



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Legislation Strengthens Accountability of Homeland Security Funds, Prohibits Non-Merit-Based Grants and Fusion Center Management

October 14, 2025 Public Hearing Planned for Emergency Management and Homeland Security Proposals

For Immediate Release
September 21, 2025

Senator Shawn Gumataotao introduced Bill No. 184-38 (COR) requiring the Guam Office of Homeland Security to establish classified positions for its grants manager and Marianas Regional Fusion Center (MRFC) director positions.

Based on the 2024 Office of Public Accountability (OPA) investigative audit on the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense's (GHS/OCD) operating costs, the OPA concluded that noncompliance issues were caused by the lack of consistent Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense leadership and a qualified fiscal and grants management team. Additionally, the unaddressed repeat findings and causes have resulted in the documented freezing of federal reimbursements. According to the OPA, the freeze indicates how risky it is for the federal government to continue to invest in GHS/OCD.

If approved, Bill No. 184-38 (COR) also mandates the Guam Office of Homeland Security to provide a copy of project performance, compliance, and financial reports to the Guam Legislature and the Office of Public Accountability whenever such reports are submitted to a federal awarding agency.

“Guam’s record as a recipient of federal grants for homeland security services jeopardizes future funding opportunities which in turn weakens our collective ability to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from known and emerging threats against the people of Guam, particularly at a time of rising military tensions in our part of the world,” said Senator Gumataotao. “Without merit-based positions, the responsibility of managing critical financial resources and submitting reports as required by federal awarding agencies are assigned to unclassified and potentially unqualified political appointees.”

Also, Bill No. 184-38 (COR) would require the Director or equivalent position of the Marianas Regional Fusion Center (MRFC) be filled through classified employment.

“The MRFC Director position must be treated with the same seriousness, scrutiny, and support that we as a community establish for other members of our law enforcement community,” said Senator Gumataotao. “It is through intelligence sharing with our local, federal and regional partners that the MRFC serves an undeniably important leadership role in protecting our families against domestic and foreign threats.

A public hearing on Bill No. 184-38 (COR) and Bill No. 179-38 (COR) which abolishes the Office of Civil Defense and creates the new Bureau of Emergency Management within the Guam Fire Department, is tentatively planned for October 14, 2025. Public Hearing notices will be issued once arrangements are confirmed.

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