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## H-2B visa lawsuit not a class-action case – for now

Daily Post Staff Jul 26, 2017 Updated 7 hrs ago

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood of the District Court of Guam yesterday said it's too early to decide whether the Guam Contractors Association's lawsuit against U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and other federal officials can proceed as a class-action case.

Until the federal government's motion to dismiss is decided by the court, it's premature to certify the lawsuit as a class-action case, she said.

The decision is in connection with the case filed by Guam contractors, following the near-zero approval of petitions for H-2B visas for skilled foreign workers.

Guam historically has had about 1,400 or more foreign workers on H-2B visas every year in recent years, but U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last year began rejecting these petitions for temporary imported labor for Guam. The number is now close to 100.

Industry officials and the government of Guam have called the situation a crisis.

### **\$1B in projects planned in coming years**

The island faces about \$1 billion in military construction, government of Guam and private sector projects over the next two years, but the construction industry had been hard-pressed to find skilled, blue-collar workers.

Contracts to build roads and other infrastructure have been delayed or have cost more. The housing market is seeing a decrease in new home sales attributed to a lack of construction workers.