

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
183-38 (COR)	Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.	9/3/25 3:14 p.m.	9/12/25 4:31 p.m.	Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities, and Federal and Foreign Affairs.	Request: 9/12/25 Waiver: 9/19/25	9/24/25 2:00 p.m.	11/12/25 As Amended.	



October 31, 2025

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.
Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa
Hågatña, Guam 96910

Via Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada 
Chairman, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 183-38 (COR) As amended

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 183-38 (COR) As amended - An Act To Amend Section 2(b) Of Public Law 34-112, As Amended, Relative To Supporting The Guam Customs And Quarantine Agency's Ongoing Efforts To Develop The Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, And Secured Sterile Facility.

Committee votes are as follows:

<u>8</u>	TO DO PASS
<u> </u>	TO NOT PASS
<u> </u>	TO REPORT OUT ONLY
<u> </u>	TO ABSTAIN
<u> </u>	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:
November 3, 2025 7:16 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Senseremente,


Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairperson, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs



COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) As amended

INTRODUCED BY

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

“AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY’S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.”



October 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Members**
Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

From: **Senator Jesse A. Lujan**
Chairperson, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

Subject: **Committee Report on Bill No. 183-38 (COR)**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 183-38 (COR) As amended** - "Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – An Act To Amend Section 2(b) Of Public Law 34-112, As Amended, Relative To Supporting The Guam Customs And Quarantine Agency's Ongoing Efforts To Develop The Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, And Secured Sterile Facility."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 183-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Written Testimony
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), As Amended by the Committee
- Copy of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), Markup
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver
- Related News Reports

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairperson, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan
38th Guam Legislature

September 12, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 183-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 183-38 (COR)** –Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao. – “AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY’S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities, and Federal and Foreign Affairs chaired by Senator Jesse A. Lujan. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the bill is available on our legislative website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.





FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 10:19 AM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov.

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525



JAL-FN 09.24.2025.pdf

296K



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov.

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

 PRINT

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on
Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 09/17/2025 10:22 AM

 **Posted by:** Cecile Suda, Deputy Chief of Staff

 **Department(s):**

GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):** (/notices?division_id=)

 **Notice Topic(s):** (/notices?topic_id=)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 17, 2025 MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media From: Senator Jesse A.

Lujan Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism,

Customs, Utilities, and Federal & Foreign Affairs RE: FIRST

NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities

and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 beginning at 2:00 PM at the

Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The

agenda is as follows: 2:00 P.M. 38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of

Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport

Authority Board of Directors. Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio

Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law

34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs

and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the

customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings

listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the

Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email

at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-

6525. In compliance with Title II of the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and

services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or

anyone you know requires assistance or special

accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please

contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact

information provided above. Individuals requiring special

accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit

their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-

6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov. This ad

was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation,

Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.

KUAM-TV
P.O BOX 368
HAGATNA, GUAM 96932 U.S

OFFICE OF SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN

Advertiser ID: 2740 Amount Paid

2740-00002-0000	9/30/2025	1
Official Invoice	Date	Page

DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

2740-00002-0000 O 9/30/2025 1

OFFICE OF SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN
259 MARTYR ST.
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910 US

Purchase Order Number:
Est. Number:
Co-Op:
Description: T.2025-5 (JAL 09.24.25)
Salesperson: Mesa, Christine

Date	Day	Length		Qty	Rate	Total
9/22/2025	Mon		KUAM-TV8 Copy: 260T Description: JAL-PH-FN 09.17.24 (9.24.25) Log Event: NBC NIGHTLY NEWS			\$320.00
9/17/2025	Wed	:30	KUAM-TV8 05:30:39 PM Log Event: TODAY SHOW	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/17/2025	Wed	:30	KUAM-TV8 07:30:37 AM Copy: 260U Description: JAL-PH-SN 09.22.25 (9.24.25) Log Event: FOOTBALL NIGHT IN AM	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/22/2025	Mon	:30	KUAM-TV8 09:59:15 AM Log Event: ONE MICRONESIA	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/22/2025	Mon	:30	KUAM-TV8 08:30:00 AM	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE. KUAM does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity in the placement, scheduling and completion of purchase of a

Quantity	4	Total	\$320.00
Total Due			\$320.00



Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Sep 22, 2025 at 9:30 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov.

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.

--



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525



JAL-SN 09.24.2025.pdf

295K



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov.

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

 PRINT

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 09/22/2025 10:35 AM

 **Posted by:** Cecile Suda, Deputy Chief of Staff

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/24/2025 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN (/notices?division_id=270)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs,
Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Mess Comms 38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0579.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Mess%20Comms%2038th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0579.pdf)) - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20183-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20183-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at **senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov** (**<mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>**) or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at

public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov (<mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>).

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.



Invitation to Public Hearing on Bill No. 183-38 (COR) - Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 2:00 PM

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 1:38 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
and Federal & Foreign Affairs

RE: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025 beginning at 2:00 PM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

2:00 P.M.

38GL-25-0980 - Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan for further assistance via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 969-6525.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at (671) 969-6525 or via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov.

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs.



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525



JAL-FN 09.24.2025.pdf

296K



Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Invitation List - Public Hearing on Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 11:34 AM

To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai Senator Gumataotao,

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities, Federal and Foreign will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. to hear Senator's sponsored Bill No. 183-38 (COR). Please provide our committee with names and email addresses of those you would like our committee to extend an invitation to testify on Bill 183-38 (COR). Please feel free to extend an invitation to those who you would like to attend and/or present testimony on Bill 183-38 (COR).

Enclosed is the First Notice of Public Hearing for your easy reference.

We look forward to hearing from your office.

Thank you,
Cecile Bamba Suda
Deputy Chief of Staff

--



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525



JAL-FN 09.24.2025.pdf

296K



PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
Wednesday, September 24, 2025 2:00PM
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

2:00 PM

38GL-25-0980 - *Appointment of Doyon A. Morato, Member, Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors.*

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) – *Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - An Act to Amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility.*



I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan

Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

Date:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Time:

2:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING - BILL NO. 183-38 (COR) SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	J. I. GUEZAS	CQA			✓		X	
2	D. Flores	CQA					X	
3	Ike Q. Perab	CQA			✓			
4	Adrian Moran	CQA					X	
5	FRANCIS FELARANG	CQA			✓			
6	VINCENT SA. PEREZ	CQA			✓			
7	Dory Moylan	AG					X	
8								
9								
10								



I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahân

Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

Date:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Time:

2:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING - BILL NO. 183-38 (COR) SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Charlie Balbastro	Guam Youth Congress	[REDACTED]			✓	✓	
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

Director's Office

*Director of Customs – Ike. Q. Peredo
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

Doc. Ref. No. CQA DIR-508-25

September 24, 2025

Honorable Senator Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism,
Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs
38th Guam Legislature

Subject: Testimony in Support
RE: Bill 183-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai and good afternoon, Senator Jesse Lujan and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs. My name is Ike Peredo, Director of the Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency.

This afternoon, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 183-38, proposed by Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao. This legislation seeks to amend section 2 (b) of Public Law 34-112, thereby granting the Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency an additional two years of administrative jurisdiction for property designated as parcel 1-3, as delineated on Map 055FY144. This extension of an additional two years is crucial for the completion of the Customs Satellite, Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility, which will be operated by and exclusively for the use of the Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency.

The construction and operation of this facility is paramount for the comprehensive safety and security of the island. Furthermore, it will facilitate the enhancement of border facilitation and mitigation procedures for merchandise entering the island through the Commercial Port of Guam. This customs inspection facility is designed to minimize potential unforeseen consequences of regulatory and enforcement inspections that would otherwise be conducted within the broader community, maximizing current and planned agency inspection resources, interdict illicit contraband, and will serve as a location to isolate potential or known threats to the community.

Support for Bill 183-38 is essential for the members of this body, as the additional time will enable the agency to persist in its endeavors to realize this facility. Presently, the working group I have established has already made substantial progress toward achieving this objective. I am pleased to announce that the agency has been awarded a no-cost share grant of \$2 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration Fiscal Year 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program, specifically for architectural and engineering services to design the facility. In August, the award amount was transferred and loaded into CQA's account in August of this year.

In addition to the preliminary conceptual design and assistance provided by the Port Authority of Guam consultants and the loading of funds, the agency met with the Department of Public Works, who have agreed to undertake the procurement of architectural and engineering services.

It's important to note that while this facility has been a priority for our agency, several significant challenges have impacted our timeline. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted normal operations and procurement processes, Typhoon Mawar caused substantial infrastructure damage and diverted agency resources to recovery efforts, and securing adequate funding required three years of persistent effort during the current administration before we could obtain the necessary matching funds. Additionally, like many infrastructure projects during this period, we faced broader challenges including construction labor shortages, COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions that affected material availability and costs, and increased shipping expenses that significantly impacted construction projects that are Guam-based such as the military buildup construction. These obstacles, now largely resolved, have been accounted for in our planning. This has enabled us to secure the \$2 million federal grant funding and establish the partnerships needed to move forward effectively within the requested extension period.

In conclusion, I wish to express my profound appreciation to Senator Gumataotao for introducing this bill and for his foresight in recognizing the necessity of additional time for the Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency to complete the facility.

I'm available to take questions or clarify my testimony to the members.



Ike Q. Peredo
Director, CQA



Dipáttamenton Kontribusion yan Adu'ána
DEPARTMENT OF

REVENUE AND TAXATION

Lourdes Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam, Maga'haga Guahán
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor of Guam, Sigundo Maga'láhi
Guahán

Marie P. Lizama
Director, Direktot
Michelle B. Santos
Acting Deputy Director, Ma'a Sigundo Direktot

September 25, 2025

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman - Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: DRT Testimony on Bill 183-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai, Senator Gumataotao:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the above-mentioned bill.

The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) is an important partner of the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT) in that they assist our agency in certain areas including, but not limited to, the bonded inventory process for tobacco wholesalers and the collection of use tax on imported goods.

Our agency has a good working relationship with CQA, and they are typically receptive to explore ideas or implement suggestions to further strengthen or tighten processes that enable us to carry out our respective duties.

DRT is in favor of Bill 183-38 (COR) and/or any legislation that potentially enhances CQA's ability to perform its functions in a more efficient manner, as we believe it will also prove beneficial to our agency. As such, we are hopeful it will find favorable consideration among your colleagues.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please feel free to contact me at (671) 635-1840 or via e-mail at directorsoffice@revtax.guam.gov.

Sinseramente,


Marie P. Lizama
Director



PORT OF GUAM
ATURIDAT I PUETTON GUAHAN
Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port
1026 Cabras Highway, Suite 201, Piti, Guam 96915
Telephone: 671-477-5931/35 Facsimile: 671-477-2689/4445
Website: www.portguam.com



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

September 24, 2025

The Honorable Jesse A. Lujan
Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities,
And Federal & Foreign Affairs
38th Guam Legislature
Calvo Arriola Building, Suite 101-A
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Subject: Testimony for Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai, Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), introduced by Senator Shawn Gumatao. This measure is critical to the continued development of the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

Public Law 34-112, enacted in 2018, authorized CQA to utilize government land for the facility. In 2021, Public Law 36-12 extended the development period by five years, through July 2026. Bill No. 183-38 (COR) provides the additional time necessary for CQA and the Container Inspection Facility Working Group to complete financing and finalize design. The facility is essential to protecting our borders. Guam is the lifeline for families, businesses, and national defense, yet we remain vulnerable to the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and invasive species. Our seaport is the entry point for nearly all cargo that reaches the island, and with that comes the constant risk of narcotics being smuggled in. This project will give Customs the infrastructure it needs to inspect and secure cargo, intercept contraband before it reaches our community, and safeguard the island's economic and environmental well-being.

As Guam's only commercial seaport, the Port has been an active partner in this effort. In 2019, within the first 30 days of the Leon Guerrero Tenorio Administration, and as General Manager of the Port, we worked with Chief Ike Aguigui and his team at Customs to identify and agree on a four-acre site inside the Port for the facility. This swift action allowed Customs to move immediately from concept to planning, and the site decision was announced publicly in February 2019, making the project's location certain and actionable. The Port then provided Customs with the means to complete its feasibility study by incorporating it into the Port's Master Plan update. That work was funded by a grant the Port received from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, formerly known as OEA. By leveraging this grant, the Port gave Customs a foundation document that has since guided the planning, funding, and design of the facility.



