but not citizens of the United States from voting in elections for President, Vice President, United States Senate, and United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS the right to vote and participate in the democratic process is one of the most cherished principles on which the nation's society is built; and

WHEREAS, by being denied the right to vote in the states where American Samoans reside, American Samoans are being subjected to taxation without representation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate urges the United States Congress to pass legislation allowing nationals of the United States to serve as commissioned officers in the uniformed services of the United States and to vote in federal elections in the state in which they reside.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa

Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 119th United States Congress.