



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

June 19, 2026

Senator Shawn Gumataotao issued the following statement following today's Joint Oversight Hearing regarding Typhoon Sinlaku expenditures and after-action reports. The Joint Oversight Hearing was arranged in coordination with Senator Chris Duenas, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations.

“I join Chairman Duenas and our colleagues in recognizing the first responders, village mayors and vice-mayors, emergency managers, support staff and leadership of our departments and agencies, Guam's private sector, and our federal and military partners for doing their part to keep our families and communities safe. We are grateful for their service and the sacrifices they and their families made to prepare for and help our island respond to Typhoon Sinlaku.

Our decision to assemble relevant stakeholders for today's Joint Oversight Hearing is rooted in the Guam Legislature's responsibility to ensure detailed accounting of taxpayer resources that have been prioritized for Typhoon Sinlaku response and recovery efforts. The Emergency Management and Finance Committees agree that our collective response to future disasters will be impacted by our ability today to manage critical public resources allocated for Typhoon Sinlaku.

On April 11th of this year, I voted yes on \$25 million for Typhoon Sinlaku. I did so without hesitation — because our families needed resources moving before that storm made landfall, not after. The pre-landfall appropriation of \$25 million was a completely different approach than the one our predecessors in 2023 took in appropriating local funds in response to Typhoon Mawar.

During last week's Special Economic Service Meeting, BBMR informed the Guam Legislature that approximately \$9.9 million of the \$25 million appropriated for Typhoon Sinlaku is held in reserve. The Administration through BBMR believes that typhoon expenditures have significantly tapered off and that the close to \$10 million in unused funds could either be reassigned for other priorities or deposited back into the Rainy Day Fund.

Before we move a single dollar of Sinlaku reserve funds, we owe the public an explanation of that pattern. And we owe ourselves a reckoning with whether our appropriations process is keeping pace with our agencies' actual capacity to execute. Determining the adequacy of the nearly 50-year-old policy authorizing the Governor to use up to \$250,000 for emergency expenses is a good starting point for potential policy updates moving forward.”

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