



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

March 9, 2026

Senator Shawn Gumataotao issued the following response to Adelup's claim that the Director of Corrections' illness was reported before this morning's Oversight Hearing on the Department of Corrections.

"Ms. Tayama of DOC contacted my office late last Friday afternoon sharing that she and perhaps personnel from other DOC Sections were unprepared for the Oversight Hearing. My office advised her to address her concerns with the Director of Corrections as soon as possible. My office did not receive a request from the Director of Corrections, or the Acting Director of Corrections if one is in place, to postpone today's Oversight Hearing.

On February 27, 2026, the Director of Corrections confirmed receipt of the Committee's First Notice of Oversight Hearing. On March 5, 2026, he personally received a Legislative Subpoena requesting his attendance today and the submission of an official document to the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard.

Major Aguon of DOC reached out to my office this morning, 30 minutes before the DOC Oversight Hearing, advising that he would be in attendance, but the Director of Corrections was still out due to an illness. No member of DOC's Command Staff present today informed the Committee on the record that the Director would not attend, nor did they identify an Acting Director. This raises the question: who's in charge at DOC?

While the Administration appears interested in shifting our attention from the Director of Corrections' absence of leadership to his absence at today's Oversight Hearing, the Committee cautions the Administration against downplaying the very serious issues that continue to face DOC and the hardworking officers and support personnel who are doing their very best to keep our community safe."

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

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