

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Samoa

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



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1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Samoa¹ for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

As of November 2016, Samoa has a population of 192,126. In 2011, the last year for which data are available, 3,818 persons possessed dual Samoan and New Zealand citizenship; 1,246, New Zealand or Australian citizenship; 1,184, American citizenship; and 1,167, other citizenship.² Samoa consists of two main islands, Upolu and Savai'i; two smaller islands, Manono (pop. 1,394 [2016]) and Apolima (pop. 500 [2016]); and several uninhabited volcanic tuff rings. The capital, Apia, lies on the northern shore of the smaller island of Upolu.

b. Language

Samoan (ISO-639-3 code 'smo'; Samoan: *Gagana fa'a Sāmoa*) and English are the official languages of Samoa.³ Samoan, an Austronesian language of the Polynesian branch, has no significant dialect variations.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

The Spatial Information Agency Act 2010 established the Geographic Names Board, which is mandated to: 1) approve geographic names in Samoa; 2) alter recorded geographic names; 3) adopt standards and apply rules for approval of geographic names; 4) compile and maintain a record of all geographic names, which should include a record of their form, spelling, meaning,

¹ Until July 1997, Western Samoa; not to be confused with American Samoa, a territory of the United States.

² National total represents a preliminary count as of November 7, 2016. Citizenship breakouts derive from the 2011 Samoan census. From 2011 to 2016, the population of Samoa grew by 4,522 persons. Both census documents may be found via *Samoa Bureau of Statistics*, 'SBS Document Library.' English. <<http://www.sbs.gov.ws/index.php/new-document-library>> Accessed January 12, 2017.

³ Nevertheless, the two languages are used in different socio-cultural situations: 'Samoan is the national language, but English is used in commerce and Government business.' *Education for All: Mid-Decade Assessment Report 2007*, Government of Samoa Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (p. 23). English. Available via the Ministry's website: <www.mesc.gov.ws> Accessed February 8, 2017.

origin, and history; and 5) publish a notice of geographic names.⁴ Unfortunately, neither maps nor toponymic documents are available on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (*Matagaluega o Punaoo Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga*), within which the Geographic Names Board resides, nor have repeated attempts to elicit information from the Board succeeded. Otherwise, no other entity—governmental, academic, or professional—in Samoa is responsible for geographic names standardization.⁵ Orthographic rules prescribed in this policy derive from meticulous comparison of several Samoan language dictionaries and grammars, as well as from close analysis of a variety of contemporary Samoan publications. See the ‘Source Material’ section of this policy for complete bibliographic information.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

The Samoan alphabet consists of 14 Latin letters and a glottal stop:

*A a, E e, F f, G g⁶, I i, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, S s, T t, U u, V v, and ‘.*⁷

The glottal stop (‘, Samoan *koma liliu*, ‘inverted comma’), a consonant and not strictly a diacritic, can begin a word or place name⁸ and sounds like the dropped ‘-tt-’ in ‘settle’ when pronounced with a Cockney accent.⁹ A macron (¯, Samoan *fa’amamafa*, ‘heavy pronunciation’) over a vowel indicates lengthened vocalization.

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required for Samoan.

⁴ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/*Matagaluega o Punaoo Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga*, ‘Mandate – Spatial Information Agency Act 2010.’ English. <<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/mandate/>> Accessed August 24, 2017.

⁵ An enduring problem for toponymists and cartographers: A 1913 geographical article refers to the publication of a map of American Samoa the previous year that called ‘attention to the need of standardization of the names of Samoan places.’ William Churchill, ‘Geographical Nomenclature of American Samoa.’ *Bulletin of the American Geographic Society*, vol. XLV (1913): 187-193. Over fifty years later, a lexicographer of the Samoan language lamented: “Faced with conflicting evidence, the investigator is not even in a position to appeal to the linguistic judgement and authority of a certain district or of a certain family reputed for the elegance and purity of their Samoan, since such a claim would probably not be made and, if it were made, its authority would certainly be disputed or ridiculed.” George Milner, *Samoan-English Dictionary*. London: Oxford, 1966. P. xiii.

⁶ *G g* (nga [ŋ]) is always nasal, vocalized like *ng* in English *sing*.

