

Calvo: Trump says H-2B issue will be resolved

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(Photo: Courtesy of the Office of the Governor)

Gov. Eddie Calvo said President Donald Trump assured him the island's problem in getting H-2B visas approved will be resolved.

Calvo said he talked to the president at a U.S. Pacific Command event in Hawaii.

"I have been working diligently to resolve the H-2B issue on Guam and tonight I had a chance to address my concerns to the president and he assured me that it will be resolved," Calvo said.

"I also had a chance to meet with President Trump's chief of staff, John Kelly, and we will be working together as an order by the president to move forward in finally resolving the H-2B crisis," the governor said.

Federal immigration officials, for more than a year have rejected nearly all applications by Guam businesses for the use of temporary skilled foreign labor under the H-2B visa program. The Guam Contractors Association and nearly a dozen Guam businesses sued in effort to force the visas to start moving again, and the case is ongoing.

The federal government, in court documents, has argued Guam businesses have long abused a program intended only for the use of temporary labor.

Calvo in April said he could no longer support the military buildup as a result of the dwindling number of laborers. In late September, he called for a halt to military construction altogether until the issue is resolved.

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