



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Governor

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The Honorable Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
Chairman, Committee on Labor, Public Structure, Public Libraries & Technology
I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hessler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Palacios:

Hafa Adai! The impending Guam Buildup is projected to significantly increase the demand for skilled workers. The Final Environmental Impact Statement anticipates the demand for skilled labor will be slightly more than 3,000 employees by the end of this year; that demand could exceed 15,000 employees by 2013.

As you may know, the Port Authority recently established an apprenticeship program to create a larger pool of employees to meet its manpower needs; together this administration along with the 28th Guam Legislature dramatically increased resources to the manpower development fund, implemented the "Passport to Work Program" alongside the Guam Community College, and supported the expansion of GCC Workforce Development Projects.

And yet we can and must do more. We must work to reignite an interest in skilled labor among our youth; we must consider an amendment to the present apprenticeship statute which will expand our existing program of scholarships to include possible "trainees" allowing a greater number of our people to receive the training they need.

I will also be speaking with the Superintendent of Education regarding the creation of an apprenticeship pipeline within our public high schools and the possible reemergence of a school which will focus on vocational and technical training.

Given the urgency of these matters, I propose that we hold a joint roundtable on these matters at your earliest convenience. It is my hope that together the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, industry leaders, GCC, and DOE can work together to increase the number of skilled labor employees on Guam. Doing so will build Guam up first and expand our middle class.

Sins eru yan Maga'het

MICHAEL W. CRUZ, M.D.
I Maga'lâhen Guahan para pa'go
Acting Governor of Guam