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USCIS approves 355 foreign workers for Guam

DAILY POST STAFF

11 HRS AGO



BUILDUP: Construction continues on the Pacific Air Power Resiliency Tanker Group Maintenance Hangar project on Andersen Air Force Base in Yigo on Feb. 27. Photo courtesy of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas

Three contractors recently have been approved to bring 97 H-2B visa workers from the Philippines to Guam, while another contractor was allowed to add a second project to its application and utilize 258 existing H-2B workers for the second project on Guam, raising the total for recent approvals to 355, the governor's office announced Monday.

While the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has imposed a one-year ban on H-2B labor from the Philippines, certain Guam employers have been able to get exemptions by establishing that their projects are related to the military buildup and are authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act.

Recent H-2B approvals are for:

- Core Tech, 258**
- J Corp., 19**
- Northern Construction, 19**
- Nan Inc., 59**

The Guam Daily Post is an affiliate of Core Tech.

Governor: Every project is buildup-related

With the news of the approvals, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero renewed her call for contractors to petition for H-2B workers if they are unable to source skilled workers on Guam.

"The H-2B denials in 2017 and the ban placed on the Philippines created a shortage of labor on Guam, driving up the price of construction and halting many projects on our island," the governor said. "As I've told the White House, the U.S. Congress, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during my trip to D.C. last month, every construction project on Guam is tied to the military buildup. Our military families stationed on Guam travel the same roads, visit the same malls and eat at the same restaurants," Leon Guerrero said.

The governor added, "We are one community and the federal government needs to recognize this."

There are currently 858 H-2B workers on the island, and 629 more workers have been

approved.