⁷ The consonants are generally pronounced as in English, with the following modifications: *k* falls between *k* as in *kettle* and *g* as in *get*; *l* sounds like *l* as in *led* with an undertone of *r* as in *thread*; *p* lies between *p* as in *pat* and *b* as in *bat*; while *t* evokes *t* as in *tin* and *d* as in *din*.

⁸ Following standard English lexical practice and BGN precedent, names and terms appearing henceforward are in English alphabetical order; the glottal stop is ignored in this scheme.

⁹ Robert Louis Stevenson, South Pacific traveler and inhabitant of Upolu in the 1890s, noted the interlingual nature of this phoneme: “Stranger still, that prevalent Polynesian sound, the so-called catch [*glottal stop*], written with an apostrophe, and often or always the gravestone of a perished consonant, is to be heard in Scotland to this day. When a Scot pronounces water, better, or bottle—*wa’er*, *be’er*, or *bo’le*—the sound is precisely that of the catch...” *In the South Seas* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1923), p. 16.

c. Diacritics

The following diacritics are found in Samoan geographic names:

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
A with macron, Latin capital letter	Ā	0100
A with macron, Latin small letter	ā	0101
E with macron, Latin capital letter	Ē	0112
E with macron, Latin small letter	ē	0113
I with macron, Latin capital letter	Ī	012A
I with macron, Latin small letter	ī	012B
O with macron, Latin capital letter	Ō	014C
O with macron, Latin small letter	ō	014D
U with macron, Latin capital letter	Ū	016A
U with macron, Latin small letter	ū	016B
Left single quotation mark ¹⁰	‘	2018

d. Generic Terms

A generic is a term used to describe a geographic feature, such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ or ‘lake.’ If the term does not identify the actual feature, it should be considered a false generic and not be added to the generic field of the Geographic Names Database (GNDB). Generic terms are not collected for populated places in Samoa. Appendix A contains a reference of common Samoan generic terms that may be encountered in approved names.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

Hyphenation in *non-compound* toponyms does not occur in the most recent authoritative source, the *Samoa Bureau of Statistics Village Directory 2016*, the official census report listing the name of every village and political district in the country.¹¹ Older maps and gazetteers may display the affixes *-tai* (‘coastal’) and *-uta* (‘inland’), hyphenated and in lower case. Toponymists and cartographers should follow the *Directory* practice, capitalizing these affixes and designating other spellings as variants. Hence:

- *Matautu Tai*, not *Matautu-tai*
- *Matautu Uta*, not *Matautu-uta*

¹⁰ The glottal stop is included here only because of its unusual shape.

¹¹ *Samoa Bureau of Statistics*, ‘Census 2016 Preliminary Count Report.’ English. <<http://www.sbs.gov.ws/>> Accessed January 17, 2017. Nor do hyphenated names appear in the 2006 and 2001 versions of the census. The toponymist should expect to find a more relaxed observance of these rules in documents meant for domestic use, where inconsistencies in hyphenation and capitalization, abetted by familiarity with the local terrain, would not cause confusion. For example, a bus and taxi fare rate chart (*Totogi Faapoloaiga o Pasese o Pasi Ma Taavale Laiti La’upasese*) from April 2014 lists on the same page the following stops: *Fagalii-Uta*, *Fagalii-uta*, *Laulii tai*, and *Laulii Uta*. *Samoa Land Transport Authority (Pulega o Fela’uaiga i le Lauelele)*, ‘Bus and Taxi Fare.’ English, Samoan. <<http://www.lta.gov.ws/>> Accessed May 9, 2017.

- *Aiga i le Tai*, not *Aiga-i-le-Tai*¹²

Capitalize all substantive and adjectival parts of Samoan place names:

- *Vaimauga Sisifo* (*Vaimauga* ‘West’)
- *Anaomaa West*
- *Palauli Sasa’e* (*Palauli* ‘East’)

On the other hand, do not capitalize the definite article *le*, the preposition *o* (‘of’), nor the locative preposition *i* (‘in,’ ‘at,’ ‘on’), unless they begin a place name:

- *Sagaga le Usoga*
- *Aai o Niue*
- *Tino i Iva*,
- *Alia o le Gaoa*, but
- *O Le Pupu-Pu’e National Park*¹³

Adjectives of quality follow and agree in number with the noun(s) qualified¹⁴:

- *le fale tele* = the large house
- *fale tetelē* = the large houses

Hence:

