



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Gumataotao: Drone Policy to Help Keep Weapons and Illegal Drugs Out of DOC and Other Government Detention Facilities

Bill Criminalizes the Unauthorized Use of Drones Over Correctional and Detention Facilities and Imposes Fines and Imprisonment for Violators

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Senator Shawn Gumataotao introduced Bill No. 191-38 (COR) prohibiting the unauthorized use of drones over Department of Corrections (DOC) property and detention facilities managed by the Guam Police Department, Department of Youth Affairs, and the Judiciary of Guam. The measure imposes a \$500 penalty or 6-month imprisonment for first-time violators and stricter jail time for repeat offenders.

Unmanned aircraft, commonly referred to as drones, threaten the security of correctional and detention facilities nationwide. DOC argues that the enactment of legislation prohibiting unlawful use of unmanned aircraft is critical to the safety of department personnel and the inmates entrusted to their care, as the technology has been reported to be used to smuggle dangerous contraband including weapons and illegal drugs to individuals confined within correctional and detention facilities locally and nationally.

“I recognize the importance of unmanned aircraft to the effective delivery of critical public safety services, particularly for law enforcement searches and during emergency rescue and disaster response operations, but policy must be established banning unauthorized use of this technology over correctional and detention facilities,” said Senator Gumataotao. “This legislation does not diminish the value drones serve as a force multiplier for our public safety and law enforcement agencies; rather, it ensures that this technology is never allowed to harm or compromise the sensitive work of the very women and men who sacrifice their lives every day to serve and protect our families and community.”

Bill No. 191-38 (COR) builds on the efforts initiated by the 34th Guam Legislature through Bill No. 155-34 (LS), which proposed restricting drones in the airspace over certain government of Guam facilities which the bill described as vulnerable targeted areas. Vulnerable targeted areas include the Judiciary of Guam, Office of Civil Defense, Guam Homeland Security, Guam Police Department, and Department of Corrections. The 34th Guam Legislature proposal was put forward just weeks before DOC officers discovered an unmanned aircraft or drone near one of the prison's housing units while searching the prison's yard and perimeter.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved unmanned aircraft flight restrictions over Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities, including high-rise jails, medical referral centers, and medium security facilities that adjoin high security facilities. A total of 109 of the BOP's 122 federal facilities were covered by FAA policy as of March 2020.

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