From the outset, this work has had the full backing of the Governor and Lt. Governor, who have consistently prioritized Guam's security and modernization. The Port's Board of Directors has also stood firmly in support, passing resolutions and guiding actions that align with Customs' needs. That level of leadership and institutional support ensures this project is not just a plan on paper but a collective commitment from the administration, the Port, and our federal partners to make it a reality.

This project also aligns directly with federal and defense priorities. OLDCC's support underscores its role as a dual-use investment that benefits both civilian cargo and military logistics. By strengthening inspection capacity, the facility supports the readiness of our armed forces while also protecting the goods our families and businesses rely on every day. It also ensures Guam is seen by carriers, freight forwarders, and investors as a reliable and secure maritime hub. Confidence in our ability to process goods quickly and securely is essential for economic stability and growth.

The impact of this facility extends beyond our shores. Guam's Port is a transshipment hub, and containers passing through here reach other islands across Micronesia and the Pacific. By securing cargo at the point of entry, we are not only safeguarding Guam but also helping protect our regional neighbors.

The Port and Customs have built a track record of partnership to see this through. From securing the site and providing the feasibility study to continuing coordination on container flow, staging, and stakeholder outreach, we have demonstrated that this project is grounded in action and collaboration. With the Governor and Lt. Governor's leadership, the Port Board's guidance, and Customs' expertise, the foundation has been laid for success.

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) is about ensuring the delivery of a project that protects Guam's borders, prevents dangerous drugs and other contraband from entering our island, safeguards our environment, and strengthens our role in national and regional security. The Port Authority of Guam is proud to support this measure, just as we did from the very beginning.

We respectfully urge this Committee and the full Legislature to pass Bill No. 183-38 (COR). This facility is part of a broader vision for a modern, secure, and resilient Port that keeps Guam safe, competitive, and ready for the future.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse.


Rory J. Respicio
General Manager

Balbastro, Charlie B.

Public Hearing: Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs,
Utilities, and Federal & Foreign Affairs

24 Sep 2025

Testimony – Bill No. 183-38 (COR): Relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine

Agency's development on customs satellite inspection, holding, and safe sterile facility

Hafa A dai and Good Afternoon, members of the 38th Guam Legislature, attendees, and to the fellow audience watching live. I'm Representative Charlie Balbastro from the 35th Guam Youth Congress and as I'm always too proud to say... A former JROTC cadet.

I speak here today on behalf of Bill No. 183-38 (COR) relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's effort to the starting phase of the custom satellite inspection, holding, and maintaining a safe sterile facility. I just want to start off with giving a bit of my insight and thoughts on the bill, having the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's support does indeed making Guam a secured place to be protected from danger or any harm by our fellow residents in Guam. I truly indeed to have my support on this bill, as the mark of a beginning on a new facility, to help protect from illegal actions happening within the island. Illegal substances are one of the biggest problems we faced right now, including the very horrifying cases we barely see in Guam.

Any sense of violence and illegal addictions must be stopped as soon as possible, none of this should've happened at all. The challenges we faced until this present day can lead to either a serious consequence or a minor warning. Having both

agencies involve will help make Guam a better place and a better land to ever live like ever before. We need to continue to seek the islands improvement on this day to try to do our part, stand on our grounds, and putting ourselves together to partake of the most and astonishing game plan as expected.

Upon all I've just said, this bill will help the community of Guam to bring the pass the healthy living of Guam (just like it's mentioned about the threats of natural resources and essential ecosystems we need) as stated on the bill; to keep the Guam's ecosystem clean, the economy clean, and the important resource for such projects and illegal action/substance prevention on Guam clean as possible to make the island a great place to live and proudly enjoy the heavenly goodness of Guam. Keep doing what you're doing!!

BIBA Guam and BIBA Liheslaturan Guahan!!

Thank you!!

Hafa Adai Chairman Lujan yan Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 183-38, which would grant the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency an additional two-year extension to develop the Customs Satellite Inspection Facility (CSIF) in Piti.

Critical Need for Enhanced Border Security

Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency serves as our frontline defense against multiple threats: illegal drugs, weapons, agricultural pests, and invasive species. When a pest or invasive species is discovered in a container, it is far more cost-effective to quarantine that container at the facility than to allow it to spread into our community.

Research consistently demonstrates that quarantine and prevention of invasive species is significantly cheaper than eradication efforts. Dr. Ross Miller, Entomologist from the University of Guam, stated that prevention through proper quarantine is cheaper than eradication. Once invasive species spread throughout Guam, the cost of control and eradication becomes enormous. Additionally, factors such as privately owned property and limited resources often prevent full eradication, meaning these invasive species cause ongoing damage to our agriculture, tourism industry, and fragile ecosystems.

Through our networking formed by our membership in Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) and our partnership with Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Program, we can inform our contacts of high-risk shipments coming from an area with known invasive pest problems. The additional two years requested will ensure that when built, this facility meets our current and future needs rather than being rushed into construction with inadequate planning.

Strategic Location Requires Thoughtful Development

The proposed CSIF location on Parcel 1-3 in Piti offers significant advantages. The site provides excellent road frontage with optimal visibility and monitoring capabilities for container traffic entering and exiting the sterile inspection area. This strategic positioning allows for effective oversight of cargo movement, which is essential for maintaining the security and integrity of the quarantine process. The location supports Guam Customs' purview in monitoring the movements of vehicles, containers, and employees within the sterile area of the port's border. Our officers are trained in advanced screening and surveillance technology, including drone operations.

However, Guam's location in typhoon alley presents engineering challenges that must be carefully addressed. The facility's proximity to the ocean requires additional considerations for typhoon resistance and protection from tropical storms. Furthermore, Guam's load-shedding schedule necessitates robust backup power systems. These factors require comprehensive engineering analysis and construction standards to ensure the facility can withstand severe weather and maintain continuous operations.

Delays Were Caused by Extraordinary Circumstances

The timeline delays for this project stem from unprecedented challenges that have impacted Guam's entire government operations:

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact: The pandemic severely disrupted our island's economy, with the dramatic drop in tourism drastically affecting revenues and forcing reliance on the general fund. During this period, Customs and Quarantine officers were detailed to assist the Guam Police Department in enforcing pandemic quarantine measures, diverting critical personnel from agency functions.

Chronic Understaffing: Customs and Quarantine continues to operate with staffing levels significantly below projected numbers needed to adequately fulfill our mission. This has limited the agency's capacity to simultaneously manage daily operations and advance major capital projects such as the CSIF.

Super Typhoon Mawar: In 2023, this devastating typhoon required extensive long-term recovery measures that consumed government resources and attention. Ongoing recovery efforts still continue, resulting in the passage of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2025.

These extraordinary circumstances represent legitimate, unavoidable delays rather than poor planning or mismanagement.

Strategic Timing Justifies Extension

The Container Satellite Inspection Facility Working Group's comprehensive approach to facility design, operational needs, and financing options demonstrates responsible planning. The additional time allows for proper consideration of typhoon-resistant design features informed by our recent experience with Mawar, protecting this critical infrastructure investment.

Long-term Financial Planning Requires Adequate Development Time

The current \$2 million grant from the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), administered by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) within the U.S. Department of Transportation, was awarded to Customs and Quarantine for Architecture and Engineering design. Since MARAD grants typically focus on capital projects rather than ongoing maintenance, the agency must plan for substantial long-term operational costs.

The facility's proximity to the ocean creates significant maintenance challenges due to the harsh saltwater environment and high humidity. Based on property management standards, facilities in such environments typically require setting aside 1% of property value annually for maintenance during the first three years, with costs increasing as the structure ages.

Additional considerations include the ongoing military buildup's impact on construction resources. The shortage of available H-2B workers and increased demand from military projects has created both labor shortages and housing challenges. We will coordinate with the Department of Labor to secure the specialized labor needed for this complex facility.

Enhanced Safety, Operational Efficiency, and Detection Capabilities

The satellite facility will significantly improve officer safety and operational efficiency. Currently, our officers conduct container inspections at various locations throughout the island, often under suboptimal conditions that create safety hazards. Recently, a Customs officer and three other individuals were injured during a container inspection when a steel wall inside a shipping container collapsed at the LMS lot, trapping the inspection team. The incident required a response from the Guam Fire Department and the use of the "jaws of life" and airbags to extricate the trapped individuals. The injured customs

officer was transported to Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC) but was later discharged from the hospital.

The CSIF will provide a controlled, properly equipped environment designed specifically for safe container inspections. This centralized approach will reduce the manpower required for Container Freight Inspections by eliminating the need to deploy multiple teams across different locations, allowing Customs to increase inspection percentages while ensuring officer safety through proper equipment and stable working conditions.

Unfortunately, a few of our officers still take risks out in the field because they are pressed for time to get to the next container inspection. Officers will crawl through containers to reach the back or climb over cargo to investigate anomalies, creating ongoing safety hazards. The CSIF's controlled environment and proper staging areas will eliminate these dangerous practices by providing safe, accessible inspection conditions.

K9 Detection Capabilities

The CSIF design includes a dedicated kennel facility to house up to Nine (9) K9 units, significantly enhancing our detection capabilities for narcotics, prohibited contraband, and agricultural products including meat, fruits, and plants that may carry invasive pests. The K9 inspection facility, which will be incorporated into the CSIF A & E, will assist container inspections by utilizing specially trained dogs to detect hidden threats that are difficult to find with non-intrusive methods. The dogs' highly developed sense of smell allows them to identify specific odors and alert their handlers, providing a faster, more accurate, and less destructive method of inspection compared to solely relying on technology or manual searches. This enhances overall border security and efficiency by quickly identifying high-risk containers, allowing human and technological resources to focus on other areas. The facility's eight (8) bay areas will allow palletized shipments to be efficiently off-loaded and staged, enabling K9 handlers to conduct inspections fluidly without waiting for cargo to be repositioned. This streamlined process will eliminate wait times and allow handlers to move efficiently from one shipment to the next, maximizing the effectiveness of our K9 detection teams while maintaining optimal working conditions for both handlers and animals.

Intelligence and Management Information Systems Integration

To maximize the CSIF's effectiveness, we will work with our Special Enforcement Division to strengthen our Intelligence/MIS section, ensuring we are equipped with the necessary hardware and equipment. This proactive approach ensures that when the CSIF becomes operational, our technological infrastructure will be fully integrated and capable of supporting advanced inspection operations.

Electronic Manifest and Declaration Systems: Guam mandates electronic manifests for all inbound aircraft and vessels, along with the Guam Electronic Declaration Form (EDF) for arriving passengers, as required by Guam Code Annotated (GCA) Title 5, Chapter 73. The Intel/MIS section will integrate these systems with the Electronic Criminal Management Information System (CMIS) and the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), providing real-time risk assessments and statistical data to support CSIF operations.

Community and Environmental Benefits

This Customs Satellite Inspection Facility will protect our community's health, agricultural sector, and environment. It represents a sound investment in prevention rather than costly reaction to problems after they've already impacted our island.

In Conclusion

I respectfully urge the committee to approve Bill 183-38 and provide Guam Customs with the time necessary to develop this essential infrastructure properly. The additional two years will ensure the CSIF incorporates comprehensive detection capabilities, advanced information systems, and proper planning for K9 operations, creating a world-class facility that serves Guam and Micronesia effectively.

My colleagues and I at Guam Customs and Quarantine are deeply appreciative of the continued support from our senators and Governor Leon Guerrero's administration in advancing this critical public safety project.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase' para konsederasion-mu,

Jessica L. Iglesias, Captain
Customs Supervisor, Research & Development
Logistics and Support Division
(671) 475-6219 0800-1700 Hrs
(671) 642-8071/2 24 HRS operation



Attorney General of Guam's Testimony Supporting Bill 183-38

An Act to Support the Guam Customs Inspection Capabilities

(September 24, 2025, 2:00pm, Legislative Public Hearing)

Hafa Adai. This Testimony is submitted by the Attorney General of Guam and on behalf our Client, the People of Guam, in support of the adoption of Bill No. 183-38 (COR) to extend the timeline for Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency to build a critical Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secure Sterile Facility at the Port.

