



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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Legislation Adding Public Safety Resources to QC Program's Public Investments Requirement Moves Forward

A Public Hearing was held today on Bill No. 225 by Senator Shawn Gumataotao. If approved, the measure amends the Qualifying Certificate (QC) Law so that public investments and community contributions, which are required as a condition for receiving certain tax incentives, are made available for resources which are needed in response to firefighting and rescue services involving high-rise hotels.

"This measure prioritizes public safety investments to ensure that Guam's first responders remain well-equipped across our island to include Tumon Bay and the surrounding area where safety resources - aerial ladder fire trucks, ambulances, and water rescue equipment - are either limited or unavailable," said Senator Gumataotao. "With more than 22,000 calls for service in 2025 requiring the response of a GFD unit, Bill 225 could not come at a more appropriate time. Resources are definitely needed at GFD and this policy proposal, if approved, modifies the QC Program so that contributions which are already required by law, are prioritized in support of our public safety agencies."

"Guam's economic development cannot outpace its public safety capacity," added Fire Chief Daren Burrier in support of Bill 225. "Tourism is Guam's economic engine. Visitor confidence depends on the island's ability to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies. High-rise hotels, dense pedestrian activity, and coastal environments create unique risks that require specialized capabilities. Investing in emergency response resources is not merely a cost—it is a safeguard for Guam's economic future."

"I support Bill 225-38 and urge the committee's favorable consideration of this legislation," wrote Ms. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor and Acting Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense. "The Guam Fire Department has identified the need, and the Office of Civil Defense recognizes the strategic value. The community deserves protection that matches the scale of development we are inviting to our shores."

"I appreciate the support of our public safety and law enforcement agencies on Bill 225 and will continue to work with their leadership and relevant organizations including GEDA to strengthen this proposal moving forward," said Senator Gumataotao. "If approved, Bill 225 commits a portion of QC-required public investments and community contributions to these agencies, particularly for critical emergency response resources that will be needed to support QC recipients and the broader community of Guam."

For more information, please contact Senator Gumataotao's office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.