



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Office of Civil Defense/Guam Homeland Security Continues to Struggle with Financial Management

Legislative Committee on Emergency Management Receives Update on January 2025 Oversight Hearing

For Immediate Release
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Senator Shawn Gumataotao has received an update on the progress of the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense on their documented financial management challenges as outlined during an Oversight Hearing held on January 24, 2025.

"There needs to be more focus by our Emergency Management leadership on what the OPA and federal auditors have directed they do to fix their financial management failures today," said Senator Gumataotao. "The responses I received from the Civil Defense Administrator were more of the same that he and the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense Team have been pushing out for over a decade which is disappointing at best."

The Legislative Oversight Chairman on Emergency Management recently requested an update on progress to comply with recommended actions by the Guam Office of Public Accountability (OPA) Report No. 24-07 and OPA Report No. 24-12, Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense Operating Costs Series, Parts I and II.

"If the Executive Branch cannot rally up inter-agency support at the soonest, Guam will lose more credibility and more program dollars for the lack of prioritization," said Senator Gumataotao. "When emergency management funds and policies are under a microscope there has to be an action that makes this situation better - no more prideful words and no more finger pointing. Get to work!"

Recent informational hearings and the Government of Guam Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Audit by Public Auditor Benjamin J. Cruz have shown lost federal funds by Guam's emergency management agencies. More is threatened as the two agencies, extensions of the Office of the Governor of Guam, have been unable to meet federal reporting requirements.

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

Attachments: 3.11.25 ESG Letter to OCD, Re: OPA Report Nos. 24-07 and 24-12
 3.31.25 OCD-GHS Response Letter w/Supporting Documents