



TAKAMOA THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS VISIT PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

By Papaterai William, Editor of Debates



On Monday, 28 April 2025, students from Takamoa Theological College had the opportunity to visit the Parliament of the Cook Islands, partaking in an engaging exploration of the nation's rich governance history.



The visit commenced with an Opening Prayer led by Parliament Staff Chaplain Tenoa Puna, setting a reflective atmosphere for the day's events. Following the prayer, Papaterai William delivered a warm welcome, inviting the students to step onto the Floor of the Chamber and take their places in the seats of the Members of Parliament. This unique experience allowed them to connect with the democratic process in a personal and impactful way.

The Clerk of Parliament, Mr Tangata Vainerere, provided an informative overview, detailing the historical context and governance of the Cook Islands. He narrated the journey of the Cook Islands toward independence in 1965, sharing a comprehensive timeline that traced the evolution of the Parliament from its establishment in 1957 through to the ongoing developments of 2025.

In addition to discussing the timeline, Mr Vainerere shared insights into the construction of the new Parliament Chamber and highlighted the contributions of various former Prime Ministers, Speakers, Clerks, Members of Parliament, and dedicated staff. This extensive backdrop painted a vivid picture of the political landscape in which these students are poised to take part.

As the visit neared its conclusion, Chaplain Tenoa Puna led a Closing Prayer, reflecting on the knowledge gained and the meaningful connections formed throughout the day. The students then gathered on the Speaker's platform for a commemorative photo, capturing memories of their special visit to Parliament.

On behalf of the Parliament of the Cook Islands, we would like to thank the students of Takamoa Theological College for their visit and engagement today. We look forward to seeing how these experiences will inspire and shape their paths in the years to come.

This interactive session is also freely available to any other community groups wishing to learn more about our political and legislative history. The Parliamentary history 60th Legacy Exhibition is currently open to any organisations and the general public. To book for your interactive history session, contact: papaterai.william@cookislands.gov.ck

