



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
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The following is a statement from Senator Shawn Gumataotao on the 38th Guam Legislature's approval of Substitute Bill 44-38 (COR), the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Bill:

"Grow the economy, not government. While certain senators continue to advocate for bigger government with no expectation for improvements in the delivery of public services, the Republican-led 38th Guam Legislature took one step forward to earn the public's trust in government by restoring the 4% Business Privilege Tax (BPT).

It took seven long years for a majority of senators to finally repeal the Democrat-led 34th Guam Legislature's decision in 2018 to permanently increase the BPT from 4% to 5%.

In the face of a tourism industry on life support, deteriorating facilities at Guam's only government hospital, potholes on primary and secondary roads across the island, and pay raises for government employees funded over repairs to school sports facilities, Democrat-led legislatures in the past consistently failed to prioritize taxpayer dollars for the very services that our taxpayers pay for and expect.

With millions of dollars in excess local revenues collected and billions more in federal pandemic assistance poured into Guam just in the last few years, clearly, this government had more than enough money to strengthen public education, safety, and education services. Instead, leadership failed at every chance they had to create a viable path for economic growth and improvements in the delivery of critical public services.

In my discussions with constituents, agency heads, government employees, and my colleagues in the legislature, I emphasize each time that everything should not always be about money. It is about priorities.

The spending plan I voted for today prioritizes basic public services that support our families and businesses that are the foundation of our economy. With today's approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal, an overwhelming majority of senators reaffirmed our shared belief and commitment to ensuring that government exists to serve our people and not the other way around."

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