



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Gumataotao Bill Protects Funding for Immediate and Long-Term Public Safety Priorities

Legislation restricts the de-appropriation or transfer of unused prior years' appropriations approved for public safety agencies

For Immediate Release

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Senator Shawn Gumataotao introduced Bill No. 211-38 (COR) ensuring the operations and immediate and long-term capital projects of Guam's public safety agencies are prioritized within the limits of legislative appropriations.

The government of Guam's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Act, Substitute Bill No. 44-38 (COR), includes a provision authorizing that the unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the Judiciary of Guam each fiscal year shall remain available to the Branch until fully expended. If approved, Bill No. 211-38 (COR) establishes the same continuing appropriation authority for the Guam Police Department (GPD), Guam Fire Department, Department of Corrections, and Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency.

"This proposal ensures that taxpayer funds appropriated to our public safety agencies remain with these entities to support the critical work of the women and men who sacrifice so much to serve and protect our families and communities," said Senator Gumataotao.

Although the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) stated on August 19, 2025, during session deliberations on Substitute Bill No. 44-38 (COR) that the Guam Police Department had an estimated \$2 million in unspent appropriations, which OFB was confident GPD would spend by the end of Fiscal Year 2025 primarily on overtime costs, the Chief of Police sent a letter dated September 23, 2025 requesting the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard to preserve unexpended prior years' General Fund appropriations authorized for a Law Enforcement Fallen Officers Memorial. The Fiscal Year 2024 General Appropriations Act, Public Law 37-42, appropriated \$500k to GPD for the purpose of designing, constructing, and maintaining the Law Enforcement Fallen Officers Memorial dedicated to the fallen officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Without legislative authorization to utilize the unexpended \$500k General Fund appropriation from Fiscal Year 2024 in Fiscal Year 2026, GPD is unable to fund the project beyond September 30, 2025.

"Bill 211 recognizes the perennial challenges facing our public safety agencies and ensures that unused appropriations – funds already authorized by the Guam Legislature – remain available to support the ongoing recruitment of personnel, procurement of emergency response vehicles, and development of capital projects," said Senator Gumataotao.

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