



2018 National Defense Authorization Act clears key committee

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The Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act - with several key provisions for Guam - has cleared the first key hurdle in Congress. The House Armed Services committee Thursday favorably reported out the bill.

The bill easily made it through the committee by a 60-to-1 vote. In a news release, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo said the measure includes an appropriation for some \$354 million in military construction projects related to the Marine relocation to Guam, and the hardening of other select military facilities here. Bordallo said the bill also grants the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service flexibility to reverse the nearly 100% denial rate for H-2B visas related to military construction and healthcare.

The delegate told KUAM News, "This bill also address several critical issues facing Guam. Most notably it includes a provision that addresses the critical workforce crisis that is compromising the labor force needed to support construction and healthcare deficits associated with the realignment of Marines to Guam."

Bordallo said her other provisions include requiring the Navy to hand over the former Ship Repair Facility at no cost to GovGuam, and for the Government Accountability office to perform an independent review to determine if agent orange or other harmful herbicides were used or stored on Guam.

The bill now goes to the full house for approval, and must also clear a joint conference with the Senate before transmittal to the President.



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