

1,000th H-2B worker registered this month

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The Guam Department of Labor's Alien Labor Processing Certification Division acknowledged the registration of more than 1,000 H-2B workers in October. The number of H-2B workers hadn't surpassed 1,000 since 2016. From left: Labor Deputy Director Gerard Toves; Christopher Odvina, the 1,002nd H-2B worker; Marcelo Delgado, the 1004th H-2B worker; Labor Director David Dell'Isola; Randy Rosales, the 1,000th H-2B worker; Edwino Martinez, the 1,001st H-2B worker, Ericban Maglaque, the 1,003rd H-2B worker; Alien Labor Processing's administrator, Greg Massey. (Photo: Courtesy of the Guam Department of Labor)

The Guam Department of Labor's Alien Labor Processing Certification Division recently announced the registration of the 1,000th H-2B worker in October.

The number of H-2B workers hadn't passed 1,000 since 2016, the agency announced in a news release.

The milestone highlights the continued efforts between Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Adm. John Menoni and the Guam Department of Labor working together, the agency said.

A recent U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services crackdown on Guam's use of foreign H-2 labor has denied nearly all applications. Federal officials argue local businesses have long misused the program, intended to only provide temporary foreign labor.

In October 2016, 12 Guam companies that heavily rely on foreign labor filed a federal lawsuit against USCIS, demanding immediate relief from the near 100-percent denial of temporary worker visas. The possibility of a settlement was floated in January, but no decision was reached. A motion to dismiss, motion for immediate injunction and class-action motion currently are pending.

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