

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

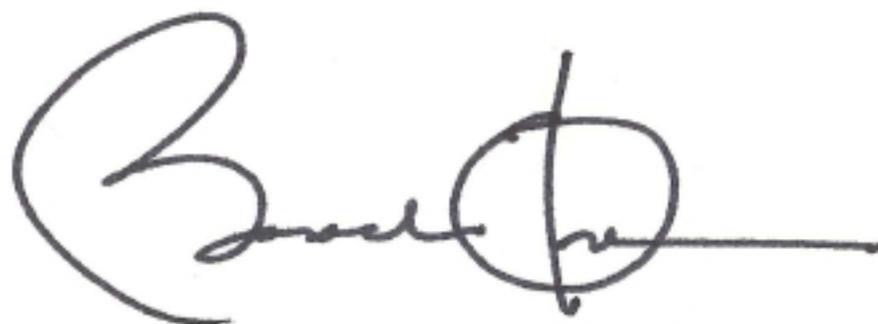
May 25, 2012

On behalf of the people of the United States, and as a fellow leader of a Pacific nation, I send my deepest congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Samoa.

From our cooperation during World War II to our 45 years of Peace Corps interaction, the United States has been pleased to call Samoa not just a neighbor, but also a valued friend and partner. We have worked together to address some of the most pressing issues of our time, and our shared efforts have been fortified over the decades by Samoa's continuing commitment to democracy, the rule of law, the protection of human rights, and regional stability.

Americans from all walks of life—including many ethnic Samoans across our country—share a kindred appreciation for the values and freedoms upon which the United States and Samoa were founded. Our respective peoples worship, speak, and assemble as they choose, and both our nations draw great strength from our vibrant civil societies.

Congratulations, again, on this historic occasion. I wish you all the best, and look forward to building on our solid foundation in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.