



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Gumataotao: Sensible Changes to Ethics Commission Membership Strengthen Organization's Independence and Effectiveness

Association of Government Accountants, Guam Chamber of Commerce, and Women's Chamber of Commerce among the entities authorized to appoint Ethics Commission members

For Immediate Release
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Senators Shawn Gumataotao and Joe San Agustin introduced Bill No. 214-38 (COR) modifying the composition of the Guam Ethics Commission (Commission). Established in 1996 by Public Law 23-105 and finally implemented in 2019 through Executive Order 2019-06, the Commission exists to investigate and take appropriate action on alleged Standard of Conduct violations by officials and employees of the Government of Guam.

Currently, the Commission is made up of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Guam Legislature. Each appointee shall be a U.S. citizen and a bona fide resident of Guam. Local law prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from serving on the Commission, and members shall not be an employee or have any member of their immediate family employed by the Government of Guam. *Employee* is defined as a nominated, appointed, or elected officer or individual employed by a Government of Guam agency, including members of boards or commissions, and individuals under personal services contracts.

According to a media article published yesterday, October 27, 2025, the Guam Ethics Commission was scheduled to meet on October 24, 2025, but was unable to establish a quorum. The Commission lost two Commissioners in May of this year and pending new appointments the organization is hamstrung, according to its chairperson.

“Recognizing the Commission’s responsibility to adjudicate complaints alleging Standard of Conduct violations by public officials and employees, this measure proposes to change its membership to include eligible residents appointed by community organizations and the two other branches of government,” said Senator Gumataotao. “The Guam Ethics Commission serves a critical role in fostering public trust by holding public servants accountable for their actions, and through the amendments offered in Bill No. 214-38 (COR), policymakers can and must strengthen the Commission’s independence and effectiveness now and into the future.”

If approved, Bill No. 214-38 (COR) provides for a different Commission membership which prioritizes representation of our broader community. Accordingly, the measure proposes that one (1) member shall be appointed from each of the following: the Governor of Guam; the Speaker of the Guam Legislature; the Chief Justice of Guam; Guam Chamber of Commerce; Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce, provided the individual shall not concurrently serve as the appointed member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce to the Commission; Mayor’s Council of Guam; and, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Guam Chapter.

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