This Attorney General was elected to fight Guam's crime problem. Much of it comes from the death and destruction caused by illegal methamphetamine smuggling into Guam. We are making a difference one case at a time. *However*, performing triage is much different than preventing the disaster and suffering from occurring. Inspecting all cargo is an effective way to stop the main cause of Guam's meth crime problem. Despite my prosecutors and my urging, this Governor has completely abandoned her duty to ensure our Community's public safety. She controls the Port Authority of Guam through her appointment of its Board members, and can through 1 executive order require that all cargo leaving the Port be inspected for meth. She choses NOT to do so. *Why?*

Through the Opioid Recovery Advisory Council, we ensured that our community received 18 drug detection Belgian Malinois canines to quickly and effectively screen cargo for meth and other opioids. They are useless to protecting us from meth-related crimes without this Governor's involvement.

This Bill simply gives more time for Customs to do its job. I urge the Committee to amend this Bill 183 to incorporate mandatory cargo inspections of every cargo leaving the Port Authority of Guam for meth. It's only when 100% meth cargo inspections occur will the supply of meth drop, the price of meth increase and we encounter less drug addicted meth addict criminals hurting us.

Office of the Attorney General
Douglas B. Moylan · Attorney General of Guam

134 W Soledad Avenue, Ste 412 · Hagåtña, Guam 96910 · USA
671-475-3324 · 671-475-4703 (fax) · dbmoylan@oagguam.org · www.guamattorneygeneral.org
"Guam's Toughest Law Enforcers"

As the People's democratically-elected Chief Legal and Law Enforcement Officer of Guam, my policy is both clear and uncompromising: **we must achieve 100% inspection of all containers at the Port.** This alone will significantly cut Guam's crime rate.

That goal requires modern facilities, cutting-edge X-ray detection equipment, canine drug sniffing dogs, and additional Customs personnel. Bill No. 183-38 is critical because it ensures Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency ("CQA") has the time, resources, and legal authority to construct a facility capable of meeting this objective. I also urge the Committee to empower the Attorney General to appoint a drug czar to immediately oversee the thorough and effective inspection of cargo leaving the Port, and through this facility, once constructed. However, 100% drug inspections is needed now, and it will save our lives.

The land designated in Public Law No. 34-112 has been set aside for this purpose since 2018, going on 7 years now. Following multiple extensions, this bill now extends, for a third time, the timeline to 2028 to bring this project home. We trust that this facility will provide Guam with the operational capacity to inspect containers thoroughly, eliminate drugs like meth and cocaine, intercept firearms, and stop contraband before it threatens our people.

I remain concerned that this Governor and parts of her administration are corrupt, allowing meth dealers and addicts to multiply, resulting in more crime victims and suffering. The Governor can prove me wrong by requiring 100% cargo inspections, but has chosen not to do so. The fact that we are here today to once again grant an extension for this property through Bill 183 speaks volumes about how this Governor encourages the drug trade by refusing to quickly and decisively stop smuggling by all means available. She has been "slow-walking" drug inspections.

I recommend passage of Bill 183, but with 2 key additions that (i) require immediate 100% mandatory drug inspections at the Port, and (ii) allow the Attorney General to select a drug czar to ensure the integrity of those mandatory inspections.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas B. Moylan".

Douglas B. Moylan
Attorney General of Guam

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Public Law 34-112 enacted on July 17, 2018, authorized the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) to utilize a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility. Public Law 34-112 required the property to revert to the general jurisdiction of the Government of Guam if it remained undeveloped for three (3) years following enactment. Recognizing the challenges faced by CQA in developing the facility, the Guam Legislature in 2021 approved and the Governor of Guam subsequently adopted Bill 58-36 (COR) as Public Law 36-12, providing CQA with an additional five (5) years to establish the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

I Liheslatura further finds that based on information provided by CQA at the request of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam

1 National Guard, a Container Inspection Facility (CIF) Working Group was
2 established in 2024. The CIF Working Group is responsible for overseeing all facets
3 of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future
4 growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund
5 facility construction and sustainability.

6 With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching for CQA to
7 utilize Government of Guam property pursuant to Public Law 34-112, *I Liheslatura*
8 finds it necessary to provide the agency and CIF Working Group with additional
9 time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans.

10 Accordingly, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* supports CQA's ongoing efforts to
11 develop the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility
12 consistent with the provisions of Public Law 34-112, as amended. Through this Act,
13 *I Liheslatura* recognizes the importance of establishing such a facility to help
14 Government of Guam and Federal law enforcement entities protect families in our
15 U.S. Territory against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband
16 – and invasive species which continue to threaten Guam's natural resources and
17 those of the vitally important ecosystems in Micronesia.

18 **Section 2.** Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112 is hereby *amended* to read as
19 follows:

20 “(b) If the property is not developed into a functioning Customs Satellite
21 Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility Area within ~~eighteen~~ (810) years
22 from the date of enactment, July 17, 2018, administrative jurisdiction of GCQA shall
23 expire and the property shall revert to the general jurisdiction of the government of
24 Guam.”

25 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

BILL Number: 183-38 (COR)

Testimony of Chief Vincent S.N. Perez, Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency
In Support of this Bill.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Vincent Perez, and I am the Chief of Customs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of **Bill 183-38 (COR)**.

I would like to first reiterate the Director's testimony and emphasize why this bill is essential to the future of Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA).

Background of the Project

On July 17, 2018, Public Law 34-112 granted CQA administrative jurisdiction over a four-acre parcel of land at the Port Authority of Guam for the purpose of developing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility. The law required the facility to be developed within three years, or else the property would revert to the Government of Guam.

Because of the magnitude of this project and the difficulty in securing funding, the Legislature previously granted an extension of time. Bill 58-36 now seeks to provide another necessary extension to ensure this critical project is completed.

Importance of the Facility

This facility will be the first true customs inspection facility for Guam, aligned with federal standards. It will provide:

- A fixed X-ray system for screening containerized freight;
- Isolated and secured areas for inspections and enforcement actions;
- Greater accountability and control of freight entering Guam.

It will be one of the Government of Guam's greatest assets in protecting our people, our island, and our resources.

Challenges and Delays

The journey to this point has not been without setbacks. Securing federal support, meeting regulatory requirements, and navigating the pandemic significantly slowed progress. Key challenges included:

- Limited availability of local funding;
- Federal application and approval processes, including compliance with NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act;
- COVID-19 restrictions that delayed planning meetings, permit applications, and stakeholder consultations.

Despite these challenges, CQA continued to move forward at every possible stage.

Timeline of Key Milestones

- October 2018 – Satellite Inspection Facility (SIF) Planning Committee Chair appointed.
- January 2019- Project Planning Committee assembled and initiated and compiled research in moving this project. Comprehensive meetings held with DPW, Port Authority, and other stakeholders to receive input on Facility Design.
- December 2020 – Initial cost estimate received from Port Authority of Guam.
- January 2021 – Project information submitted to Guam State Clearinghouse.
- February 2022 – Senator Moylan site visit to project property.
- August 2022 – Bill 276-36 introduced by SE. James Moylan, to appropriate \$2M for A&E; amendment failed.
- March 2023 – CQA applied for FY2026 Community Project Funding through Congressman Moylan.
- August 2023 – Meeting with Governor's Special Project Coordinator regarding the facility.
- May 2024 – Discussions with MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (MARAD) on Section 106 and NEPA compliance requirements.
- June 2024 – MARAD executed \$2M grant agreement with CQA for Architecture & Engineering design.
- January 2025 – CQA site visit with USCBP at Port of Seattle to benchmark federal inspection facilities.
- April 2025 – CQA submitted \$40M Port Infrastructure Development Program grant application;
- Met with USDA to discuss financing options and received USDA financing amortization schedule.
- July 2025 – MARAD issued full grant execution notice and notice to proceed.
- September 2025 – Meetings with DPW to update plans based on lessons from Seattle site visit; DPW work request submitted.

Current Status

CQA now has \$2 million in federal funding secured for the A&E phase. The overall cost of the facility is estimated at \$28–30 million, and additional federal and local funding sources are actively being pursued. The project is firmly tied into Port modernization and national security objectives, but it cannot be completed within the original statutory deadlines.

Challenges:

Federal Grant award amount

CQA will need to cover 25% of the costshare. Between \$8-\$12 Million.

Inflationary Costs

Procurement Process

AG Review

Closing

In closing, while CQA has worked diligently, the scope, cost, and federal compliance requirements of this project demand more time. This Bill is not about delay—it is about ensuring that Guam finally establishes the Customs inspection facility our island has needed for decades.

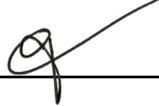
I respectfully urge this Committee and the Legislature to support this Bill so that we may continue this critical work of protecting our borders, our people, and our resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

Vincent S.N. Perez



COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 183-38 (COR), As amended by the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal and Foreign Affairs - An act to amend section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding, and secured sterile facility.

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Jesse A. Lujan <i>Chairperson</i>		X				
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas <i>1st Vice Chairperson</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Shelly Vargas Calvo <i>2nd Vice Chairperson</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Member</i>						
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator William A. Parkinson <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				



FP1 Mariñas

URGENT REQUEST FOR EVOTE: Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

8 messages

FP1 Mariñas

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 8:51 AM

To: jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Ådai Committee Members!

Please see attached Committee Report for Bill No. 183-38 (COR).

Indicate your preferred action:

- TO DO PASS
- TO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response **ASAP**. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

--

Senseremente,

FP1 Mariñas

Independent Contractor

**BN183-route.pdf**

18351K

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 8:58 AM

To: FP1 Mariñas

Cc: jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa adai,

To Do Pass.

- Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Si Yu'os ma'ase'!

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

38th Guam Legislature

[120 Father Duenas Avenue](#) Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

(671) 647-1409/1411

Senator William Parkinson <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 9:08 AM

To: FP1 Mariñas

To do pass

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 9:29 AM

To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM

To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED]
jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

TO DO PASS

Judy Shockley
Office Administrator



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:51 AM

Reply-To: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, [REDACTED]
jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass

Respectfully,



Denise R. Cabrera
Office Manager
Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
 Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public Broadcasting
38th Guam Legislature
 Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 T +1 (671) 969-8423
 E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:54 AM

To: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa Adai

To Do Pass
 Si yu'os ma'åse



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 12:03 PM

To: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED]

Cc: jalcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass

The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 989-5445 F: (671) 969-6737 E: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Website: www.senatorjoessanagustin.com

Electronic Privacy Notice: *This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

[Quoted text hidden]

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST*Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs*

Senator Jesse A. Lujan, Chairman

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 183-38 (COR) was introduced on September 3, 2025 by Senator Jesse A. Lujan, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs on September 12, 2025.

The Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs convened a Public Hearing for Bill No. 183-38 (COR) on September 24, 2025 at 2:00PM in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on September 17, 2025 (5-Day Notice), and again on September 22, 2025 (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Jesse A. Lujan, Chairman

Senator Eluogio Shawn Gumataotao, Bill Author, Member

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

Senator Therese M. Terlaje

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Ike Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, CQA

Charlie Balbastro, Representative, 35th Guam Youth Congress (GYC)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Ike Q. Peredo, Director, CQA

Marie P. Lizama, Director, DRT

Rory J. Respicio, General Manager, Port Authority of Guam (PAG)

Charlie Balbastro, Representative, 35th GYC

Jessica L. Iglesias, Captain, CQA

Douglas B. Moylan, Attorney General, OAG

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief, CQA

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for Bill No. 183-38 (COR) was called to order at [3:34PM.](#)

