Team of archeologist conducting a survey of historical finds on Fagatogo, Utulei & Faga’alu

According to the Director of the Historical Preservation Office David Herdrich, a Hawaii based firm, (ACP) Archeological Consultants of the Pacific was contracted by his office, and is currently on island to conduct a historic site survey atop Fagatogo, Utulei and Faga’alu village. The findings from this survey will be documented with detail maps of what they find. They will also document and map exiting trails within the designated area on the mountains, and eventually this information will be used to develop a plan for a Trail System to selected sites of archeological and historical sites.

The project was initiated through a House resolution introduced by Fagatogo lawmaker Maugaoli’i Le’apai Sipa Anoa’i earlier this year, the resolution called on the Governor to designate the American Samoa Visitors Bureau and the Historical Preservation Office to take the lead in a two phase project; the development of a Trail System that runs through the Fagatogo, Utulei and Faga’alu mountains; and the restoring of the Ariel Tramway Cable car that lends itself to the natural beauty and panoramic view ofPago Pago harbor. Maugaoli’i said that the resolution unanimously passed the house and the governor’s office has responded tremendously through the Historic Preservation Office and National Park.

At this point we’re all very excited about this because the ground work is already in progress with the work ACP is doing at the present time. The success and failure of the proposed project is going to depend largely on the assistance from our local community, in particular Fagatogo, Utulei, and Faga’alu and the American Samoa Government.

With the current trend of lost jobs and the down turn of our economy, we have to look at other ideas and options to stimulate our economy, and tourism is untouchted in many respects. We have a responsibility to the people of this territory to do what we can to help. This is just one idea that I believe is attainable with little effort from our village communities and the government.

David Herdrich and his office HPO has taking the first step by contracting ACP to do the historic site survey. Working also with the Office of Samoa Affairs the Pulenu’s and guidance from Fagatogo, Utulei and Faga’alu will certainly help expedite the survey said Maugaoli’i.

The ACP team is expected to complete the survey by the second week of July.