

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor



RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

The Honorable Esther Kia'aina
Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs
Office of Insular Affairs
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Håfa Adai Secretary Kia'aina,

Thank you for offering the opportunity to share with you our concerns about some federal policies and programs affecting the people of Guam in advance of the upcoming Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting.

With over \$125 Million in local services being provided to migrants of the Compact of Free Association annually without adequate reimbursement from the United States, Compact impacts continue to overburden the Guam economy. As important as is the understanding and moral support of the IGIA on this issue, we would like to ask for the IGIA's assertive advocacy with all our federal partners in the executive and legislative branches to help fashion a mutually acceptable reimbursement strategy to manage these impacts.

Aside from the financial impact of the Compact, the migrant communities could also benefit from enhanced assimilation programs to assist with healthcare and social issues, legal and judicial briefings, workforce training, and education. Additional intergovernmental support for programs for Compact migrants prior to their departing the Compact States and soon after arriving on our shores would help them adjust to the life in America. It would also significantly mitigate the overall cost of the Compact's impact on all affected jurisdictions.

On a separate matter, passage of the 2015 NDAA has offered increased authorization and appropriations for military construction to support the Marine Realignment in the Pacific, but financial support for local infrastructure built to support this realignment remains uncommitted. We have identified over \$330 Million in local infrastructure projects necessary to successfully withstand the impact of relocating the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force to Guam.



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We also wish to solicit support for visa waiver or parole entry for Chinese visitors under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. The United States and China have recently agreed to extend the visa validity period. We think that this presents an excellent opportunity to highlight the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program's potential as an incubator for a possible future expansion of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program to China, much the same way as Taiwan and South Korea were initially included in the Guam Visa Waiver Program before being included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. In addition, the expansion of Guam's tourism market will provide our economy with increased diversity and sustainability, thereby reducing our reliance on federal assistance in general. The Department of Defense has been generally supportive of the idea, but action and approval from the Department of Homeland Security is still sought.

Once again, thank you for the time and attention you have devoted to the insular areas and to promoting collaboration with our federal partners within the Interagency Group. I look forward to working with you and the Interagency Group to revise existing policies and to develop new ones for the insular areas that help us to grow our economies rather than impede that growth.

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