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon again. The committee is back from recess. Next agenda is bill number 138-38 (COR) by Shawn Gumataotao “*an act to amend section 2(b) of public law 34-112, as amended, relative to supporting the guam customs and quarantine agency’s ongoing efforts to develop the customs satellite inspection, holding, and secured sterile facility*”. Bill number 183-38 (COR) aims to amend public law 34-112 to support the Customs and Quarantine in developing a satellite inspection holding and secured sterile facility. As Chairman of the Customs, I do support this initiative for Guam. It strengthens our ability to protect our borders, safeguard our community from invasive threats and ensures a smooth and secure flow of trade and commerce. As Guam's role in the region continues to grow, I agree that we must give Customs and Quarantine the tools and facilities they need to carry out their mission effectively. At this time, I want to defer to the author, Senator Shawn Gumataotao, for his opening remarks after I introduce, of course, the Senators that are here. Senator Gumataotao, of course, the author. Vice Speaker Tony Ada – thank you again. Senator Terlaje – thank you very, very much. So, Senator Guamtatootao.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for scheduling this public hearing on Bill 183, which if approved, provides additional time for the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency to finalize development of a much needed satellite inspection holding and secure sterile facility on reserved government land in the municipality of *Piti*. Required by Public Law 34-112 in 2018 to develop a satellite inspection facility within three (3) years – CQA was granted an additional five (5) years through Public Law 36-12, which was authored by former Senator and our current delegate

to the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable James Moylan. Mr. Chair, to help provide additional background information on our collective efforts as a legislature to move this issue forward, I would like to reference the March 6, 2025 tour of CQA operations at the Port Authority of Guam, which was coordinated by you, Mr. Chair, and the committee. From my discussions with CQA staff during that particular legislative visit, I learned that the agency had yet to identify a funding source to support the construction of the satellite inspection facility. Subsequent to our Port Authority of Guam visit, I wrote to delegate Moylan on March 7, 2025, appealing to his office and other Congressional leaders to support the people of Guam with a direct appropriation for the development of a CQA satellite inspection facility. In a series of communications with Delegate Moylan and his staff, each time I emphasize the importance of such a facility to the work of our local and federal law enforcement entities. Mr. Chair, these hardworking women and men of our law enforcement community are at the front lines protecting our families against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs and other contraband into our great American territory. Additionally, the establishment of a CQA Satellite Inspection Facility would strengthen our ongoing efforts to address the importation of invasive species which continue to threaten Guam's natural resources and those of the vitally important ecosystems not just in Guam, Mr. Chair, but throughout Micronesia. Mr. Chair, I also reached out directly to CQA Director, Peredo, on April 24, 2025, requesting information on the status of any plans his agency might have in place for developing the satellite inspection facility. Director Peredo responded on April 30, 2025, summarizing that CQA has undertaken diligent efforts to advance the facility project and in collaboration with the Port Authority of Guam and their consultants, CQA convened meetings to discuss the optimal integration of the facility into the Port's Master plan. Due to the need for such a facility and the deadline imposed by the public law, CQA established a Container Inspection Facility Working Group in early 2024. The CIF working group is responsible, Mr. Chair, for overseeing all facets of the project, including: facility design, operational needs, equipment and future growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund this facility

construction and its sustainability over time. To ensure comprehensive planning, the CIF Working Group conducted a site visit to the US Customs and Border Protection Container Inspection Facility in the State of Washington – in Seattle – to be exact; to assess facility requirements there. Based on the CIF's working group assessment, the facility necessary to meet CQA's operational and strategic needs is estimated to cost upwards of forty million dollars (\$40,000,000). To secure funding, CQA informed the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management and the Guam National Guard at the time – that it had planned to submit a grant application to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, or MARAD, under their Port Infrastructure Development Program 2025. If successful, the grant would cover 80% of the estimated cost for the construction, equipping and furnishing of that facility. With that, Mr. Chair, I do look forward to the presentations this afternoon. Particularly updates that may be available regarding the status of CQA's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation and other grant opportunities that may have or will be available to support this critical public safety mandate. I also look forward to continue working with the agency and relevant stakeholders to include the Port Authority of Guam and the Port Users Group on any amendments that may be needed to move Bill 183-38 (COR) forward in our legislative process here. So *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* and thank you, Mr. Chair, for the time today.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. We'll start off, of course, with Director Peredo – and again – folks, identify yourselves as well. Okay? Thank you.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: *Håfa Ådai* and good afternoon, Senators: Senator Ada, Senator Gumataotao, our chairman and Senator Terlaje. My name is Ike Peredo and I'm the Director for the Customs and Quarantine Agency and I have my staff with me and I'll have them introduce themselves at this point in time. To my right...

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: My name is Vincent S.N. Perez. I am the Chief of Customs.

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Pete Nicholas Ofeciar. I'm the Supervisor for Research and Development.

JESSICA IGLESIAS, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: I'm Captain Iglesias. I'm also supervisor over at R & D. Research and Development.

FRANCIS FEJERAN, ASSISTANT CHIEF, CQA: Francis Fejeran, Assistant Chief, Guam Customs.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA:

[\[Mr. Peredo reads into the record his submitted written testimony which has been appended to this Committee Report.\]](#)

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. (*Signals to Vincent Perez to proceed with testimony.*)

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA:

[\[Mr. Perez reads into the record his submitted written testimony which has been appended to this Committee Report.\]](#)

CHARLIE BALBASTRO, 35TH GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE: *Håfa Ådai* and good afternoon Members of the 38th Guam Legislature, attendees and to the fellow audience watching live right

now. I am Representative Charlie Balbastro from the 35th Guam Youth Congress and as I am always too proud to say, a former Junior ROTC cadet.

[Mr. Balbastro reads into the record his submitted written testimony which has been appended to this Committee Report.]

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir. Yes. Senator Gumataotao.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to start the questions – and – I gotta say, I'm pretty pleased that we were getting to get an update on this important project today. And I know that we were mentioning the MARAD 2024 grant. What about 2025? Is there any chance that looking at the next – call it – next program year. Could it be possible that MARAD could cover the estimated forty million dollars (\$40,000,000)? I know we have a cost share, Mr. Director, but any thought about extending to the next step of the grant process for this facility?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Thank you for the question there, Senator. I'm hoping that the grant that we have submitted will cover what we need to cover to build this facility. As I mentioned, the challenge is...there is a matching that we will require for us to get at least 80%. I've got the commitment from the governor that she is in support of what we're doing. She's willing to craft any type of legislation to move forward and see whether or not we can identify at least that amount for the matching for this upcoming year. So I'm hoping that we can solidify that particular engagement with the grant and move forward with this construction.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Peredo. And just Mr. Chair, for the record, I mean, this is – while it's important that the office of the Governor is helping lead on this project – but I must say for the record that to get Congressman Moylan involved in this. I would

hope that the course will continue to grow about the importance of not a grant – but getting a full appropriation from Congress to fund this specific facility. And I'm hoping that he's watching and I know they are, that they can help in that effort.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: And I can assure you that the Congressman has been communicating with us.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Oh, no, I know he's communicating, but what we need from him is an action for an appropriation. But I digress. I just wanted to add one thing. You mentioned that you're collaborating with other agencies to include GEDA. How's that coming along so far in terms of looking at alternative funding sources? Because earlier, Chief, you mentioned – “*just in case*” – so I guess...*just in case*...how is the effort with GEDA coming along?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes, with that respect, Senator, yes, we've been communicating with GEDA. They have also mentioned alternatives in support and looking forward to see and secure some sorts of funding for this particular project. And they even mentioned about lease to own, turnkey type of loan, if I'm not mistaken. We have also approached USDA. Joe Diego has also met with the Chief and talked about financial arrangement that we can move forward in identifying funding for this type of project. So there are several things that we're looking forward, but I'm hoping that what I mentioned earlier will continue to fast track the construction of this project.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Yes, thank you, Mr. Peredo. And let me think, let me just take one – take this one more step – to this which you just mentioned. Based on the recommendations that were put forward by the Office of the Public Auditor through Public auditors report number 15-01 that was issued in March of 2015, including, but not limited to: having the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency implement the basic principles

and procedures of internal control over use tax collections to provide responsible assurance that collections are safeguarded from loss or misuse. How has the recurring issue of use tax collections impacted CQA's preliminary facility and operational planning efforts, and can the use tax issue help fund this facility?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: We have been communicating with revenue and tax on this issue. There were certain things that were pointed out by the auditor and I've made the commitment to meet with the Director of Taxation to go over those particular concerns that were raised by the by the public auditor and to ensure that we make the correction that's necessary to ensure that we can bridge the gaps of what's going on with use tax. The biggest concern that we have right now is automation. If we can automate customs at this point in time, we can rectify all the concerns that the OP is saying. And that's what we're moving forward with the Customs automation.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: All right, thank you so much with that, Mr. Peredo. And again, Mr. Chair, just a one bit of, I guess call it a funding source perhaps. And I know that while it'll help in automation to help them what they're doing today. But I think in case, you know, we, we need to go, as the chief said, just in case the option of use tax would be helpful for this particular project. So with that, thank you, Mr. Peredo. Thank you, Customs. Thank you for your testimony today, sir. And that's all I have right now.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Senator Terlaje.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase'* Mr. Chair, and thank you all for your presentations today. And hopefully we can get this done in this next time frame. So just wanted to confirm a couple of things. So you said I appreciate the timeline that, and that your discussions of all these different parties, but what avenues is the Congressman pursuing? Because it wasn't in the NDAA and it wasn't in the budget. And you said you had asked earlier for like community

development funds, but that didn't come through either. So what, what do you expect? Anything or not?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: So initially when we were working with Congressman Moylan's office, we were informed of the possibility of receiving community project funding. And so based on whatever project we submitted, they would try to see if we could get funding. And so we put in an application for several different projects. And as a result we were able to get the \$2 million that typically if we were left to try and source it on our own, with our budget constraints currently and the reliance on the general fund, we would probably not receive the funding at that point.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So you're saying you did receive community project funding? \$2 Million?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: Through the Maritime Administration.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay, that's different. Right?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: So he was used as the catalyst to, to, to reach out. He, he didn't appropriate money from Congress. He met with the administration officials from the Maritime Administration. And so they got into contact with us and we work closely and we were happy when to find out that there was \$2 million at least to start off with the A and E.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Because I thought that was the port. The port is the one working with the MARAD grants and that in fact one of the testimony, it says it's the port that got you the grant and then it says that the port had a preliminary consultant or a consultant for the preliminary concept?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: Yes.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Yeah, we could talk about that.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes Senator. We got involved with the port when, when they were doing their, their master plan. They've included customs as part of that and they assisted the agency in identifying the conceptual design for the lots that we've got, which is the four acres. So they provided us a conceptual design on how to better utilize the four acres that we have to the best of the funding source that we have. And that's. That's how we got involved with the Port Authority. He assisted us in crafting the conceptual plan.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. And the details of what they put into that preliminary. Preliminary conceptual design are available to us?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. Yeah. I'm just curious, and I just want to know because, of course, my interest in this is we're promising the people of Guam, big, right, that we're going to stop invasive species and that more importantly, we're going to stop drugs right, from coming in. And I know that this includes X-ray machines and sterile environments and that you do it without moving it anywhere else, so I understand that. But in the design, and I know you went to see other places, so that's good. But can you give us some assurance of what in this design, or did you have any customs experts or law enforcement experts or drug experts or invasive species experts also consult or make sure that for your particular purposes, very different from the ports, that this facility is going to be designed optimally, that no one can. You know, there's no loopholes.

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: Right. So one of the members who went on that site visit, Captain Pete Ofeciar could provide information rather than just coming from me.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Yes. So we did a site visit in Seattle, and we looked at one of their CESs, which is a centralized examination station, and that handles a lot of the containers from, from the port of Seattle, which is one of the larger west coast ports. So based on what we needed to build, we spoke with their chief of trade and their assistant port director. So they basically gave us a tour, and we discussed if it would work on Guam. And they assured us that the processes that they do there would definitely work with us here. So we got some of their designs and their regulations and the way they do all different types of inspections. So we have that from them.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right, and what gives you confidence that we are going to intercept drugs with an X-ray machine or whatever? What else gives you confidence that we're going to intercept drugs through this facility?

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: This facility will give us more capacity and more equipment to actually do more thorough inspections at a higher rate. So that with more inspections, we should have more drugs. Including intelligence as well.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Including what?

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Including intelligence that we receive on better using risk management to do assessments on what containers should be inspected.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: And that's something in the design or something in this facility?

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Well, the facility will enable us to do more non intrusive inspections with X rays, handheld scanners and other devices that will allow us to quicker inspections and more thorough.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Do the, you know, we went on tours before and we talked about these X-ray machines. And I'm always intrigued at how we are intercepting drugs with X-ray machines. And it seems very difficult to actually see that versus something else. But my understanding, and maybe you could just explain this to those who are watching. What are you actually looking for drugs in there? Are you looking for things that look different or look more suspicious or you have like some protocols that you're looking for? Just, just I want you to assure them of, of why we should put our hopes into this facility. Because we have X-ray machines right now at the port.

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Yes. Yes we do.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. Please.

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Some of the X rays we have right now are just two dimensional. Some of the ones we look at getting are three dimensional. And with that, basically what we're looking for is anomalies. So if they say, for example, it's

supposed to be sacks of rice and we see something else that is odd or an anomaly, then we'd subject it to further inspection. So we compare the manifest with what we see through the X rays and depending on that, if we see any anomalies, we refer it for a further inspection.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. And you are going to vouch to us that this is going to be a customs like that, what we end up with is going to work for customs to the best capability. We are not going to say later on, well, it was designed by the port or is designed by DPW's experts and not our customs law enforcement regulatory experts.