- *Vaitele* (‘large water’), a PPL on a *Vaiusu Bay*

Unfortunately, Samoan plural adjectives do not always take predictable forms. The toponymist should consult a dictionary when in doubt:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>lāpo’a</i>	<i>lāpopo’a</i>	large
<i>tele</i>	<i>tetele</i>	large
<i>iti,itiiti</i>	<i>iti</i>	small
<i>la’itiiti</i>	<i>lāiti</i>	small
<i>maualuga</i>	<i>maualuluga</i>	high

¹² This unhyphenated spelling is also in keeping with editorial practice of the *Samoa Observer*, the most influential newspaper group in the country, published in both Samoan and English. See, for example, ‘Gender equality discussed at Aiga i le Tai.’ August 29, 2016. English. <http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/en/29_08_2016/local/10562/Gender-equality-discussed-at-Aiga-i-le-Tai.htm> Accessed May 16, 2017.

¹³ This place name does not violate the rule against hyphenation, being a compound of two toponyms, *O Le Pupu*, a lava field, and *Mount Le Pu’e*.

¹⁴ Predicative adjectives, on the other hand, precede the noun, a grammatical situation that does not arise with place names. Nouns rarely have a distinct plural form; absence of the article *le* indicates plural status.

Further, nouns and infinitive verbs, most often in generics, may also act as adjectives:

- *fale* (house) + *'ie* (cloth) = *fale 'ie* (tent)
- *vai* (water) + *tafe* (to flow) = *vaitafe* (river)

Adverbs, however, precede the substantive:

- *Gagaifomauga*, 'westward of the mountain'
- *Lalomauga*, 'below the mountain'

Reduplication—repetition to intensify, pluralize, or redefine a word—is common in Samoan, as in other Polynesian languages. The reduplicated segment attaches to the end of the original word. Because a macron may sometimes be added, the toponymist is advised to consult an authoritative dictionary:

- *pui* (wall), *puipui* (surround, fence off, as in *fale puipui*, prison)
- *faga* (bay), *fāgafaga* (small bay)
- *alo* (paddle), *aloalo* (lagoon)

Thus:

- *Solosolo*, from *solo* (to slide away or fall down, as a wall), a village consisting of two parts once separated by a wall
- *Puapua*, from *pua* (the name of a tree), a village beside a mangrove forest

Samoan orthography allows words, including toponyms, to begin with the *koma liliu* ('); however, no current place name does.¹⁵

No Samoan word, whether toponym or other part of speech, may contain juxtaposed consonants; one or more vowels must intervene.¹⁶ All syllables must end in a vowel and all vowels must be sounded.

For historical, political, and cultural reasons described in Appendix D, use of diacritics in native Samoan publications varies. Therefore, toponymists should pay close attention to macrons and glottal stops as displayed in the *most* authoritative lexicons, gazetteers, and government publications. Samoans may use these markings inconsistently or not at all in less formal writing because their knowledge of the language allows them to infer meaning from context. For those unfamiliar with Samoan, or whose source material consists of a mere list of place names,

¹⁵ Older documents may include place names beginning with the article 'O: 'O *Lalau* (PPLX). Likewise, historical toponyms may present with the *koma liliu*: 'Ofu, an island (ISL) in American Samoa, so-called when all of the Samoan islands were under German control. Without contemporary, authoritative evidence, such names should omit the article or glottal stop in primary position. The *koma liliu* is generally omitted before an uppercase letter in documents and signage. When retaining it as the first letter of a name, capitalize the second letter.

¹⁶ Exceptions are of foreign origin: *Olga Reef*, *Niss Reef*.

diacritics—or their absence—can change the meaning of words:

- *ava* (passage in a reef), but *āva* (respect, honor)
- *ma'ama'a* (gravel), but *mā'ama'a* (easing off of rain)
- *'olo* (fortress), but *olo* (to coo)

f. Long and Short Forms

Long forms of Samoan geographic names are rare and usually those of administrative or political divisions:

- Long form: *Independent State of Samoa* Short form: *Samoa*
- Long form: *Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Sāmoa* Short form: *Sāmoa*

Short forms of such names may appear on maps and lists. Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence. In most instances, the short name should be ranked as the primary name.

g. Abbreviations

Abbreviations do not occur in Samoan geographic names.

