



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

19 OCTOBER 2023

INFORMATION RELEASE

NIUE NATIONAL AWARDS

The Government of Niue is pleased to release the Honors List on the occasion of celebrating the 49th year of self-government. The Niue National Awards recognizes the members longevity of service, selfless volunteering, innovation, and entrepreneurial efforts to enhance the well-being of the Niue Community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE STARS

1. Mrs. Talakaima Sakaki Sauni

Mrs. Sauni has dedicated 27 years to serving the Niue government and community. Her career began in 1964 as a Poko Aoga (PA) Teacher at Liolau School in Avatele, teaching junior classes 1 - 3 until 1988 when the school closed. She continued her work at Halamahaga in 1989, eventually becoming the Supervisor of Junior Classes. Mrs. Sauni retired in December 1991 but continued to volunteer as a Caregiver at the Fuihuihega Play Center for an extended period

Today we honour her with a Community Services Star award for her services to the community and village of Avatele.

2. Mrs. Fouasosa Tohovaka

Mrs. Tohovaka has been a dedicated community contributor throughout her life. She has actively participated in church activities, serving as a Sunday school teacher for Ekalesia Kerisiano Makefu since 1985 and the Girls Brigade since 1991. Over the years, she expanded her involvement, joining the Ekalesia Niue Lay Preacher in 2001, taking on roles such as Secretary for the Makefu FCW, 2008 to present Deacon, and becoming a founding member of Matua Manaia and NIOFA in 2004. She has held positions on various executive committees, including Niue FCW, Niue Sunday School, and Niue Girls Brigade from 2009 to the present. In 2008, she completed a certificate in Empowering Women for Ministry, making her the first Niuean to attend such training in Australia. She has also represented Niue in sports, including cricket and lawn bowls, achieving notable success at national and regional levels, including a silver medal in the Women's Triples at the 2015 South Pacific Games.

Today we honour her with a Community Services Star for her services to the community and village of Makefu.

3. Mr. Michael Jackson

Mr. Michael Jackson is a highly active and influential member of the Hakupu Village Community. He has been deeply involved in various village groups and is a dedicated supporter of both village and national sports organizations. Notably, he served as a common roll member and Associate Minister for Sport from 1993 to 2008. In 2017, he was elected as the Village MP for Hakupu. One of his most

significant accomplishments is the founding of the Niue Star in 1993, which is Niue's only print media source, playing a crucial role in informing Niuean's locally and abroad about island activities and events. The Niue Star serves as a valuable historical record of Niue and contributes to the preservation of the island's history. Additionally, Mr. Jackson has made significant contributions to Niue's media landscape by serving on the BCN Board of Directors for many years and as a member of the Pacific Island News Association (PINA) from 2009 to 2014.

Although he is not here in person to accept this honour in person, we present him with a Community Services Star award.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDALS

1. Mrs. Taumalua Jackson

Mrs. Jackson demonstrated academic excellence and was placed in the Accelerate class in 1956. She received a scholarship between 1966-1968, becoming a New Zealand registered nurse, maternity nurse, and midwife. After returning to Niue in May 1968, she worked as a ward Sister at Lord Liverpool Hospital. Her career included roles such as Public Health Sister at the Niue Health Department (1974-1975) and Matron in 1977, becoming the first Niuean to hold this position. She also served as a coordinator for the Moui Olaola/Healthy Islands Project (1996-1996). Mrs. Jackson retired in 1997 after 20 years as Matron and a total of 34 years in government service. She was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1997, a Health Sector Project Coordinator from 2000-2002, and served as a member and Chairperson of the Niue Public Service Commission for three terms, ending in 2011. In 2014, she was appointed Commissioner of the High Court, Criminal and Civil Division, and Land Court Division. She worked as an Interpreter/Translator for the Courts in 2013 and was appointed a member and Chairperson of the Taoga Niue Council. Additionally, in 2015, she assisted Niue Health with translating Health Sector English words into Vagahau Niue.

Today we honour her with a Public Service award for her exemplary dedication to the Niue Public Service.

2. Ms. Tifaole Ioane

Ms. Ioane has been a significant contributor to her community, primarily through her teaching career within the Department of Education. Her journey began in 1972 when she earned a NZ Trainer Teachers certificate. She taught her first class at Lialagi School before moving to KofeKofe School. Later, in 1976, she began teaching 4th Form Geography at Niue High School. In 1977, she transitioned to the Intermediate Department and became its head in 1979. Ms. Ioane enhanced her qualifications by completing a diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language in 1983. Although she retired from education in 1991, she continued to support the Education Department by participating as a panel member for the Niue Bilingual & Niue Monolingual Dictionary and Thesaurus. She co-founded Taoga Niue in 2002 and has been the chairperson of the Niue Language Commission since 2012. Ms. Ioane is an expert in Vagahau Niue and has contributed to writing, reviewing, and editing Vagahau Niue resources in the Education Department and schools. She was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1997 and a Land Commissioner in 2010. She served as a Board Member for the NDB from 2004-2008 and obtained a Law Certificate from USP in 2006. Ms. Ioane played a key role in developing the Vagahau Niue Unit Standards Qualifications (NZQA). In 2019, she became a Writer and Lecturer for the Vagahau Niue Certificate program at USP. She graduated from USP with a Post Graduate Diploma in Arts in 2021.

Today we honor her with a Public Service award for her commitment and dedication to the Niue Public Service.

Note: This is only the fourth year for Niue's Honors List, giving recognition to those of our people who have given exemplary service for their island. Before submitting for an award, nominators must contact the Premier's Department first.