PETE SAN NICOLAS OFECIAR, SUPERVISOR, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CQA: Yeah. When we were developing, we first started working on the planning of the facility, we found that we're talking with some of our federal counterparts and they recommended that we do a site visit to a similar facility in Seattle. So we worked with CBP and we met with them, we toured all their different facilities and we asked them what would be the best for Guam. And we told them our capacity, how many, our population and the basic facility they showed us and the way they manage things, even as far as their rules and regulations for running these facilities were provided to us by them.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. The Attorney General also wrote testimony in support, but he gave us some recommendations here. He's recommending that we also require 100% mandatory drug inspections immediately at the port and allow the AG to select a drug czar to ensure the integrity of those mandatory inspections. First of all, I want to ask, will this facility allow you to do 100% inspections?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: To answer the question, there Senator, there's no way that we can conduct 100% inspection. And I continue to say this because that's impractical at this point in time. You have to understand how we

deal with trade facilitation at the borders. We balance trade facilitation and commerce at the same time and continue to ensure that we move good side to the community in a timely manner and timely fashion. It's not saying that we're not going to conduct inspection, but there are certain procedures that we do to ensure that we keep our island safe. And that's the procedure that we use like any other customs administration throughout the world. That is the procedure and the best practices that we're following at this point in time.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Have there been any interception of drugs at the port in the last two years?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: We have interception at the port, mainly marijuana. We are trying at this point in time to do whatever it takes because the AG continues to say the drugs are pouring in at the port. I don't have evidence at this point in time to tell you that that is true. What I'm doing right now is that I'm using my resources where I best need them. And I've been preaching every time I come to this particular venue, that majority of our drugs that are coming in are coming into the postal system, even up to this day. And I'm willing to provide this body. If you want us to provide you an overview of the drug trafficking patterns and what we've been intercepting currently, we can do that for this body so that you can understand where we're coming from when we talk about the illicit drugs that are coming into our borders.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. I appreciate the work that you've done, especially through the post office interception and that the number one reported. Number one interception place for Guam right now. But I also understood that it was also a matter of where we put our resources. So we put. And where we put the dogs is very critical. The canines and that if we put them more at the port, we might see more. Is that, do you agree with that or not?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: I do agree with that. In fact, since January of this year, I managed to ensure that the drug detector dogs that we have acquired in the first quarter of last year that have assigned all those particular resources down at the port. So since January, we've been increasing the presence of our canine teams down at the port, especially working through the CFS station, which are the container inspection stations that we have down at the port. And there's several that we allow to move containers from the port to this container inspection stations that are certified. And that's what we're doing now, and we're continuing to do that.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. So I'm not trying to be difficult or question your abilities, but I just want everyone to feel confident. Right. So if you've increased your capacity, your canine capacity down at the port, you've increased inspections, we still have the X-ray machines. They're not the ultimate ones like you were going to get. But to have no methamphetamines discovered through the port, is that normal for other ports?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: I won't say no. I mean, at any port of entry, especially the port, the port is always susceptible to the movement of illicit drugs coming into our borders. As I mentioned, at this point in time, I have been communicating, collaborating with all the federal agencies that we work with. I have seven task force officers assigned to these different federal agencies to deal with the importation of illicit drugs coming in through our borders. I've met with DEA. I've sat down with them to see what information that they have with respect to the importation of meth coming into the port. And even DEA cannot sustain any type of information for me that I can use to show us evidence that is coming in at the port. We're trying, and we will continue to try because I'm not going to say that it's not coming in. We're just not finding it.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay, well, it is getting. We're getting pretty desperate with our conditions here. Okay, so the funding that you're hoping,

your 2 million. That's great. Congratulations. Good job for all, to all of you. But now we're going to get an A and E. But to get the 40 million that you need, you applied to MARAD. You're hoping MARAD will cover 80%, and then we're going to need the local. Right. If MARAD doesn't come through. You said you're also. We're talking with USDA. Is that separate or?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yeah, that's a separate.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So that's a possible loan?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes, most likely. Most likely it's going to be. You have to be a loan.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right, and where else and anywhere else potential funding for this?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: We have talked with GEDA, and GEDA mentioned something about floating a bond. And that's the approach that we're looking to, and hopefully that they can assist us in that matter. The other thing is the lease to own. That's another concept that we're looking at, is to see what we can do in working with GEDA to follow that type of approach. So that's the other fund.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. And then who has the final say as to what the A&E is going to include? That should be written in the RFP already or an IFB. Who wrote that? So you said DPW is going to go forward with the procurement. Are they going to write it?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes, they are taking over, the public works will handle the procurement process of the A&E for us.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. All right. That's why I'm asking about your expertise. Right. So it's like what we did with the school. So public work can design a school. But we really wanted the school stakeholders involved in what they really wanted in their school. So I really want to make sure you have a role in that process.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Oh, yes, definitely.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. All right. And then the federal grant award amount that. Sorry, this is the same the marit. Right. Okay, then that's it. Yeah. So I appreciate all your efforts. I'm just maybe going to ask one more time if we. If things have changed in the since we started this. Right. 2018 and is there new technology that can help us to better detect like the invasive species that we've been missing? We've gotten several since 2018, the Red Ant, fire ants, the something else that just came in. I mean, that kind of stuff. Is this X-ray going to be enough? Are there new technologies that you're also going to incorporate?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: Okay, if I may, Senator. So there are what they call border enforcement summits. Border Enforcement Technology Summit. We just missed the last one. It was just, I think last week because we weren't able to attend. But these summits are regular. They're quite regular. And there has been a massive exponential increase in technology that currently right now, with the way Guam customs is operating, we could avail ourselves too. But, just keep in mind that for the past 30 plus years, we've been paper based. And so now we're hearing things about drones, we're hearing things about artificial intelligence and other technologies that are available currently in use by U.S. customs. And so we're trying to grow leaps and bounds. And what we're trying to do is we're trying to work smarter. We're not trying to fix the old car. We're trying to change it completely so that the technology that is being offered is available to us. And one of the things I just wanted to talk about also is in addition to all this technology, we're going to need to change our legislation in

some respects. But the problem that customs is facing is almost systemic. We've hired almost 70 officers in the last almost eight years. And our number right now is around 126. And the number where we need to be is between 250 to 300. And that's not taking into consideration that the satellite inspection facility needs to be manned with not just customs officers, but management information specialists, technology people and administrative support staff. So whenever we hire people, we just lost several people to CBP and HSI in the last few weeks. So there's no incentive. We're just a training venue for the federal government to come in and pick them up at the GS9 level. So we really need to do things to help. If you really want to protect the island and the people, you gotta first look inward. And we're trying to do that. We're trying to work with the processes to ensure that our officers want to stay. We've got a whole bunch of new officers. I think almost more than half now are very young. They've got less than 10, 10 years in service. Many of us are at my stage where we're on our way out. So the institutional knowledge, the skills and the capabilities and the risk management and the knowledge of that feeling you get when I know I have to check that we have to work at as a multi pronged approach. So that works in collaboration with this satellite inspection facility. Because we're going to need to work on our legislation, our mandates, create the harmonized coding system and we're doing all that concurrently. So with that being said, we have the use of intel we want to use risk levels, use of, of canine, use of technology in a collaborative effort to ensure that we're protecting the island. So with this satellite inspection facility, this is one facet of a multifaceted Customs enforcement program. So you know, we're trying to address all the different priorities.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: *Si Yu'os Ma'āse'* for all of that work. And I do appreciate your collaborative needs and I did question during the budget. Why this custom cycle small compared to the rest? One of the smaller ones. Right. And I know, but retention is also a big issue and all of the ones that you stated. One last question, just so the port points out how this is dual use investment with the

Department of Defense and is military cargo going to be inspected through this inspection facility as well?

VINCENT S.N. PEREZ, CHIEF OF CUSTOMS, CQA: So one of the things that we're doing is that we're working with our federal partners. We're looking at it more or less like a one stop. So our federal, military and local partners would have a centralized examination place where we can all work together as opposed to working in compartmentalized areas, and then that would actually create a much more true sterile customs area. If you look at the port, it's, it may, you may, It may be a sterile area to a certain extent, but not to the, not to the point that Customs needs. If you look at the way CBP operates, there are a lot of controls that they mandate. And so what we're trying to do is we're trying to ensure that Guam Customs works in collaboration with our partners locally and federally and also with the military to ensure that all these inspections take place and only the good guys get through and the bad guys, we arrest.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So is that the design that we're anticipating to go forward with that? It's a collaborative venture in there. Okay. So hopefully that will help you to get your funding as well from MARAD. Right. That's what they're there for. Okay. Well, *Si Yu'os Ma'ase'* and thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much for all your work. To all of you, thank you.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Terlaje. Vice speaker Ada.

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Customs, for coming forward. I think that this facility is. Wow. Way past due for us to get moving and I fully support the measure to extend it and ensure that hopefully you guys will be able to facilitate in building, getting it built and better the inspections for our island. The only question I had is Chief and Director, would a governor sign this piece of legislation?

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Pretty sure, yes. She will sign this.

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA: Okay. That's the only question I had. I just wanted to make sure we're all on the same page here.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Yes.

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I fully support this. I think that the Customs and Quarantine has really waited too long for this, for this facility. And the Port Authority has also chimed in and, you know, has fully supported this measure too, as well, so that Customs and Quarantine can have a place down there to actually conduct and secure cargo that needs to be inspected or reinspected, whatever the case may be. But thank you guys for all your hard work. We truly appreciate you.

IKE Q. PEREDO, DIRECTOR, CQA: Thank you.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Thank you, Vice Speaker. Thank you as well. Yes, to the author and as a matter of fact, the author, while we did the tour down at the port with your folks down there, that's when the author of the bill said, we gotta extend this out. And so with that, thank you for that. As a result of that, of course, you have a bill that's being heard. And to Vice Speaker's question, whether the governor's gonna sign this as well. Right. And the reason why I laughed at that, because, you know, and we're waiting for action, of course, on Monday, what this body is going to do, because I amended, In this body, we funded \$1.3 million to CQA for your automation system. Likewise \$150,000 for your K9. So, you know, when we take action on Monday, which I'm almost positive that we'll take positive action that you'll be funded again, your 1.3 for your automation system and also the \$150,000 for it for your K9. I know you need much more than that, but we're, we're working it and you know, we always

talk about this. That man, you're a training facility for, you know, other federal agencies and all that. And I want to thank you guys for holding on and, you know, and holding, holding the line for, for us. I know you got some great challenges, but I'm hoping that we can maybe claw away at some of these challenges that, that you have over there and, and get you to the point where you're, you know, you need to be, you need to be, you know, because, you know, again. And one of the things, too, working on this earlier, I think it was over maybe two months now, Senator Parkinson had a bill in regards to outsourcing, but we know that you cannot outsource your operations. But you guys were in agreement whether a public private partnership in regards to building equipment and things of that nature. So I know his bill is not going to move forward because there are. I mean, he has to be probably a new bill. I mean, we can't mark that up because we cannot outsource your operations. That we can't do. But either he submits a new bill in regards to, through public private partnership for equipment and, or facility, we can look at it and see again what we can legally do again, minus giving a private entity, your duties, because we know we can't do that. So we're awaiting that and collaborating with Senator Parkinson's office and how we move forward with that. And I assure you that prior to this introduction, I'll make sure that you guys are, you know, go through the bill, see what we can legally do, you know, again, that does not jeopardize your operation. Okay. With that being said, I, I'm, I'm, I'm good with this. And again, thank you, Senator Gumataotao, for, for the introduction of this bill. And thank you again for bringing this up, you know, during our, our, our tour of your facilities and the challenges that you have pointed out to the committee. So, you know, it's productive that, that it's put out there. Thank you for that. Senator Gumataotao.

