



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

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Legislation Strengthens Public Safety by Sustaining Critical NexGen 911 System

Bill 269 Prioritizes 911 Surcharge Rate Study to Ensure Continued Operation of Emergency Reporting System

As an alternative to the Guam Fire Department's (GFD) draft legislation increasing the current \$1.00 *911 Surcharge* rate to \$3.00, Public Safety Committee Chairman Shawn Gumataotao and members, Senators Sabrina Salas Matanane and Tina Rose Muña-Barnes, introduced Bill 269 authorizing the use of \$450,000 from GFD's unexpended appropriated funds from prior fiscal years for a *911 Surcharge Rate Study*.

"The recent Oversight Hearing regarding GFD confirmed that little to no action has been taken by those in charge to determine – with the help of the PUC – whether the monthly *911 Surcharge* rate can support a modern and reliable emergency reporting system," said Senator Gumataotao. "Bill 269 strengthens fire, police, and emergency medical services by ensuring that Guam's emergency reporting system is properly funded using the very resources the legislature prioritized nearly 30 years ago for this critical public safety infrastructure."

Established in 1999 the monthly *911 Surcharge* is a fee paid by local exchange telephone and commercial mobile radio service subscribers. Monthly *911 Surcharge* collections are intended to fund the just and reasonable expenses of operating and maintaining an emergency reporting system. Guam Law authorizes GFD to petition the Public Utilities Commission from time to time, for adjustments to the monthly *911 Surcharge* rate.

In May 2025, GFD requested a supplemental \$2.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2025 to cover costs associated with the Next Generation (NexGen) 911 System updates and continuation of services, including software and hardware enhancements, maintenance, and personnel training.

During the July 2025 Special Economic Service Meeting, Senator Gumataotao asked and was informed by the Bureau of Budget and Management Research that outstanding NexGen 911 System invoices were partially settled using GFD's budget. It is unclear whether funding came from GFD's Fiscal Year 2024 or Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations. In August 2025, GFD submitted legislation proposing to increase the \$1.00 monthly *911 Surcharge* to \$3.00. In the January 12, 2026, Oversight Hearing regarding GFD, department officials informed the Public Safety Committee they had approximately \$3 million to \$4 million in unexpended appropriations as of September 30, 2025.

"This measure recognizes that the Public Utilities Commission and their subject matter experts – not the legislature – are best suited to review the adequacy of the current monthly *911 Surcharge* rate and determine whether adjustments are warranted moving forward," Senator Gumataotao added. "Sustaining the NexGen 911 System and future iterations is non-negotiable as this vital service connects our families to the public safety services they need during times of emergency."

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