More help could be on the way for local contractors. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo has introduced a bill to allow new foreign workers for civilian projects. It's similar to an earlier provision she successfully sponsored that helped boost H-2 laborers for military construction.

What's good for inside the fence, should be good for outside the fence. That's the idea behind Bordallo's bill to provide more local discretion over the number of foreign H-2 workers here. "The Guam Temporary Workforce Act would make sure that local labor needs are met by giving the governor more input in temporary labor need determinations," she asserted. "Specifically, it would allow him to certify the temporary needs of Guam's civilian labor market while safeguarding the local economy from overreliance on temporary workers."

Bordallo was able to include a provision in last year's national defense authorization act that allows more foreign workers for military related projects here, but the governor and local contractors say they need the same sort of authorization for civilian projects.

Meanwhile, military projects are already benefitting from the increased H2 labor. Colonel Brent Bien, the officer in charge of Marine corps activity Guam says construction work is in full swing, saying, "You drove up here, you see Route 3a the expansion there and of course right here where we are the cantonment, the clearing of particular areas, there's a lot of progress being made, a lot of work going on up here, in particular, so it's very good to see."

The target date for the relocation of US Marines from Okinawa to Guam remains 2024.