h. Numbers

Samoan geographic names containing cardinal or ordinal numbers are rare. Roman numerals do appear in the national census to distinguish electoral districts but not as essential parts of toponyms:

- *Faasaleleaga I*
- *Faasaleleaga II*
- *Faasaleleaga III*
- *Faasaleleaga IV*

Otherwise, whenever numbers are encountered, do not treat them as separate parts of speech but attach them to the substantive element:

- *Fatuvalu*, eight (*valu*) hearts (*fatu*), a PPL
- *fālefā*, a union of four (*fā*) houses (*fāle*)

Ordinal and cardinal numbers have the same form, except for 'first' (*muamua*, not *tasi*, 'one').¹⁷

¹⁷ The first ten Samoan numbers are: *tasi* (one), *lua* (two), *tolu* (three), *fā* (four), *lima* (five), *ono* (six), *fitu* (seven), *valu* (eight), *iva* (nine), *sefulu* (ten).

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Conventional short form	<i>Samoa</i>
Conventional long form	<i>Independent State of Samoa</i>
Local short form	<i>Sāmoa</i>
Local long form	<i>Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Sāmoa</i>

b. Capital Name

Approved Form	<i>Apia</i>
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c. First-order Administrative Divisions (ADM1)

Samoa is divided into eleven political districts or *itūmālō* (ADM1), which existed long before European arrival. The capital village of each *itūmālō* administers district affairs. These districts are subdivided into 41 *faipule*, which have no administrative function but serve as electoral constituencies and statistical units.¹⁸

<u>Name</u>	<u>GEC</u>	<u>GENC</u>	<u>Seat</u>
<i>A'ana</i>	WS01	WS01	<i>Leulumoega</i>
<i>Aiga i le Tai</i>	WS02	WS02	<i>Mulifanua</i>
<i>Atua</i>	WS03	WS03	<i>Lufilufi</i>
<i>Fa'asaleleage</i>	WS04	WS04	<i>Safotulafai</i>
<i>Gaga'emauga</i>	WS05	WS05	<i>Saleaula</i>
<i>Gaga'ifomauga</i>	WS07	WS07	<i>Safotu</i>
<i>Palauli</i>	WS08	WS08	<i>Vailoa</i>
<i>Satupa'itea</i>	WS09	WS09	<i>Satupa'itea</i>
<i>Tuamasaga</i>	WS10	WS10	<i>Afega</i>
<i>Va'a o Fonoti</i>	WS06	WS06	<i>Samamea</i>
<i>Vaisigano</i>	WS11	WS11	<i>Asau</i>

d. Conventional Names

The Samoa country file in the GNDB contains the following conventional names. To remove or add names, BGN approval is required.

<u>Conventional Name</u>	<u>Designation Code</u>
Samoa	
Independent State of Samoa	

¹⁸ As of May 2017, the BGN does not recognize the capital villages as *official seats* (PPLA) of their respective ADM1s. At the local level, Samoa consists of 265 villages. Apia, the capital, is composed of an additional 45 villages, each of which administers its own local affairs. *samoagovt.ws: Official Web Portal of the Government of Samoa, 'Samoa.'* English. www.samoagovt.ws/about-samoa/ Accessed January 30, 2017

Samoa (short)

e. Unique Geopolitical Situations

For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, consult the US Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.

5. Source Material

Maps

Detailed maps of Samoa are hard to come by. The Central Intelligence Agency has produced a handful of maps featuring administrative divisions and a few villages. One from 2016 may be found on the *CIA World Factbook* website:

<www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ws.html>

The above map and three others by the CIA (published 1982, 1990, and 1998) may be found on the website of *The University of Texas at Austin Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection*:

<<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/samoa.html>>

Place Names

As mandated by the Spatial Information Agency Act 2010, the Geographic Names Board of Samoa exists to, among other things, compile and maintain a record of all geographic names, including their form, spelling, meaning, origin, and history, and to publish a notice of geographic names. Nevertheless, neither record nor notice is available on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (*Matagaluega o Punaoo Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga*) website. The Board does not seem to respond to queries.

<<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/division-2/spatial-information-agency/mapping-section/>>

No other resource exists dedicated exclusively to Samoan place names. Still, useful orthographic data and linguistic information may be gleaned from the following works:

Studies

Samoa Bureau of Statistics, 'Census 2016 Preliminary Count Report.' Contains the names of 'all villages and political districts in Samoa [...] based on the census enumeration which was conducted from the 24th of October to the 7th of November 2016.' English, Samoan.

