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## PRESS RELEASE

### **American non-profits join hands with Tuvaluan delegation to unite with Pacific leaders of 28 nations at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture in the spirit of fatele and environmental guardianship.**

April 15, 2024 - Honolulu Hawai'i - In the presence of local Tuvaluan community leaders, the ATAYAL Organization reached an agreement of understanding with Siliva Timoteo, the High Chief of Nukulaelae Atoll in the Pacific Nation of Tuvalu. The purpose of the agreement is to provide support for a delegation of culture-keepers and governmental representatives from Nukulaelae to join the Tuvaluan national delegation at the 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) in Hawai'i and to present Nukulaelae's own distinct voice and culture at the festivities. In addition to participating in FestPAC activities, the Tuvaluan delegation will join representatives of the ATAYAL organization plans to launch youth participation in the Indigenous Bridges Youth Ambassador Program (IBYAP), gaining access to the life-changing education and problem-solving training for global Indigenous youth as they tackle serious issues, such as rising sea levels and language and culture loss.

The 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts and Culture in Oahu, Hawai'i is the largest event for indigenous Pacific Islanders, with more than 2,500 participants from 28 nations. The event will cover many of the critical issues facing Pacific nations, including rising sea levels, climate change, destruction of coral reefs, sustainability and the increase in social inequality. It is critical for representation and inclusion of all Pacific communities, especially the most vulnerable communities in Tuvalu, when dealing with these shared existential crises. The ATAYAL organization supporters and partners have the opportunity to assist Pacific island communities that lack financial resources to lend their voice and join the fight. Also, without a larger delegation, the Tuvaluan delegation will lack the ability to truly share their culture and spirit

The current Ambassador and former Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Bikenibeu Paeniu, who had engaged with ATAYAL for some time, stated, "Without a delegation of at least 40-60 members of the Tuvaluan community, the dancing troupe will not be able to convey the true spirit of the 'fatele,' the traditional community song and dance. So, we appreciate any support to bring our spirit to join our Austronesian brothers and sisters in Hawaii."



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The ATAYAL Organization plans to host the Tuvaluan guests in Oahu during their participation in FestPAC to formally introduce the Indigenous Bridges Youth Ambassador Program with the Tuvaluan youth. Being a bridge to resource partners, the organization will also introduce the Tuvaluan delegation to Professor Alan Tratner, Chairman of the Green2Gold organization, a green technology incubator. Working together, ATAYAL and Green2Gold have expansive networks positioned to empower Pacific Island leaders to defend their communities from culture loss, climate change, and social inequality.



Leiven Hwang, the ATAYAL organization's Regional Director of Hawai'i, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to support Tuvaluan youth at FestPAC by stating, "It is truly an honor to have an opportunity to engage with and learn more about the participating the Tuvaluan youth, to be a part of and contribute to their journey, and to connect with and be steeped in the wisdom and ways of the vibrant, regenerative spirit of all the Austronesian people of the Pacific."

## Support Our Cause

The proposal details of the campaign to support the delegation can be found at

<https://www.indigenousbridges.org/tuvalu>

Take a stand behind the people who live on the front lines of the fight against culture loss, climate change, and rising sea levels.

## Benefits of Your Support

Your support will fund the airfare, lodging and meals during transit, and other expenses of the delegation from Nukulaelae Atoll in Tuvalu. This will give all FestPAC attendees the full, memorable experience of the Tuvalu 'fatele.' It will also bring Nukulaelae to the table to join their Tuvaluan brothers and sisters to share their voices and to access the knowledge and resources to tackle their existential crisis. According to Ambassador Paeniu and Professor Tratner, opening the doors at FestPAC will lead to the possibility of developing the islands of Tuvalu to become 'green' for which perhaps Nukulaelae may become as the first island community in Tuvalu to become "100% Green."



An American 501(c)(3) non profit organization  
<https://www.indigenousbridges.org>



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## About Our Partner Green2Gold

This pioneering global nonprofit Impact Incubator that helped found Earth Day and the First International United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, has major projects to respond to the ever-increasing climate change driven disasters and to foster the responsible development of the Green Economy. These include Transition2Sustainability, Build Back Green, and local GreenTech Micro MFG Hubs. Their purpose is to promote Resilience, Total Renewable Energy, Sustainable, Regenerative Agriculture and upgrade self-sufficiency along with good green jobs at the local community levels.

Green2Gold embraces the support for Tuvalu in concert with ATAYAL's Indigenous Bridges Program and plans to deliver its expertise and technology resources to create a demonstration pilot for the Pacific Island nation as an adoptable, living example for all islands facing the impacts of rising sea levels, and other disastrous climate change and economic development challenges.



## About Our Organization

### MISSION STATEMENT

Transforming Lives + Revitalizing Communities:  
Bridging Connections of Indigenous Culture and Wisdom

When the Indigenous Bridges Youth Ambassadors are transformed and empowered, what is possible? They will build a legacy for future generations as guardians and nurturers of indigenous wisdom and culture, bridging the gap between the knowledge-keeping elders and the younger generations. Their regenerative problem-solving skills will revive traditional communities and be a role model for all. As we say together, "We are all in the same green canoe."

The Indigenous Bridges Youth Ambassador Program is the flagship program of the ATAYAL Organization, an American 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the State of Florida in 2001. The organization is also registered in Washington State and Hawai'i. Our organization is rated by Candid (Guidestar.org) with Platinum Transparency, the highest rating of the most authoritative non-profit organization rating service. Tax-deductible receipts are offered to American donors and sponsors.

## SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

to give Tuvalu a more complete voice at FestPAC and a seat at the table of Pacific Island leaders: <https://www.indigenousbridges.org/tuvalu/>



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