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# Guam Chamber "surprised" with Gov.'s military buildup announcement

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**"It's a surprise because this has been a One Guam Approach for many stakeholders, as well as the private sector, particularly the Guam Chamber of Commerce," said Bobby Shringi, Guam Chamber of Commerce Chairman.**

Guam - After Governor Calvo's fired up announcement yesterday regarding his admittedly difficult decision to pull support for the military buildup, crucial organizations with direct ties to the governor's bold words have since responded.

Yesterday, the governor shocked everyone when he told rotarians that he could no longer support the military buildup.

After the bold announcement was made, local leaders and lawmakers alike have responded -- the commentary has been a mixed bag of support and disagreement.

In a press release, Speaker BJ Cruz wrote: "Just a few weeks ago, Adelup said it saw a 'ray of hope' in the Trump Administration. Judging from Governor Calvo's recent tone, that hope just hit a brick wall."

But even the private sector responded. Bobby Shringi, the Chairman of the Board for the Guam Chamber of Commerce told PNC that the announcement came as a surprise.

"The first reaction sort of clarified in our statement is one of surprise because this is not an issue you would've expected, right? It's a surprise because this is a position for many stakeholders included. It's a surprise because this has been a One Guam Approach for many stakeholders, as well as the private sector, particularly the Guam Chamber of Commerce," he said.

Still others have voiced their support, namely the Guam Contractors Association who delighted in the governor's stance to enjoin GovGuam through the AG in the longstanding lawsuit against the federal government.

In a statement released yesterday, GCA wrote: "The Guam Contractors Association through its officers and directors understands, all too well, the frustration Governor Calvo has experienced after taking various

initiatives with federal officials to resolve the H-2B visa issue, only to be rebuffed at seemingly every turn."

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~~The class action lawsuit challenges the denials of H-2B visa applications --the direct cause of Guam's~~

shortage of skilled workers.  (<http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/livestream>)

GCA says the support from the governor is certainly welcomed: "This issue is not only about the construction industry, but has impact on many businesses on Guam and is already casting a shadow over Guam's economy."

Shringi meanwhile says, at least from the chamber's perspective that only time will tell whether the governor's new emboldened stance proves effective.

"It could very well be a very effective move it could very well send a very strong message but at the same token what happens if it doesn't? There are ways to get things across. It's really hard to say... It's really hard to say."

The Guam Contractors Association said the class action lawsuit the GCA filed along with twelve small businesses in Guam federal district court is pending with the next hearing due in May.

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