

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Lihelaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
210-37 (COR)	Frank Blas, Jr.	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §65121 TO CHAPTER 65, DIVISION 3 TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO CODIFYING THE GUAM COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (GCEMP) AND REQUIRING AN ANNUAL REVIEW AND EXERCISE OF THE PLAN.	12/5/23 11:55 a.m.						Referred Version 12/7/23

*I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
**2023 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 210-37 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Frank F. Blas Jr. 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §65121 TO CHAPTER 65,  
DIVISION 3 TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED  
RELATIVE TO CODIFYING THE GUAM  
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
PLAN (GCEMP) AND REQUIRING AN ANNUAL  
REVIEW AND EXERCISE OF THE PLAN.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** In 2004, the Government of  
3 Guam through the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense established the  
4 Guam Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (GCEMP) as a guide to  
5 responding to all emergencies, and all catastrophic, major, and minor disasters. The  
6 plan provides guidance for all levels of government to mobilize as a unified  
7 emergency organization to safeguard the well-being of Guam's residents and  
8 visitors. The plan was updated in 2016, however, despite it having a provision that  
9 called for an annual formal review and exercise, neither have occurred since.

10 The Government of Guam's response to the onset and devastation of Typhoon  
11 Mawar to the island in May of this year was categorized by Mayors and first  
12 responders as chaotic and poorly managed. It was stated by many that it appeared

1 that there was no plan in the way the preparation, response, or immediate recovery  
2 operations were carried out.

3 On September 11, 2023, a study was initiated throughout the government of  
4 Guam on readiness, response, and recovery capabilities of each entity. In conducting  
5 the study, information was requested for the address and structure type for each  
6 facility utilized, a list of all vehicles and equipment critical to the agency operations,  
7 a copy of the agency’s Continuity of Operations Plan (details of where operations  
8 will resume should a facility be deemed destroyed or unable to occupy) and  
9 Continuity of Command Plan (who assumes authority and control should the agency  
10 head or critical person become unexpectedly incapacitated or unavailable).

11 While almost every agency was responsive to the information request, *I*  
12 *Liheslatura* finds it disturbing that more than half had no Continuity of Operations  
13 Plan or an updated Continuity of Command Plan. With the absence of these plans,  
14 it was easy to surmise that emergency management plans have not been regularly  
15 reviewed, exercised, or updated.

16 *I Liheslatura* finds that the latest (2016) version of the GCEM contains  
17 provisions that require government of Guam agencies to have a Continuity of  
18 Operations Plan that also addresses the continuity of command. The GCEMP also  
19 included the periodic requirement to exercise, review, and improve the plan.

20 It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to codify the GCEMP and to statutorily require  
21 an annual review and exercise of the plan. It is further the intent of *I Liheslatura* to  
22 also require an after-action report on the review and exercise inclusive of revision  
23 and improvement recommendations to *IMaga’Hågan Guåhan* and to *I Liheslatura’s*  
24 committee with oversight on Homeland Security and Civil Defense matters.

25 **Section 2. A new Subsection §65121 to Chapter 65 Division 3 of Title 10 Guam**  
26 **Code Annotated is hereby added to read:**

27 “§65121. Guam Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

1 (a) The Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense shall update and  
2 maintain a comprehensive, all-hazards emergency management plan for Guam  
3 which shall include but not limited to:

4 (1) the identification and analysis of all natural, technological, or human-  
5 caused hazards which could affect the island;

6 (2) the procedures to be used during emergencies for coordinating local  
7 government of Guam resources, and if necessary, other resources available from  
8 private-sector, military, non-profit organizations, other jurisdictions, and other non-  
9 governmental entities;

10 (3) the use of the incident command system for multiagency and  
11 multijurisdictional emergency responses;

12 (4) the procedure for resource cataloging and the procurement of supplies  
13 and equipment for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations;

14 (5) the procedure to request and receive supplies and equipment for  
15 emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations, commonly known as  
16 resource management;

17 (6) the procedure and preparatory steps for the partial or full mobilization  
18 of the emergency management plan in advance of an actual disaster;

19 (7) the designation, roles, and responsibilities of the Emergency Operations  
20 Center Emergency Support Function Team;

21 (8) the emergency powers of the Office of the Governor, the Guam  
22 Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, the village Mayors, and the Guam  
23 National Guard;

24 (9) the emergency declaration process;

25 (10) Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations;

26 (11) emergency responders' communications and island-wide, multi-lingual  
27 information dissemination plan; and

1 (12) plan review and exercise timetable.

2 (b) The Guam Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan shall be reviewed,  
3 exercised, and revised and updated (if necessary) no longer than three months upon  
4 enactment and at least annually thereafter. The exercise may focus on any one of the  
5 plan's recognized hazards and the type of exercise shall be determined and designed  
6 by Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense.

7 (c) Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense shall provide a report to I  
8 Maga'Hågan Guåhan and I Liheslaturan Guåhan's committee with oversight on  
9 Homeland Security and Civil Defense matters on the outcome of the plan's review  
10 and exercise no later than 90 calendar days after the action. The report shall include  
11 the hazard and type of exercise conducted, the shortfalls and response gaps identified  
12 through the exercise, the steps taken to mitigate the shortfalls and gaps, and  
13 recommendation for executive or legislative action.

14 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective immediately upon  
15 enactment.

16