



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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Legislation Strengthening Independence and Effectiveness of Ethics Commission Moves Forward

A Public Hearing was held today on Bill No. 214 by Senators Shawn Gumataotao and Joe San Agustin. If approved, the measure amends the composition of the Guam Ethics Commission which was established in 1996 by Public Law 23-105 and finally implemented in 2019 with the support of the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration through Executive Order 2019-06.

“This policy change will make the Ethics Commission very inclusive; a broader swath of our community will be represented,” said Senator Gumataotao. “The membership should reflect fair-mindedness and diligence. I believe that this is a sound and common-sense policy that will be useful. Integrity. Public trust. Accountability. These are not catch phrases, but values that we all can share in ensuring our public sector performs its work as mandated by Guam law. We should not expect anything less.”

“Bill No. 214-38 (COR) serves as a great first step in providing critical amendments to our enabling legislation that will set the tone of our operations as we continue to evolve,” added Nico Fujikawa, Executive Director of the Guam Ethics Commission in support of Bill 214. “Its focus on ensuring that the composition of commissioners is more representative of the island’s diverse community, only strengthens our ability to act objectively when faced with ethical dilemmas. When the composition of our agency’s governing body reflects the diversity of our population, it leads to more effective decision-making.”

“The Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce (GWCC) appreciates the consideration for this role of public service through a potential appointment to the Guam Ethics Commission under Bill No. 214-38,” wrote Myracle Mugol, President of the Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce. “We recognize that strong ethics systems can promote fair participation, reduce corruption risks, and strengthen public trust in the institutions that shape economic opportunity. GWCC’s commitment is to advance women’s leadership and address issues affecting women in the workplace.”

“I believe this measure can and should serve as a vehicle to help update and strengthen policies impacting this important organization which began operations in 2019 long after its creation by law 30 years ago,” concluded Senator Gumataotao.

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