SENATOR ELUOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, BILL AUTHOR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for again holding the public hearing on Bill 183-38. My challenge to our colleagues that remain up here, maybe that are not in attendance and not a member of the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal and Foreign Affairs, I ask that you provide your input in the coming

days as outlined in our rules back to this committee. I ask my colleagues to send an email to senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov with your input and recommended changes to make Bill 183-38 better. As many of you have made it a point to say on the floor in recent sessions with other policies we have addressed here since the start of our term in the 38th Guam legislature. For the record, Mr. Chair, ideas to change any part of this particular bill works in our process in the Guam Legislature. Again, to my colleagues, your thoughts, even though if you're against it, it's important to this bill too. Thank you in advance for the support of the markup process of Bill 183-38. Once again, that is our job. It is what we are elected to do here in the Guam legislature. Mr. Chair, we as government leaders and security experts all over the Pacific, are worried that the maritime transportation system could be used by terrorists to smuggle personnel, weapons of mass destruction or other dangerous materials into the United States of America. The discussion made its way into and around the recent Guam Defense Forum in Tumon. We as a community must be concerned that Ships in U.S. ports like ours and others in the region, particularly large commercial cargo ships managed daily by the Port Users group and others in attendance or cruise ships and industry. Mr. Chairman, that I know you have an interest in growing here, could be compromised or God forbid, attacked by terrorists. I am aware that the same experts are concerned that a large scale terrorist attack at a US Port could not only cause local death and damage, but also paralyze global maritime commerce. We must do better to protect our community from these real and potentially devastating threats today. No more pulling back. Mr. Chair. The effort discussed today via Bill 183-38, initially recognized through public law from the 34th Guam Legislature in 2018, must be supported every step of the way. We cannot and we should not give up illegal drugs, weapons, invasive species and the long list of unwanted and dangerous threats do not give up. Evil, bad actors will find a way, invest the resources needed, endanger all of our families, risk our environment and do everything possible to get through. Through even the most secure facilities that we might build in the future. Therefore, Mr. Chair, we must do everything in our power to continue the fight against these evils before they destroy the very fabric

of our island society. With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching for CQA to utilize Government of Guam property pursuant to Public Law Number 183-38, if approved by this body, provides the agency and the container inspection facility working group with additional time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans. Mr. Chair, by providing CQA with the additional time that it needs, this legislature will ensure the agency, together with its local, federal and military partners, will have the necessary infrastructure and resources moving forward to protect our citizens and environment against known and developing threats. Thank you, Mr. Chair, colleagues and stakeholders again for your attendance today and participation in today's public hearing. Thank you so much.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. And likewise, we had received also written testimony, testimonies from Attorney General Moylan, likewise from general manager Rory Respicio from the port authority of Guam in support of the bill as well. And Mr. Balbastro, thank you very much again for your testimony. It's very important and it's great to be able to see folks, the youth congress coming out and testifying for the bills. Whether you're for it or against. It's great that we have their voices heard, you know, here in this. In the people's house. With that being said, this committee will continue to accept written testimony on this bill for the next seven days. Testimonies may be addressed to Senator Jesse A. Lujan, chairman and mailed to either 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatna Guam 96910 or submit it via email at senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov with that being no further business, this public hearing is now adjourned. It is currently 4:35pm thank you very much and have a great evening. Stay safe, everybody. God bless. Thank you.

[PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED]

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee ***finds*** that extending the statutory deadline under Public Law 34-112, as proposed in Bill 183-38 (COR), is *necessary and justified*. The additional time will enable CQA to finalize financing arrangements, complete A&E designs and move toward construction without jeopardizing compliance with prior legislative mandates.

The Committee notes that ongoing coordination with federal and local stakeholders, including MARAD, the Port Authority, GITA, USDA and the Office of the Governor, is essential to secure the remaining project funds and to develop a sustainable operations plan for the facility once constructed.

The Committee ***concludes*** that the proposed facility will serve a dual-use function, benefiting both civilian and military operations and positioning Guam as a regional hub for secure and efficient trade. Its completion will enhance Guam's border security posture, protect public health and the environment and strengthen the island's role within the U.S. national security framework.

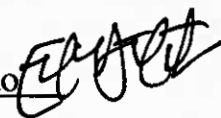
Finally, the Committee ***further concludes*** that Bill 183-38 (COR) represents a critical step toward achieving these objectives, ensuring that CQA has both the infrastructure and the time necessary to meet its statutory and operational responsibilities. ***Therefore*** reporting Bill No. 183-38 (COR) as heard, with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao



AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Public Law 34-112 enacted on July 17, 2018, authorized the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) to utilize a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility. Public Law 34-112 required the property to revert to the general jurisdiction of the Government of Guam if it remained undeveloped for three (3) years following enactment. Recognizing the challenges faced by CQA in developing the facility, the Guam Legislature in 2021 approved and the Governor of Guam subsequently adopted Bill 58-36 (COR) as Public Law 36-12, providing CQA with an additional five (5) years to establish the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

I Liheslatura further finds that based on information provided by CQA at the request of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam

1 National Guard, a Container Inspection Facility (CIF) Working Group was
2 established in 2024. The CIF Working Group is responsible for overseeing all facets
3 of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future
4 growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund
5 facility construction and sustainability.

6 With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching for CQA to
7 utilize Government of Guam property pursuant to Public Law 34-112, *I Liheslatura*
8 finds it necessary to provide the agency and CIF Working Group with additional
9 time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans.

10 Accordingly, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* supports CQA's ongoing efforts to
11 develop the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility
12 consistent with the provisions of Public Law 34-112, as amended. Through this Act,
13 *I Liheslatura* recognizes the importance of establishing such a facility to help
14 Government of Guam and Federal law enforcement entities protect families in our
15 U.S. Territory against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband
16 – and invasive species which continue to threaten Guam's natural resources and
17 those of the vitally important ecosystems in Micronesia.

18 **Section 2.** Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112 is hereby *amended* to read as
19 follows:

20 “(b) If the property is not developed into a functioning Customs Satellite
21 Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility Area within ~~eighteen~~ (810) years
22 from the date of enactment, July 17, 2018, administrative jurisdiction of GCQA shall
23 expire and the property shall revert to the general jurisdiction of the government of
24 Guam.”

25 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, Customs, Utilities, and Federal and Foreign Affairs

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Public Law 34-112 enacted on July 17, 2018, authorized the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) to utilize a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility. Public Law 34-112 required the property to revert to the general jurisdiction of the Government of Guam if it remained undeveloped for three (3) years following enactment. Recognizing the challenges faced by CQA in developing the facility, the Guam Legislature in 2021 approved and the Governor of Guam subsequently adopted Bill 58-36 (COR) as Public Law 36-12, providing CQA with an additional five (5) years to establish the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

I Liheslatura further finds that based on information provided by CQA at the request of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam

1 National Guard, a Container Inspection Facility (CIF) Working Group was
2 established in 2024. The CIF Working Group is responsible for overseeing all facets
3 of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future
4 growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund
5 facility construction and sustainability.

6 With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching for CQA to
7 utilize Government of Guam property pursuant to Public Law 34-112, *I Liheslatura*
8 finds it necessary to provide the agency and CIF Working Group with additional
9 time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans.

10 Accordingly, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* supports CQA’s ongoing efforts to
11 develop the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility
12 consistent with the provisions of Public Law 34-112, as amended. Through this Act,
13 *I Liheslatura* recognizes the importance of establishing such a facility to help
14 Government of Guam and Federal law enforcement entities protect families in our
15 U.S. Territory against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband
16 – and invasive species which continue to threaten Guam’s natural resources and
17 those of the vitally important ecosystems in Micronesia.

18 **Section 2.** Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, *as amended*, is hereby *amended*
19 to read as follows:

20 “(b) If the property is not developed into a functioning Customs Satellite
21 Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility Area within ~~eighteen~~ (810) years
22 from the date of enactment, July 17, 2018, administrative jurisdiction of GCQA shall
23 expire and the property shall revert to the general jurisdiction of the government of
24 Guam.”

25 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 183-38 (COR)

COMMITTEE MARKUP

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 2(b) OF PUBLIC LAW 34-112, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE CUSTOMS SATELLITE INSPECTION, HOLDING, AND SECURED STERILE FACILITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Public Law 34-112 enacted on July 17, 2018, authorized the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) to utilize a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility. Public Law 34-112 required the property to revert to the general jurisdiction of the Government of Guam if it remained undeveloped for three (3) years following enactment. Recognizing the challenges faced by CQA in developing the facility, the Guam Legislature in 2021 approved and the Governor of Guam subsequently adopted Bill 58-36 (COR) as Public Law 36-12, providing CQA with an additional five (5) years to establish the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

I Liheslatura further finds that based on information provided by CQA at the request of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam

1 National Guard, a Container Inspection Facility (CIF) Working Group was
2 established in 2024. The CIF Working Group is responsible for overseeing all facets
3 of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future
4 growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund
5 facility construction and sustainability.

6 With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching for CQA to
7 utilize Government of Guam property pursuant to Public Law 34-112, *I Liheslatura*
8 finds it necessary to provide the agency and CIF Working Group with additional
9 time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans.

10 Accordingly, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* supports CQA’s ongoing efforts to
11 develop the Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility
12 consistent with the provisions of Public Law 34-112, as amended. Through this Act,
13 *I Liheslatura* recognizes the importance of establishing such a facility to help
14 Government of Guam and Federal law enforcement entities protect families in our
15 U.S. Territory against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband
16 – and invasive species which continue to threaten Guam’s natural resources and
17 those of the vitally important ecosystems in Micronesia.

18 **Section 2.** Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, *as amended*, is hereby *amended*
19 to read as follows:

20 “(b) If the property is not developed into a functioning Customs Satellite
21 Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility Area within ~~eighteen~~ (810) years
22 from the date of enactment, July 17, 2018, administrative jurisdiction of GCQA shall
23 expire and the property shall revert to the general jurisdiction of the government of
24 Guam.”

25 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

September 19, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note Waiver for Bill No. 183-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note Waiver for the following bill:

Bill No. 183-38 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.





BUREAU OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Post Office Box 2950, Hagåtña Guam 96932



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.
DIRECTOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2025

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai! Vice Speaker Ada:

The Bureau requests that Bill No. 183-38 (COR) be granted a waiver pursuant to Public Law 12-229 as amended for the following reason(s):

Legislative Bill No. 183-38 (COR) intends to amend Section 2(b) of Public Law 34-112, as amended, which would extend the timeframe from eight (8) years to ten (10) years for the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency to use the property identified as a portion of Parcel 1-3 in the Municipality of Piti for developing and constructing a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility.

The proposed legislation is administrative in nature and would not fiscally impact the appropriations for FY 2025.

Senseramente,

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/continuing-delays-for-satellite-customs-cargo-inspection-site/article_216d961f-5a14-45de-a41a-7ae771d97e78.html

Continuing delays for satellite customs cargo inspection site

NESTOR LICANTO | THE GUAM DAILY POST

SEP 25, 2025



Ike Peredo

FRANK SAN NICOLAS/THE GUAM DAILY POST



Vincent Perez

DAVID R.CASTRO



GCQA: The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency logo is seen on a van parked at the air cargo section of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Tiyan on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. *David Castro/The Guam Daily Post*

DAVID R. CASTRO

The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency needs more time for the construction of a satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility that's to be built on four acres at the Port Authority of Guam.

The project was first authorized in 2018, and GCQA was given three years to complete the new facility, or the land would revert to the government of Guam. When it failed to meet that first deadline, GCQA was granted a five-year extension until July 2026.

But with that deadline fast approaching, Bill 183-38 by Sen. Shawn Gumataotao allows the project to be pushed further out to July 2028, or ten years from the date the project was first formally approved.

During a public hearing for the bill on Wednesday, GCQA director Ike Peredo cited various factors that led to the delays. "Several significant challenges affected our timeline. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted normal operations, procedures and processes, and Typhoon Mawar caused substantial infrastructure damage and diverted agency resources to recovery efforts," Peredo said.

Still, there has been some progress.

"I am pleased to announce that the agency has been awarded an all-cost-share grant of \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, or MARAD," Peredo said.

The money was loaded into GCQA's account last month and is earmarked specifically for architectural and engineering services to design the facility, which the Department of Public Works has agreed to manage, Peredo added.

The total project cost is estimated at \$40 million, which GCQA is still working to secure. Peredo said they have consulted the Guam Economic Development Authority about floating a bond. They have also submitted a request to MARAD for a grant to fund 80% of the total cost of the project, with GovGuam putting up 20% in matching funds.

Chief of Customs Vincent Perez said if built, it will be the first true customs inspection facility for Guam that is aligned with federal standards.

