



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
October 24, 2025

Senator Shawn Gumataotao issued the following statement after the Guam Legislature approved Bill No. 1 (4-S) appropriating \$13 million from the General Fund to cover SNAP and WIC benefits for next month in response to the ongoing federal government shutdown.

“I had great reservations taking action on Bill 1 (4-S). I joined responsible policy makers today-willing to work to support the most vulnerable in our society.

I will continue to make every attempt to work with this Administration. But in this particular case, I had deep reservations with this particular public policy solution to what state and territorial legislatures are all facing right now-impacted by actions by our federal government an ocean away.

Holding the federal government funding hostage has not just been a Washington D.C. debate for political points. The actions on Capitol Hill are having real and immediate consequences in every state and territory across America that cannot be overlooked. From impacting pay for our troops forward deployed or serving here, first responders north to south, firefighters included, to affecting critical services for seniors and veterans and disrupting food assistance for families in need, the government shutdown is inflicting severe consequences on this Pacific American community, those in the Caribbean as well and all across the U.S. Mainland that are completely avoidable.

From one voice across the International Dateline-there is a solution on the table that Senate Democrats should support, after all they did vote for this funding extension just six months ago. The clean funding extension provides stability for our military service members, veterans, and their families, as well as the continuity of low-income assistance programs. Allowing this shutdown to continue consequently and needlessly is disrupting our island economy, threatening public safety, and undermining public confidence in our institutions.”

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

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