<<http://www.sbs.gov.ws/>>

Die Samoa-Inseln, Entwurf einer Monographie mit besonderer Berücksichtigung Deutsch-Samoas. Zwei Bände. Bd. 1. Augustin Krämer. Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbartsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1903. Krämer, German navy physician, anthropologist, and ethnographer, spent four years recording details of life in Polynesia. The work—still cited in

modern scholarship¹⁹—contains genealogies of hundreds of Samoan place names, providing cultural and historical context. Krämer consulted many native speakers to ensure consistent, correct Samoan transcriptions. Though over a century old, orthography in the monograph—at least of toponymic elements—accords well with that found in Milner’s definitive *Samoan Dictionary* (see below) and in the ‘Census 2016 Preliminary Count Report.’ German, Samoan. <https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_AzU8AAAAMAAJ>

Krämer’s work has been translated into English but is no longer in print: *The Samoa Islands: An Outline of a Monograph with Particular Consideration of German Samoa. vol. I, Constitution, Pedigrees and Traditions*. Theodore Verhaaren (trans.). Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i, 1999.

Grammatik der samoanischen sprache nebst lesestücken und Wörterbuch. H. Neffgen. Vienna: Hartleben Verlag, 1903(?). Of historical interest, Neffgen published his grammar and dictionary shortly after Samoa became a German protectorate (1900-1914). The glossary allows the non-speaker to decipher Samoan place name segments but should be used in conjunction with Milner’s dictionary and Krämer’s monograph. German. <<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89002179513;view=1up;seq=177>>

Though long out of print, the English translation of Neffgen’s book (*Grammar and Vocabulary of the Samoan Language*, translated by Arnold B. Stock. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, 1918) is available in e-copy:

<<https://ia800304.us.archive.org/12/items/grammatikersamo00neffuoft/grammatikdersamo00neffuoft.pdf>>

Dictionaries

Samoan Dictionary. George Bertram Milner. London: Oxford University Press, 1966. Begun in 1955 as a joint project of the governments of American Samoa and Western Samoa, Milner’s work remains the most accurate, comprehensive dictionary of the Samoan language. For the toponymist, the work’s chief virtue lies in the consistent, methodological use of diacritics.

The following should be used only as secondary sources to identify variant spellings of generic terms or place name segments, especially in older maps and documents:

A Simplified Dictionary of Modern Samoan. R.W. Allardice. Newton, NZ: Pasifika Press, 2000.

A Grammar and Dictionary of the Samoan Language (fourth edition). George Pratt. Apia: Malua Printing Press, 1911. First edition published in 1862 by The London Missionary Society.

Available via the Hathi Trust Digital Library:

<<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/007126161>>

Dictionnaire Samoa-Français-Anglais: Précède d’une grammair de la langue Samoa. Louis

¹⁹ See, for example, Dr. Augustin Krämer: A German Ethnologist in the Pacific, Sven Mönter, unpublished PhD thesis, University of Auckland, 2010. Available via The University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services/Te Tumu Herenga: <<https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/6050>>

Viollette. Paris: Maisonneuve et cie., 1879. Compiled by a Marist father who arrived on Savai'i in 1845 and helped establish a mission there, the first forty pages of this work provide a grammar in French followed by over four hundred pages of Samoan-French entries with English parenthetical translations. Of historical interest. Available via the Hathi Trust Digital Library: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001360377>

Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

Though Samoan orthography has yet to be standardized, individual scholars—invariably British, German, and French—have published several dictionaries and grammars. Yet, different lexicons may present the same word in different ways. (So far, no Samoan-only dictionary has been compiled.) The list below, collected from several such works and judiciously analyzed, provides some order for the non-Samoan reader. When multiple versions of a generic arise, precedent should be given to Milner’s orthography, with other spellings designated as variants. Generics containing *fale* (house, building) are usually compounded, though a handful of exceptions exist.

