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Islandwide Cybersecurity Plan Approved by Federal Officials

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) received notice from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) that the submission of Guam's Cybersecurity Plan has been approved and has met the FY22 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) statutory requirements set forth in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, § 2220A(i).

In a letter addressed to Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, and Frank Lujan, Chief Technology Officer, Trent Frazier, Deputy Assistant Director for CISA acknowledged Guam's development of a cybersecurity plan constituted an important step in creating strategies to manage and reduce cybersecurity risks impacting the territory.

As the government of Guam provides many critical services such as healthcare, utilities, education, and public safety, which own or manage sensitive data, the protection of Guam's information assets from an intentional attack or unintentional misuse is paramount to the government's ability to continue to provide critical services to the people of Guam.

The completion of the cybersecurity plan to protect the island against any cyber related threats, regardless of their source, include but are not limited to terrorists, nation-states, criminal organizations or enterprises, or human error.

"We recognized the importance of building an "all of Guam" approach to cyber risk mitigation, preparedness, and response and developing a detailed plan to aid in the protection of critical assets, infrastructure, networks, sensitive data, data storages, and technology symptoms. We also recognize the strategic importance of our location in the Western Pacific," said Joshua Tenorio, Acting Governor. "Bolstering our cybersecurity measures is in line with our mission to protect the lives and property of our island community as well as the nation."

"In addition to building Guam's ability to identify, detect and prevent these threats, we are working on building up the local capability to effectively respond to cybersecurity threats and hazards with adequate training," said Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor. "The government of Guam is also working with federal counterparts on a comprehensive effort to enhance Guam's critical infrastructure resilience following Typhoon Mawar, to include identifying possible mitigation measures for cybersecurity for critical infrastructures."

The cybersecurity plan was developed as a concerted effort with the Office of the Governor, Office of Technology, Mariana Regional Fusion Center, GHS/OCD, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, other government of Guam, federal, military, and private organizations. The cybersecurity plan will soon be made available for public view on the GHS/OCD website.

For more information, contact GHS/OCD Public Information Officer Jenna G. Blas at [\(671\) 489-2540](tel:6714892540) or via email at jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov.