



NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS HOUSE BILL 3079

The U.S Congress' House Committee on Natural Resources has approved House Bill 3079 or the "Northern Marianas Islands Immigration, Security and Labor Act". The Bill seeks to significantly alter laws pertaining to immigration and labor standards for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), which at present has an annual limit of around 1,400 H-2 work visa.

H.R. 3079 contains a provision for the lifting of the H-2 visa cap for the CNMI and Guam, which the government of Guam and the island's business community have been pushing for. The lifting of the visa cap will pave the way for the hiring of foreign workers in anticipation of Guam's military build-up which is expected to begin in two to three years.

Although the Guam Contractor's Association has been exerting efforts to train local residents for construction-related jobs, Guam's small population and shortage of skilled labor still hinders it from generating thousands of workers needed for the large construction projects connected to the military build-up.

Source: DFA

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