



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2026

Legislation Addresses Critical Improvements to Crime Lab HVAC System

Public Safety Committee Chairman Shawn Gumataotao and members, Senators Sabrina Salas Matanane and Tina Rose Muña-Barnes, introduced Bill 275 authorizing the Guam Police Department (GPD) to access unexpended prior years' appropriations for much-needed improvements to its Crime Lab HVAC System.

“This Bill provides resources for the repair or replacement of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at the Gregorio G. Perez Crime Lab in Mangilao,” said Senator Gumataotao. “GPD’s presentation during their recent Oversight Hearing confirmed that repairs to the HVAC system including the exhaust infrastructure remain unaddressed.”

According to Police Chief Stephen Ignacio, environmental control systems are critical to meeting both forensic accreditation requirements and OSHA safety standards, recognizing these systems regulate temperature, humidity, and air quality factors that directly impact the stability of chemicals, the functionality of equipment, and the integrity of forensic evidence.

GPD has stated that the Forensic Science Division relies on temporary solutions that are not sustainable and which leave the laboratory vulnerable to non-compliance and operational disruption. Chief Ignacio has argued that replacing the HVAC and exhaust system is essential not only to maintain current accreditation, but also to ensure readiness for evolving standards and continued safe, high quality forensic work.

“This Bill is about prioritizing a portion of GPD’s unexpended prior years’ appropriations for a project that directly impacts evidence handling and analysis,” said Senator Gumataotao. “It would be completely unacceptable if criminal cases are jeopardized because of the government’s failure to properly protect evidence.”

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