

## TERRITORY OF GUAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AGAÑA, GUAM 96910 U.S.A.

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 98-24**

RELATIVE TO CREATING A TASK FORCE ON ALIEN LABOR TO GRADUALLY MOVE GUAM FROM DEPENDENCE ON A LARGE FOREIGN LABOR FORCE AND TO DEVELOP A SELF-SUSTAINING LOCAL LABOR FORCE.

WHEREAS, it was reported that as of June, 1998 1,937 persons were on Guam with temporary worker H-2 visa status, as well as 2,853 U. S. Citizens and persons from the freely associated states of Micronesia, employed in the building trades; and

WHEREAS, there are many more foreign workers on Guam, engaged in the tourism industry and other business endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the H-2 visa status is a program designed to assist the economy by making foreign labor available at times when there is an inadequate labor force; and

WHEREAS, Guam experiences repeating economic cycles, based on world-wide and regional economic situations which impact on our local economy, and the more self-sufficient that Guam becomes, the more reliable and predictable will be our local economy; and

WHEREAS, although we could not have experienced the tremendous development of our tourist industry without the H-2 visa status program to construct hotels and tourist attractions as well as staff tourist facilities, over time we can begin to wean Guam businesses away from the use of foreign labor, in favor of further developing stable local resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ, I Maga'lahen Guåhan, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do order:

- 1. A Task Force on Alien Labor is established, consisting of representatives from:
  - a) Guam Department of Labor;
  - b) Attorney General of Guam;
  - c) U. S. Attorney, invited to participate;
  - d) U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, invited to participate;
  - e) Guam Contractors Association;
  - f) Guam Contractors License Board;
  - g) Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association; and
  - h) public at large;

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- 2. The Task Force on Alien Labor shall undertake the following duties:
  - a) examine the statistics and trends driving the use of foreign labor in the local market;
  - b) make an assessment of the current usage and practices within the H-2 visa program;
  - c) present a plan to the Governor which will include methods for developing self-sustaining local labor forces which will be available through both "boom" and "bust" economic cycles, in order to minimize the peaks and valleys of these cycles, promote steady economic growth, and gradually move away from dependence on a large foreign labor force;
  - d) report any noted violations of laws, rules, and regulations concerning the H-2 visa program to the proper authorities.
- 3. The Task Force on Alien Labor shall undertake the above duties and provide a report to the Governor by February 28, 1999.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 22nd day of September, 1998.

CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ I Maga'lahen Guåhan Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO

Åkto Segundo na Maga'lahen Guåhan Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam

