



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

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Oversight Hearing to Focus on Corrective Actions Linked to Federal and Local Audits, Safeguarding Emergency Management Grants

Office of Civil Defense (OCD)-Office of Homeland Security (OHS) Grants Placed on Restrictive Drawdown Status

Emergency Management Committee Chairman Shawn Gumataotao has scheduled an oversight hearing for 8:30 a.m. on June 15, 2026, to determine what caused FEMA to place all federal grants awarded to the Government of Guam on restrictive drawdown status.

More importantly, through the planned oversight hearing, Senator Gumataotao will focus on establishing a clear understanding of the steps the Executive Branch has taken to safeguard federal resources. If these resources are not handled according to FEMA requirements, they have the potential to jeopardize critical federally funded preparedness, mitigation, and recovery grants moving forward.

“Despite OCD-OHS leadership’s representation during their February 2, 2026, Oversight Hearing that federal approval of its Corrective Action Plan demonstrated federal confidence in its commitment to improvement, I received information last month claiming restricted access by the Government of Guam to OCD-OHS federal grants,” Senator Gumataotao stated. “To confirm this assertion, I sent a FOIA request to the Governor's Office on May 15, 2026, seeking copies of all documents, records, correspondence, memoranda, emails, reports, notices, and any other materials related to FEMA placing all grants awarded to Guam on restrictive drawdown status.”

After their requested extension was completed, the Governor's Office responded to Senator Gumataotao’s FOIA request on May 29, 2026, with several documents that the senator believes have serious policy and fiscal implications. According to information provided by the Governor’s Office, FEMA’s decision to place all grants awarded by FEMA Region 9 on restrictive drawdown status is in response to longstanding and significant concerns regarding the Government of Guam’s management of federal grant funds.

FEMA identified three (3) issues:

- Since 2019, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) awards have been subject to restrictions due to findings from FEMA monitoring conducted for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. During this period, Guam substantiated costs for less than 5% of obligated EMPG funding.
- The 2023 Premier Group Audit identified over \$40 million in questioned costs and 11 compliance issues, none of which have been fully resolved to date.
- In 2025, several staff members were indicted for alleged misuse of federal funds.

“Without federal resources available to the people of Guam, the Government of Guam will have no choice but to support emergency management efforts completely using local taxpayer dollars,” Senator Gumataotao added. “Simply put, this means that resources meant for education, public safety, healthcare, roads, and other priorities might be set aside to fund emergency management operations that otherwise could be supported with federal dollars if grant requirements are met. Guam’s ability to respond and recover from future disasters requires decision makers to demand systemic changes at OCD-OHS now to preserve and strengthen whatever credibility and support that we have left with FEMA.”

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