Finally, certain generics (designated ‘polite’ in the table below) when used by, about, or in the presence of a Samoan dignitary such as a title holder (*matai*)—whether *ali’i* (chief) or *tulafale* (orator)—differ from those used by commoners. While the toponymist may never see these terms in texts or maps, s/he should be aware that they may be heard in conversations among certain privileged groups. Improper use of such words is considered a grave breach of decorum.²⁰

Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>‘a’ai</i>	town	PPL
<i>a’au</i>	reef (coral)	RF
<i>afaga</i>	beach (a small portion of one, as in a cove or small bay; lit., a place where a canoe is kept)	BCH
<i>afio’aga</i>	residence of a high chief or king	PPL
<i>āfu</i>	waterfall	FLLS
	passage,path	TRL
	road	RD
	village division	PPLX
<i>ala laupapa</i>	bridge	BDG
<i>‘auala</i>	path	TRL
<i>alāvai</i>	channel (passage for canoes)	CHN
<i>ālia</i>	river (brook,creek)	STM
<i>aloalo, āloalo</i> (variant)	lagoon	LGN
<i>api</i>	house (lodging,quarters)	HSE
<i>ana</i>	cave	CAVE
<i>ano</i>	crater (of an extinct volcano)	CRTR
<i>atumotu</i> ²¹	archipelago	ISLS
<i>‘auala</i>	road	RD
<i>‘aulapata’i</i>	area (lit.: ‘level land at the foot of a hill’)	AREA
<i>ava</i>	channel or passage (in a reef)	CHN
<i>fa’ato’aga</i>	plantation	EST
	bay	BAY
	beach	BCH
<i>fāgafaga</i>	bay (small)	

²⁰ ‘Chief’ also includes those accorded deference by virtue of age, accomplishments, title, or occupation: ministers, doctors, teachers, and civil servants, inter alia, Samoan or otherwise. For an examination of Samoan polite language, along with a list of ordinary words and their polite equivalents, see: G.B. Miller, ‘The Samoan Vocabulary of Respect,’ *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 91.2(1961): 296-317. For a description of the functions of and relationship between *ali’i* and *tulafale*, see: Lowell D. Holmes, ‘Samoan Oratory.’ *The Journal of American Folklore* 82.326(1969): 342-352.

²¹ Lit., a chain (*atu*) of islands (*motu*).

Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>fagaloa</i>	bay (deep)	
<i>fai'a'ai</i>	village (new)	PPL
	house	HSE
	building	BLDG
<i>(fale)ā'oga</i>	school	SCH
<i>(fale) fa'amasino</i>	courthouse	CTHSE
<i>fale faitautusi</i>	library	BLDG
<i>fale gaosimea</i>	factory	MFG
<i>falema'a</i>	house (stone)	HSE
<i>falema'i</i>	hospital	HSP
<i>fale mālamalama</i>	lighthouse	LTHSE
<i>falemāta'aga</i>	museum	MUS
<i>falemeli</i>	post office	PO
<i>falepuipui</i>	prison	PRN
<i>falesā</i>	church	CH
<i>fale talimālō</i>	hotel	HTL
<i>faletupe, fale teutupe</i>	bank	BNK
<i>faletiute</i>	customs house	CSTM
<i>fale ualesi²²</i>	radio station	STNR
<i>fale talimālō</i>	guest house	GHSE
<i>fanua</i>	field, also refers to a land parcel	FLD
<i>fanuaoti</i>	cemetery	CMTY
<i>fanuatanu</i>	cemetery	CMTY
<i>lāolao</i>	clearing	CLG
<i>laufanua</i>	cultivated land	CULT
<i>loto</i>	pool	POOL
<i>ma'ama'a</i>	gravel	GVL
<i>magaala</i>	road	RD
<i>māgafā</i>	road (lit., 'crossroads')	RD
<i>māketi</i>	market	MKT
<i>malae</i>	open space (similar to a town square)	SQR
<i>malae ta'alo</i>	athletic field	ATHF
<i>malae va'alele</i>	airport	AIRP
<i>mālumalu</i>	temple (polite)	TMPL
<i>maota</i>	house (polite, used to describe the residence of a village chief or high official)	HSE
	beach	BCH
	coast	CST
<i>matāmutia</i>	cultivated land (specifically, a taro plantation)	CULT
<i>matāvai</i>	spring	SPNG
<i>mauga</i>	hill	HLL
<i>mauga mū</i>	volcano	VLC
<i>maupu'epu'e</i>	slope	SLP
<i>moana</i>	ocean	OCN
<i>motu</i>	island	ISL
	house	HSE
	political entity (seat, location) (polite)	PCL
<i>nu'u</i>	district, village	PPL
<i>nu'utūloto, nu'utuloto</i> (variant), <i>nu'u tuloto</i> (variant)	island, islet	ISL
<i>'ogānu'u</i>	part of a district, town, or village	PPLX

