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Delegate seeks solution to H-2B crisis

Kevin Kerrigan | The Guam Daily Post 10 hrs ago



Michael San Nicolas

Guam’s delegate to the U.S. Congress wants to pursue an administrative solution to the long-standing H-2B worker visa crisis facing Guam, rather than a legal one.

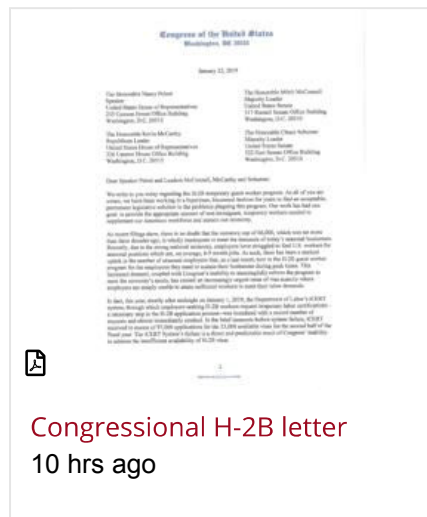
“I definitely want to sit down with (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) and the State Department,” Del. Michael San Nicolas said in a phone interview with The Guam Daily Post on Friday. “I want to ask several key questions.”

San Nicolas said, among the questions: Why did the H-2B approval rate sink to zero? What do we need to do to fix what's wrong? Are there any monitoring or reporting requirements we need to implement to show we are following the requirements?

His position on how best to resolve the H-2B problem has put him at odds with some members of the Guam Contractors Association. GCA has been pursuing litigation against USCIS for the past two years.

“If we want to pursue an administrative solution, we need to reconsider litigation altogether,” said San Nicolas. That is the message he says he brought to the GCA board Thursday and “there was (an) agreement in the room for me to go out there and do that,” he said.

The shortage of skilled foreign workers is affecting the nation, not just Guam. The issue prompted more than 120 U.S. senators and members of the House of Representatives to send a letter on Jan. 22 to the House and Senate leadership appealing for “a meaningful solution to the H-2B guest worker shortage.”



Congressional H-2B letter 10 hrs ago

San Nicolas' name is not on the letter.

"It wasn't brought to our attention," said San Nicolas. "I absolutely would have signed it," he said. "We absolutely support trying to find a solution to the H-2B situation here on Guam."

Kevin Kerrigan