



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

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Education, Sports, and Government Leaders Support Legislation Prioritizing Public Land for Public Use in Hagåtña

Development of community sports and recreational facilities in Guam's capital eyed with Bill No. 233-38 (COR)

A Public Hearing was held today on Bill No. 233 by Senator Shawn Gumataotao. If approved, the measure authorizes the *Hagåtña* Mayor's Office to construct and operate a football (soccer) pitch on public land located across from the Mayor's Office and adjacent to the *Hagåtña* Pool and the Rick Ninete Tennis Center.

"Bill 233 responds to a request from the *Hagåtña* Mayor's Office for legislation that provides their Office with undeveloped public land to be used for a football pitch and complementary sports and recreational activities for the residents of *Hagåtña* and from across our 18 other villages," said Senator Gumataotao. "Beyond the football pitch and the community sports and recreational activities that are envisioned with Bill 233 is the opportunity this measure offers to help the *Hagåtña* Master Plan move forward in support of further developing our capital. A capital city holds a crucial role as the political and administrative center of a nation, state, territory or city. Its effective management and protection are therefore vital to ensure that the infrastructure, safety, and services remain optimized, providing a sustainable environment for residents and visitors alike."

"Bill No. 233-38 represents a meaningful investment in the long-term health, development, and well-being of the residents of *Hagåtña* and neighboring communities," added *Hagåtña* Mayor Michael Gumataotao. "*Hagåtña* is a central gathering place for government, culture, and public life, and its facilities naturally serve the broader public. This measure prioritizes our youth by promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity, teamwork, and positive social interaction – benefits that extend beyond municipal lines and reflect the welcoming nature of our capital."

Herman Ada, President of the Guam Volleyball Federation, thanked Senator Gumataotao for considering the inclusion of beach-volleyball facilities through an amendment to Bill 233. Mr. Ada testified that "Beyond this land use allocation, there are tangible, existing opportunities to strengthen Guam's tourism product, elevate our international profile, and improve community standards through thoughtful, experience-driven development."

"Bill No. 233-38 (COR) presents an opportunity to deliver a visible and recreation asset in *Hagåtña* in the near term, in a way that can complement HRRA's long-range work to restore and redevelop the capital city," offered Jillette Leon-Guerrero, Executive Director of the *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority (HRRA).

"I thank the *Hagåtña* Mayor and representatives from the Department of Land Management, Guam Football Association, Guam Volleyball Federation, Academy of Our Lady of Guam Catholic High School, and HRRA for contributing to the discussion on Bill 233 and I look forward to their continued support as the measure moves forward for consideration by the full Legislature," Senator Gumataotao concluded.

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