



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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

Secretary of Homeland Security Responds to Expansion of Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program

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Senator Shawn Gumataotao received a response from U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on his request to include the Republic of the Philippines in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

“I appreciate the response from Secretary Noem on this important issue for the people of Guam,” said Senator Gumataotao. “The issues that face our number one industry need a whole-of-government approach.”

Senator Gumataotao remains steadfast in the belief that the expansion of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is an important part of Guam’s broader tourism recovery plan, which must run parallel with other policy proposals that aim to support existing businesses and attract new industries to the Mariana Islands Archipelago.

“Support from the federal government of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program can be the catalyst for an unprecedented expansion of the economy in the Western Pacific that is so needed today and into the foreseeable future,” said Senator Gumataotao.

Visitor arrivals from the Philippines in 2024 ranked in the top four among Guam’s key tourism markets. During the November 10, 2025, Legislative Committee on Tourism’s Oversight Hearing on the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB), the organization’s leadership referred to the Philippines as true sustainable tourism with local traffic both from Guam and the Philippines. GVB informed policymakers that it is focused on diversifying visitor markets and expanding existing sources including the Philippines which has maintained solid load factors across different airlines servicing Guam.

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