²² From *ualesi*, 'wireless'

Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>ololo</i>	abandoned populated place ²³	PPLQ
<i>onoa</i>	an open space	AREA
<i>oneone</i>	sand	SAND
<i>pā,pa</i> (variant)	wall	WALL
<i>popua</i>	blowhole	BLHL
<i>punāvai</i>	spring	SPNG
<i>pupū</i>	cliff	CLF
<i>soata</i>	area (stony)	AREA
<i>ta'aga</i>	pasture	GRAZ
<i>tafa</i>	slope	SLP
<i>taipupū</i>	coast (rocky; resulting from lava flow)	CST
<i>tasū</i>	clearing (for a plantation)	CLG
<i>taufusi</i>	marsh	MRSH
<i>tauga</i>	anchorage	ANCH
<i>tāupou</i>	village (ceremonial)	PPL
	grave (polite)	GRVE
	cairn (polite)	CARN
<i>togālā'au</i>	grove	GROVE
<i>togo</i>	mangrove	MGV
<i>tolotolo</i>	cape	CAPE
<i>tufu</i>	pool (near seashore)	POOL
<i>tula</i>	locality	LCTY
<i>tupua</i>	village (polite)	PPL
<i>tu'ugamau</i>	grave	GRVE
<i>uafu</i>	pier	PIER
	quay	QUAY
	wharf	WHRF
	pond	PND
	pool	POOL
<i>vaitafe</i>	river	STM
<i>vanu</i>	valley	VAL
<i>velovelo</i>	promontory (lit., 'a point of land running into the sea' or 'a point of land jutting into another piece of land')	PROM
<i>volekano</i>	volcano	VLC

²³ Considered to be haunted.

²⁴ Based on the Samoan pronunciation of 'wharf'

Appendix B: Modifiers in Samoan Place Names

Samoan	English
<i>(i) gāgaifo, gagafō</i>	westward
<i>mātū</i>	north
<i>uta</i>	inland
<i>toga, saute</i>	south
<i>loloto</i>	spacious, extensive (applied to plantations)
<i>lauoneone, oneonea</i>	sandy
<i>papā, pāpapapa</i>	rocky, uneven
<i>sao'o</i>	craggy, rugged
<i>sasa'e</i>	east
<i>sisifo</i>	west
<i>tai</i>	coastal
<i>tele</i>	large, important
<i>vānuvanu</i>	full of chasms

Appendix C: First-Order Administrative Division (ADM1) Map of Samoa



Source: *Library of Congress, 'Samoa.'* English.

<<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g9565.ct003564/>> Accessed February 8, 2017.

Inset: *Maps of the World, 'Maps of Australia and Oceania.'* English. <<http://www.maps-of-the-world.net>> Accessed February 13, 2017.

Appendix D: History and Use of Samoan Diacritics

Any given collection of Samoan place name sources, sometimes even a single document, will display inconsistent use of diacritics. Several factors influence how, or whether, a Samoan writer employs them: age, place of education, and intended reader, among others. Why such orthographic variation?

Like other Polynesian languages, Samoan was only an oral one until Christian missionaries arrived. The London Missionary Society (LMS) developed a Samoan orthography by 1839, nine years after landing in Savai'i. Within twenty years, the Reverend George Pratt—an LMS missionary and linguist trained in Greek, Latin, and Biblical Hebrew—produced a Samoan Bible, a work that still influences Samoan orthography and writing. Unfortunately, because Pratt translated for readers already conversant in the language, he inserted diacritical marks only when context allowed ambiguous readings.²⁵

In 1900, Samoa became a German colony. Though scholars such as Augustin Krämer and H. Neffgen (see 'Sources') contributed much to the literature on Samoan anthropology, ethnography, history, and culture, they did not modify the LMS orthographic system. After Germany lost control of Samoa in 1914, New Zealand administered the islands until 1962, publishing Samoan-language educational materials and translations of European works but retaining Pratt's method of applying diacritics.