Perez said it will provide a fixed X-ray system for screening containerized freight, provide isolated and secured areas for inspections and enforcement actions, and allow greater accountability and control of freight entering Guam.

"It will be one of the government of Guam's greatest assets in protecting our people, our island and our resources," Perez said.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Douglas Moylan submitted written testimony supporting the bill but also criticized the administration on a separate issue: 100% cargo inspections at the Port Authority.

Moylan urged senators to amend the bill to include that mandate. "It's only when 100% (methamphetamine) cargo inspections occur (that) the supply of meth drop(s)," he wrote.

"There's no way that we can conduct 100% inspections, and I continue to say this because that's impractical at this point in time," Peredo said.

He said globally, no customs authority conducts 100% inspections. "We balance trade facilitation and commerce at the same time and continue to ensure that we move goods out to the community in a timely manner, in a timely fashion," Peredo said.

He also disputed Moylan's claim that drugs are pouring in through the port. "I don't have evidence at this point in time to tell you that that is true, ... but the majority of our drugs that are coming in are coming in through the postal system," Peredo said.

"I've met with (the Drug Enforcement Administration). I've sat down with them to see what information that they have with respect to the importation of meth coming into the port, and even (the) DEA cannot sustain any type of information for me," he added.

Nestor Licanto

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

https://www.guampdn.com/news/guam-customs-seeks-more-time-to-use-piti-property-for-drug-inspections-even-after-initial/article_783e4550-d347-4bb7-9e3c-402388e07eed.html

Guam Customs seeks more time to use Piti property for drug inspections, even after initial 5-year extension

By Haidee Eugenio Gilbert Pacific Daily News
Sep 14, 2025

1 of 2



Officers with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency are guided through a document review exercise by officers with the Administration Office of Law Enforcement ahead of a sealed import inspection on Aug. 6, 2025 at the Guam Integrated Air (

Courtesy of Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency

\$100 RESY CREDIT

Earn up to \$50 back semi-annually after you pay with the Gold Card to dine at U.S. Resy restaurants. Enrollment required. Terms apply.





The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency said it needs more time to use a government property in Piti as a satellite facility where it could conduct more inspections for illegal drugs, weapons and other contraband, even after an initial five-year extension was already granted to secure funding to build on it, among other things.

Now, the agency is asking for another extension of up to July 2028 to start building on the Piti property, since it anticipates missing the amended July 2026 deadline.

Sen. Shawn Gumataotao, as chairman of the committee overseeing public safety, introduced a bill that would grant Guam Customs an additional two-year extension to build on the Piti property.

If approved, Bill 183-38 grants Guam Customs up to July 2028 to “secure financing and begin construction work on the critical public safety facility as mandated by Public Law 34-112,” Gumataotao said on Sunday.

In July 2018, a bill was enacted into law, giving Guam Customs three years or up to 2021 to build its “satellite inspection, holding and secured sterile facility” at a portion of Parcel 1-3 in Piti.

Under that 2018 law, the property reverts to GovGuam's general jurisdiction if it remains undeveloped for three years.

With challenges that Guam Customs faced in developing the property by the original 2021 deadline, the Legislature passed and the administration enacted a five-year extension, putting the new deadline to 2026.

Gumataotao's bill, introduced on Sept. 3, stated that with the amended July 2026 deadline quickly approaching for Guam Customs to use the GovGuam property in Piti, the agency and a Container Inspection Facility Working Group need "additional time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans."

The working group is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the project, including facility design, operational needs, equipment, and future growth of the agency, as well as exploring all reasonable financing options to fund facility construction and sustainability, according to Guam Customs.

"This measure recognizes the importance of establishing a CQA satellite inspection facility as our frontline defense against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband into Guam and neighboring islands in Micronesia," Gumataotao said in a statement.

The freshman senator also said providing Guam Customs with additional time will ensure the agency, together with its local, federal, and military partners, “will have the necessary infrastructure and resources moving forward to protect our citizens and environment against known and developing threats.”

If the bill becomes law, the deadline would be a decade since the original law was enacted giving the property to Guam Customs for it to help prevent more drugs and other contraband from coming into the island.

Haidee Eugenio Gilbert is managing editor for the Pacific Daily News. You can reach her at hgilbert@guampdn.com.

Haidee Eugenio Gilbert

Managing Editor

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

Guam News's Post



Guam News

September 15 · 🌐

Senator Shawn Gumataotao has introduced Bill 183-38 (COR) to give the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) an additional two years to develop a Customs Satellite Inspection, Holding, and Secured Sterile Facility in Piti. The measure would extend the agency's current July 2026 deadline to 2028, allowing more time to secure financing and begin construction mandated by Public Law 34-112.

The land in Parcel 1-3 of Piti was first set aside in 2018 for the facility, but CQA has faced challenges meeting deadlines under the law, which initially required the property to revert to government control if it remained undeveloped. Lawmakers granted a five-year extension in 2021 through Public Law 36-12. The new bill acknowledges continued delays and the need for added planning time.

According to CQA, a Container Inspection Facility Working Group established in 2024 oversees design, operational needs, equipment and future growth for the agency. The working group is also tasked with exploring all financing options to fund the construction and long-term sustainability of the facility.

"With the amended deadline of July 2026 quickly approaching ... Bill No. 183-38 (COR) if approved provides the agency and CIF Working Group with additional time to secure financing options and finalize facility layouts and cargo flow plans," Gumataotao said. He added the facility is vital as a "frontline defense against the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, and other contraband into Guam and neighboring islands in Micronesia."

By: Guam News Staff
news@guamnewsupdate.com

[#Guam](#) [#PublicSafety](#) [#Customs](#) [#Piti](#) [#Bill18338](#) [#GuamLegislature](#) [#BorderSecurity](#)
[#GuamNews](#)





Log In



NEWSLETTER

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

SEPTEMBER 2025

Board of Directors

Dorothy P. Harris
Chairperson
Conchita S.N. Taitano
Vice Chairperson
Fe Valencia-Ovalles
Board Secretary
Mark B.C. Mendiola
Board Member

Port Management

Rory J. Respicio
General Manager
Dominic G. Muna
Deputy General Manager
Operations
Pacifico R. Martir
Deputy General Manager
Administration and Finance



Inside this Issue

- DCIP Grant
- FEMA Award: Port Security Grant
- Defense Forum
- 50th Port Week Kickoff
- Bill 183-38
- SFST Training
- Derelict Vessel Removal - Voyager
- WSP Meetings
- Employee Awards
- Photo Highlights
- Labor Day Photos
- October Birthdays

Port Authority of Guam Awarded \$4.8 Million Federal Grant to Restore Critical Fuel Pier



The Port Authority of Guam was awarded a \$4.8 million federal grant under the Department of War's Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) to fund urgent structural and safety upgrades at F1 Pier, the island's sole operational fuel import terminal. The total cost of the Joint Region Marianas Pier Infrastructure Restoration Project is \$6.9 million, with the DCIP grant covering the majority of the funding.

"This grant delivers immediate, critical fixes to the only remaining fuel pier at the Port," said Rory J. Respicio, General Manager of the Port Authority of Guam. "We acknowledge our Planning and CIP/Engineering team, along with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and Vera Topasna at the Governor's Local Buildup Office, who worked closely with Steve Chung and his team at OLDCC under Patrick O'Brien to make this possible, consistent with

the One Guam approach."

The project is a direct response to the urgent need to secure Guam's energy infrastructure following Typhoon Mawar, which caused extensive damage to Golf Pier, leaving it inoperable. With Golf Pier out of service, F1 Pier now bears the entire burden of importing and offloading vital fuels that power Guam's civilian and military operations. Its current condition represents a single point of failure that threatens both the island's economy and national security.

The F1 Pier project will execute near-term structural and safety upgrades to stabilize the pier, extend its operational life, and maintain critical functionality until long-term replacement funding and construction can be secured.

F1 Pier serves as the primary offloading point for fuels including Jet Fuel, Marine Gas Oil (MGO), High

Story continues on page 2

Sulfur Fuel Oil (HSFO), Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD), and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). These fuels are essential for the operations of Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, the Guam Power Authority, the Guam International Airport, and numerous commercial distributors.

The proposed upgrades will eliminate immediate safety hazards, improve operational readiness, and ensure uninterrupted deliveries to both defense and civilian sectors for the next 5–10 years. This critical investment directly supports mission assurance, strategic mobility, and Guam's energy resilience.

"The Department of War's investment underscores a simple fact: if the Port is not ready, the military will not be ready," Respcio said. "These improvements are vital not only for readiness but also for sustaining our island and regional economies. This grant reinforces the Port's role in commerce, national security, and energy dominance by ensuring safe, reliable infrastructure that serves our island community and the region. We remain on message by presenting the facts."

Steve Chung, Pacific Readiness Senior Project Manager at the Department of Defense's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), commended the collaborative effort that made this award possible:

"This project represents a vital investment in both Guam's civilian community and our nation's defense infrastructure," said Chung. "By addressing vulnerabilities at F1 Pier, we are ensuring the uninterrupted flow of fuel necessary to support Indo-Pacific operations and strengthen supply chain resilience. The strong partnership with the Port Authority of Guam, the Governor's Office, and local stakeholders has been key to moving this critical project forward."

Guam plays a pivotal role as a hub in the Indo-Pacific region. The island is home to multiple military installations and federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, the Guam National Guard, and a major Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) fuel storage facility operated by Tristar Terminals Guam, Inc.

By ensuring F1 Pier remains stable and operational, the project protects Guam's civilian energy security while safeguarding U.S. military readiness. It also supports the regional economy by guaranteeing reliable fuel access for both government and commercial needs.

The DCIP program provides federal grants for infrastructure projects that directly enhance military value and operational readiness. The F1 Pier project exemplifies this mission by addressing urgent vulnerabilities in a facility critical to Guam's future and the defense of the Indo-Pacific.



Port Secures More Than \$1 million in FEMA Funding



The Port Authority of Guam was awarded \$1,116,368 under the Fiscal Year 2025 FEMA Port Security Grant Program to deliver near-term security upgrades at Guam's only commercial seaport. The award consists of \$987,276 in federal funding and a \$129,092 local match.

The package prioritizes physical security. Funding will install a new security barrier system at Main Gate 1 to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to restricted terminal facilities. In the event of an intended breach, the barriers are designed to stop penetration of the restricted area and reduce the risk of injury to personnel and damage to property. The grant also provides a modular floating dock system with gangway and sinkers or anchors to enhance Port Police prevention, protection, response, and recovery missions for the Port and the Territory in collaboration with U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam.

The award also strengthens the Port's cyber posture. It advances the Cyber Security Initiative and Roadmap through implementation of Active Directory, a core platform that improves user and resource security, centralizes management of network and user resources, and enables integration and scalability. In addition, the grant replaces the aging SonicWall 4600 firewall with a redundant SonicWall 5700 and provides a three-

year subscription to 24/7/365 Intrusion Detection System monitoring by the Center for Internet Security. CIS, designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, supports state, local, tribal, and territorial entities with cyber threat prevention, protection, response, and recovery services. These upgrades fulfill the Facility Security Plan Cybersecurity Annex requirement in 33 CFR 105.275 and strengthen the Port's network and system defense capabilities.

"This award brings more than one million dollars in targeted security improvements to our island's only commercial seaport," said Rory J. Respicio, General Manager of the Port Authority of Guam. "These investments strengthen the Port's perimeter and harden our cyber backbone to safeguard people, cargo, and critical missions. This progress reflects the leadership and guidance of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and the continued support of our Board of Directors. I thank FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and our Port Strong employees for their partnership and dedication to readiness."

Project activities will be implemented in phases and in accordance with federal and local procurement requirements to minimize operational impact while delivering these enhancements on schedule.

Port GM Highlights Guam's Critical Role in Indo-Pacific Logistics During the Guam Defense Forum



Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio joined military, government, and industry leaders as a panelist at the 2025 Guam Defense Forum, held September 17–18 at the Dusit Thani Hotel.

The forum, hosted by the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration and the Community Defense Liaison Office, brought together key defense leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss regional security, civil-military collaboration, and Guam's vital role in the Indo-Pacific region.

General Manager Respicio participated in Panel Discussion 9: Strengthening Guam's Defense Supply Chain and Logistics Ecosystem, alongside senior leaders from the Department of Defense, the shipping industry, and the Guam Airport Authority. The session examined Guam's role as a logistics hub for both military and civilian needs, emphasizing the importance of supply chain resilience, port modernization, secure sourcing of critical materials, and public-private partnerships.

