



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

## **Bill Supporting Development of Satellite Customs Inspection Facility Moves Forward**

*Public safety entities back legislation granting CQA additional time to finalize plans and secure funding for Piti facility*

For Immediate Release  
September 24, 2025

Senator Shawn Gumataotao's Bill No. 183-38 (COR) granting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) an additional two years to develop a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility was supported by Guam's public safety entities during a public hearing on the measure.

In 2018, Public Law 34-112 authorized CQA to utilize a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing the facility. The law was later amended in 2021 providing CQA with an additional five years to establish the facility.

During a public hearing on their Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, CQA testified that a Container Inspection Facility Working Group was created in 2024 and continues to work on all facets of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund facility construction and sustainability.

“We as government leaders and security experts all over the Pacific are worried that the maritime transportation system could be used by terrorists to smuggle personnel, weapons of mass destruction, or other dangerous materials into the United States,” said Senator Gumataotao. “We as a community must be concerned that ships in U.S. ports like ours and others in the region, particularly large commercial cargo ships and cruise ships, could be compromised.”

“As the People's democratically-elected Chief Legal and Law Enforcement Officer of Guam, my policy is both clear and uncompromising: we must achieve 100% inspection of all containers at the Port. This alone will significantly cut Guam's crime rate,” wrote Attorney General Douglas Moylan in support of the legislation. “Bill No 183-38 is critical because it ensures Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) has the time, resources, and legal authority to construct a facility capable of meeting this objective.”

“The construction and operation of this facility is paramount for the comprehensive safety and security of the island,” added CQA Director Ike Peredo. “This customs inspection facility is designed to minimize potential unforeseen consequences of regulatory and enforcement inspections that would otherwise be conducted within the broader community, maximizing current and planned agency inspection resources, interdict illicit contraband, and will serve as a location to isolate potential or known threats to the community.”

“While CQA has worked diligently, the scope, cost, and federal compliance requirements of this project demand more time,” argued Mr. Vincent Perez, CQA Chief of Customs. “This bill is not about delay; it is about ensuring that Guam finally establishes the Customs inspection facility our island has needed for decades.”

Through testimony submitted to the Guam Legislature in support of Bill No. 183-38, Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory Respicio wrote that, “The impact of this facility extends beyond our shores. Guam’s Port is a transshipment hub, and containers passing through here reach other islands across Micronesia and the Pacific. By securing cargo at the point of entry, we are not only safeguarding Guam but also helping protect our regional neighbors.”

Bill No. 183-38 also received support from Guam Youth Congress Representative Charlie Balbastro who testified that, “Any sense of violence and [drug] addictions must be stopped as soon as possible, none of this should’ve happened at all.”

“I share the concerns raised by military and community stakeholders during the recent defense forum that a large-scale terrorist attack at a U.S. port could not only cause local death and damage, but also paralyze global maritime commerce,” said Senator Gumataotao. “With the help of policies like Bill No. 183, we can and must do better to protect our community from these real and potentially devastating threats today.”

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