Samoa gained independence in 1962. In an attempt to create an orthographic *tabula rasa*, the Samoan director of education prohibited teaching of diacritics in public schools, leaving generations of Samoans unable to read or write them. The University of Hawai'i developed guidelines in the late 1970s on the use of diacritics in Samoan and other Oceanic languages but these left room for individual interpretation and application.²⁶

Since 1995, the Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (*Matagaluega o A'oga Ta'alogā ma Aganu'u*) has been trying to develop a language policy. The *Samoan Language Commission Act 2014* created an eponymous commission (SLC) and established Samoan as an official language.²⁷ The Commission's responsibilities include 'generally to promote the Samoan language, and, in particular, its use as a living language' as well as 'to advise the Government and the Parliament on Samoan language matters.'²⁸

Globalization and economics, however, have little regard for legislative mandate. Migrants travelling between Samoa and Asia seeking employment usually communicate in English, not in

²⁵ Eseta Magau Tualalelei, Fepuleai Lasei John Mayer, and Galumalemana A. Hunkin. 'Diacritical Marks and the Samoan Language.' *The Contemporary Pacific* 27.1(2015): 183-207. The authors provide several examples of this phenomenon: Pratt translates the first part of Genesis (Kenese) 15:3 as 'Faauta, ua e le foai mai ia te au sa'u fanau...' ('Behold, you have given me no children'). Without the glottal stop, *sa'u fanau* (my child) would read *sau fanau* (your child).

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ The SLC consists of, among others, traditional language experts, linguists from the National University of Samoa, principals from various theological colleges, and media representatives. *Parliament of Samoa*, 'Samoan Language Commission Act 2014.' English, Samoan. <<http://www.palemene.ws/new/parliament-business/acts-regulations/acts-2014/>> Accessed January 12, 2017.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

their own vernaculars.²⁹ Access to higher education, often pursued in Australia and New Zealand, requires English, not Samoan, proficiency. Many opportunities arising from such education lie overseas.³⁰

Finally, the pace of bureaucracy may also play a role: As of May 2017, no SLC product, guideline, or service appears on the website of the Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (*Matagaluega o A'oga Ta'aloga ma Aganu'u*), the government branch charged with overseeing the Commission.³¹ That Prime Minister Susuga Tuilaepa Malieaogai officially launched the SLC on March 15, 2017—two and a half years after passage of the act establishing it—suggests that standardization will not likely come soon.³²

²⁹ A like case has been made for Micronesian languages: '...English has of necessity become the lingua franca for the Mariana Islands and Nauru. In the Marianas, Chamorros talk to their Filipina maids in English. The maids talk to the children in English. The children talk to the Korean or Chinese shop keepers in English. Japanese hotel managers on Guam and Saipan talk to Palauan desk clerks in English. And so on. One finds a similar situation in Nauru. In short, English has already become the primary medium or oral communication outside the home, and is rapidly becoming the primary mode inside the home as well. (It is already fait accompli in Guam.)' Donald M. Topping, 'Who Will Be the Real Messiah?' *Oceanic Linguistics* 42.2(2003): 522-527: p. 523.

³⁰ As of March 5, 2013, 144,138 people living in New Zealand identified themselves as ethnic Samoan. Recall that Samoa has a total population of 192,126. *StatsNZ: Tatauranga Aotearoa*, '2013 Census Ethnic Group Profiles: Samoa.' English <<http://www.stats.govt.nz/>> Accessed May 9, 2017. Regarding initiatives to standardize various Polynesian languages and results and consequences thereof, see: Elaine Lameta, 'Language Policy: The Case of Samoa.' *Directions: The Journal of Educational Studies* 27.1(2005): 43-76; Kenneth L. Rehg, 'Linguists, Literacy, and the Law of Unintended Consequences.' *Oceanic Linguistics* 43.2(2004): 498-518.

³¹ The Ministry does post on its website electronic copies of textbooks used for Samoan language elementary school instruction. Their publication, however, funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development, predated creation of the SLC. The books are of marginal use to the toponymist. *Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (Matagaluega o A'oga Ta'aloga ma Aganu'u)*, 'Textbooks.' English, though the textbooks themselves are in Samoan. <<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/en/education/students-page/textbooks>> Accessed May 1, 2017.

³² *Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (Matagaluega o A'oga Ta'aloga ma Aganu'u)*, 'Samoa Language Commission officially launched' English. <<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/en/news/441-samoa-language-commission-officially-launched>> Accessed April 1, 2017.