"Guam's only commercial seaport is the entry point for more than 90 percent of the island's goods, making it a linchpin in both civilian and defense logistics," Respicio said. "This forum provided an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with our partners to ensure Guam's port infrastructure remains strong, resilient, and ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow."

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero highlighted the importance of bringing civilian and military leaders together to shape Guam's future.

"The Guam Defense Forum is about bringing our community together with defense and regional partners to ensure Guam's voice is heard in shaping the future of security in the Indo-Pacific," said Governor Leon Guerrero. "Guam is at the center of critical conversations, and we are committed to making sure those conversations reflect the priorities and values of our people."

Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio echoed this sentiment during his opening remarks at the forum.

"We are not just a staging ground or a strategic location. We are a living, breathing, and vibrant community forever tied to our land, our waters, and our way of life," said Lt. Governor Tenorio. "Our collective vision for Guam, our 'One Guam' approach, must recognize that what strengthens the defense mission must also strengthen the people who call Guam home."

Panelists included Mr. Joe Cruz, Past President of Cabras Marine; Mr. Patrick Bulaon, Vice President and General Manager of Matson, Inc.; CAPT Patrick Brown, Commander of Defense Logistics Agency Pacific; Mr. John Quinata, Executive Manager of the Guam Airport Authority; and Mr. Andrew Winternitz, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Defense Continuity and Mission Assurance.

By participating in the Guam Defense Forum, the Port Authority of Guam reaffirmed its commitment to supporting both Guam's civilian economy and the nation's defense strategy, ensuring the island remains a reliable partner and a resilient hub in the Indo-Pacific region.

Port to Kick Off 50th Anniversary Celebration with Week-Long Festivities

The Port Authority of Guam will officially launch its 50th Anniversary Celebration with a special Opening Ceremony at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 20, 2025.

This milestone year is being celebrated with the theme “Port Strong: 50 Years of Grit, Resilience, and Service Fueling Local and Regional Economies, Partnerships, and National Security.” The theme reflects the Port’s critical role as the lifeline of Guam and the region, connecting the island to global commerce while ensuring the flow of goods vital to civilian life and military readiness.

Throughout the 50th Anniversary Port Week, the Port will host a series of events to honor its history and celebrate its future. Activities will include employee and community sporting events, family-oriented gatherings, and the first-ever Maritime Resilience & Innovation Summit, where industry leaders and stakeholders will come together to discuss modernization, sustainability, and strengthening supply chain resilience for Guam and the Indo-Pacific region.

The week-long celebration will culminate with the Port Week Grand Finale Dinner at the Leo Palace Resort on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 6 p.m. The Grand Finale will highlight the Port’s journey over the past 50 years and recognize the dedicated Port Strong employees, partners, and community members who made this milestone possible.

As part of the celebration, the Port will also unveil its 50th Anniversary Legacy Book, a commemorative publication that chronicles the Port’s growth from its humble beginnings with a single pier on leased land to its current position as a modern



commercial seaport and regional hub. The Legacy Book highlights historic milestones, employee contributions, and a vision for the Port’s next 50 years of service to Guam and beyond

“From our very first days to today, the Port Authority of Guam has been defined by the grit and resilience of our Port Strong employees,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “This celebration honors their service and recognizes the Port’s vital role in fueling Guam’s economy, supporting our military partners, and connecting our island to the world.”

As Guam’s only commercial seaport, the Port Authority handles more than 90 percent of the island’s containerized and breakbulk cargo, serving more than 400,000 residents and neighboring islands. This 50th Anniversary celebration is not only a reflection of the Port’s past but also a commitment to a stronger, more sustainable, and secure future.



Congratulations *on your 50th Anniversary*

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

Håfa Adai! On behalf of the people of Guam, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Port Authority of Guam on its 50th Anniversary. This milestone honors five decades of essential service and impact. From the food in our grocery stores to the fuel that powers our cars and the supplies that stock our schools, nearly every part of life on our island is touched by the work of the Port. It is the first stop for almost everything that sustains us—and it has never missed a beat.

Through natural disasters, global supply chain disruptions, and periods of growth and modernization, the Port has remained steady, reliable, and innovative. We are proud of the major progress made over the years, from expanded infrastructure and increased operational efficiencies to national recognition for transparency and accountability. Most importantly, we are proud of the dedicated team behind the scenes whose work supports every household and business across Guam.

As we celebrate this golden anniversary, we also look to the future. Our administration remains committed to investing in the Port's continued success because we understand how vital it is to Guam's economy, security, and quality of life.

Congratulations to the Port Authority of Guam—and thank you for 50 years of service to our island.



Lou Leon Guerrero
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam



Joshua F. Tenorio
Joshua F. Tenorio
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam



Port GM Testifies in Support of Bill to Strengthen Guam's Port Security

Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio submitted testimony to the Guam Legislature in strong support of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), legislation introduced by Senator Shawn Gumataotao to give the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) additional time to finalize the design and secure funding for a long-planned Customs Satellite Inspection Facility located at the Port.

The facility, first authorized under Public Law 34-112 in 2018, is a critical project to protect Guam's borders and strengthen the island's role as a secure transshipment hub serving the region. Under the proposed bill, CQA would have two additional years, until July 2026, to complete planning and move forward with construction.

"Our seaport is the entry point for nearly all cargo arriving on Guam and throughout Micronesia," Respicio said. "This project will ensure that Customs has the infrastructure needed to inspect and secure cargo, intercept contraband, and safeguard our community before threats reach our shores. This facility is part of a broader vision for a modern, secure, and resilient Port that keeps Guam safe, competitive, and

ready for the future."

Respicio emphasized that the Port has been a committed partner from the beginning, working closely with Customs and the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration to identify and secure the four-acre site for the facility inside Port property. The Port also incorporated the project into its Master Plan and leveraged a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to fund initial planning and design.

"This project has the full backing of the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Port Board of Directors, and our federal partners," Respicio testified. "It reflects the united commitment of government and community leaders to safeguard Guam, protect commerce, and strengthen national and regional security."

Respicio noted that as Guam's only commercial seaport, the Port plays a vital role in ensuring the secure flow of goods throughout the region. By centralizing inspections and isolating potential threats, the new facility will enhance public safety, prevent dangerous drugs and contraband from entering Guam, and reinforce the readiness of the U.S. military and supply chains.



Port Police Officers Certified as Trainers in Sobriety Testing Program



Three Port Police Officers have successfully completed the Train-the-Trainer course for the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) program. Officers POII Benny Quinata, POII Jacob Iriarte, and POI Justin Cruz attended the 4-day training hosted by the Guam Police Department on September 8-11, 2025, at the Hakuboton Building in Tamuning.

The Train-the-Trainer course equips law enforcement personnel with advanced instructional techniques and specialized knowledge to effectively teach other officers the SFST procedures. The curriculum includes adult learning principles, presentation skills, and management of live alcohol workshops (wet lab), student presentations and field report writing, all designed to develop well-prepared and confident instructors.

As certified trainers, officers Quinata, Iriarte, and Cruz will now administer SFST training to other Port Police officers, strengthening the department's overall capability in enforcing impaired driving laws.

SFST is the national standard field test used by law enforcement agencies across the United States to determine whether drivers are impaired. The program follows the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA) curriculum and is funded by the federal agency through a grant administered by the Department of Public Works Highway Safety Division. The course combines classroom instruction with hands-on practice and training topics covering impairment detection, the proper administration and interpretation of sobriety tests, and field report writing.

A component of the training focused on the Horizontal and Vertical Gaze Nystagmus tests, which are vital tools for determining levels of intoxication. Practical exercises and dry runs allowed participants to refine their skills in preparation for real-world situations. The ultimate goal of the SFST program is to enhance officers' ability to identify and address impaired driving, thereby reducing DUI offenses and making Guam's roadways safer.

"We are extremely proud of Officers Quinata, Iriarte, and Cruz for completing this rigorous course and becoming certified trainers," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "Their commitment to expanding the Port Police's expertise will have a lasting impact on our department's effectiveness in addressing impaired driving. Through this training, we are advancing safety for our Port, our people and the entire island community."

Port Authority and U.S. Navy Partner to Remove Derelict Vessel



The Port Authority of Guam, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, successfully removed a derelict vessel from the Piti Channel through the Navy's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

The vessel, known as The Voyager, was originally docked at F6 but broke loose and ran aground during Typhoon Mawar in May 2023. Recognizing both the environmental and navigational hazards posed by the vessel, the Port applied to partner with the Navy through the IRT program to carry out its safe removal.

The Navy's IRT program is a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative designed to provide military personnel with real-world, hands-on training in fields such as construction, healthcare, and logistics. These missions are conducted

within the United States and its territories, giving service members the opportunity to enhance their skills while providing valuable services to local communities. The program fosters strong collaboration between military units and community partners, supporting joint projects that improve military deployment readiness while benefiting the community at large.

Initial removal efforts began on September 15, 2025, but operations were temporarily halted when the bollard securing the line to The Voyager broke off. On September 22, the Navy salvage ship USNS Salvor successfully towed the vessel back to F6.

Currently, the Navy Salvage Team and Port personnel are working together to clean the vessel. Once the cleaning process is completed, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Coast Guard will inspect The Voyager. If deemed environmentally safe, the vessel is scheduled to be tugged into open waters and allowed to sink naturally on October 1, 2025.

"The removal of The Voyager is a great example of what we can accomplish through collaboration. By working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Navy, we not only helped provide valuable training for military personnel but also addressed a significant environmental and navigational concern for our Port and island community. This partnership reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting Guam's waterways and ensuring the safety of all who depend on them," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio





The Port successfully wrapped up a series of strategic stakeholder meetings held from September 22 to 26, 2025, aimed at gathering vital data and input to guide planning and modernization efforts for Guam's only commercial seaport.

The meetings were conducted in partnership with WSP, a consultant engaged to work with the Port and local stakeholders to evaluate Guam's economic development, tourism growth, and military buildup, ensuring that the Port's plans align with the island's long-term needs and opportunities.

Over the course of the week, WSP met with shipping carriers, government agencies, and economic development partners to review operational data and discuss ways to strengthen Guam's supply chain and regional trade position. These sessions included valuable discussions with APL, MEL Lines, Matson, Kyowa, the Guam

Visitors Bureau, the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and representatives from other entities.

"Bringing our stakeholders together for open discussions about our current operations and future goals is critical to ensuring the Port remains ready to meet the demands of our island and the region," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "These meetings helped us build stronger partnerships and provided a roadmap for advancing our mission of service and sustainability."

The week began with a Management In-Brief, where WSP outlined its objectives and approach, and concluded with a Management Out-Brief to present key takeaways and next steps. Topics covered included carrier operations, economic development strategies, tourism partnerships, and ways to improve operational efficiency to better serve the people of Guam.

Employee Quarterly Awards - 4th Quarter of FY 2025

Employee of the Quarter

Category 1:



Aaron Jamanila, Supply Technician I

Category 2:



Kevin Sanchez, Planner Work Coordinator



Shawn Flores, Preventative Maint. Mech.

Supervisor of the Quarter

Category 1:



Pete Castro, Jr., Supply Supervisor

Category 2:



Ronnie Sablan, Transportation Leader



Colby Santos, Cargo Checker Leader

Outstanding Work Center of the Quarter

Category 1:



General Administration Division

Category 2:



Transportation Division

Good Housekeeping Work Center of the Quarter

Category 1:



General Manager's Office

Category 2:



Maintenance Manager's Office



MARITIME RESILIENCE & INNOVATION SUMMIT

CHARTING A BOLD COURSE, TOGETHER

October 22, 2025

Hyatt Regency Guam

Register today!

September Photo Highlights



Employees from the Transportation Division successfully completed the Crane Recertification Training on September 9 and 15, 2025. The training, conducted by Island Certs, ensures employees remain certified and equipped with the latest safety and operational standards.

Labor Day Photos



Congratulations to Our New SFST Trainers



The Port Authority of Guam proudly congratulates Officers Benny Quinata, Jacob Iriarte, and Justin Cruz on successfully completing the rigorous Train-the-Trainer course for the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing program. Their dedication to enhancing their skills and strengthening the Port Police's capabilities reflects an unwavering commitment to public safety. As certified trainers, they will play a vital role in ensuring our officers are well-prepared to identify impaired driving and keep Guam's roadways safe.

October Birthdays

