



**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ONGOING
GOVERNMENT OF TOKELAU**

Ofiha o te Fono a te Malo Fakaauau o Tokelau

Fugalei Road
Savalalo, Samoa
Telephone: (+685) 208 22, 208 23

PO Box 3298
Apia, Samoa
Fax: (+685) 217 61

PRESS RELEASE

**TOKELAU SHIFT INTERNATIONAL DATELINE TO THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE
ISLAND**

The Tokelau General Fono decision made in September 2011 to shift the International Dateline from the western to the eastern side of the island means Fakaofu one of the three atolls of Tokelau will be the first place in the world to see the sunrise on Saturday, 31 December 2011.

The decision is in line with the Samoa Government decision to shift the International Dateline from the west of Falealupo to the east of Aleipata. "With the The Tokelau Government's main Administration Office and the majority of the national public services based in Samoa it is necessary to make the shift and avoid the situation where Tokelau will only have four working days to do businesses between the main Administration Office in Samoa and the Tokelau".

The New Zealand Government has given its blessings for Tokelau to make the change. Now people in Tokelau can communicate with families and business partners in New Zealand and Australia using the same day language and avoiding the confusion of different dates and time as has been the case.

The Law enforcing the General Fono decision to shift the International Dateline has now been endorsed by the Tokelau General Fono and like Samoa, the change will occur on the night of Thursday, 29 December 2011. People will go to sleep on Thursday night and wake up the next day, to be Saturday 31 December 2011. The change does not have any impact at all on the time on the clock as this will remain the same, with the only change being the date.