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## Chamber says H-2B cut could be 'catastrophic to our economic development'



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By Nestor Licanto [CONNECT](#)

Regarding a looming labor crisis, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said she hopes to speak directly with Homeland Security Secretary Kristjen Nielsen about an exemption to allow Filipino H-2 workers to come to Guam. DHS has removed the Philippines from the program citing a high rate of overstays, and concerns over human trafficking.

"We're just trying to get an opportunity to talk to her on the phone and meet her when I'm over there at the end of February," the governor said. "But I did talk to her when I was visiting with president trump and I expressed to her the H-2 worker situation and she said she would look into it."

The governor said she also spoke with Congressman Michael San Nicolas about including an exemption in the next defense spending bill, similar to a provision that currently benefits military construction projects.

Meanwhile, the Guam Chamber of Commerce issued a statement saying removal of the Philippines from the H-2B Visa Program could be "catastrophic to our economic development."

The Chamber has supported the current use of H-2B workers for military projects, but President Catherine Castro said they also want to ensure that local projects receive the same consideration.

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