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HAGA ADAI, IT'S FRIDAY

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75¢ on Guam



■ Don't forget to vote in today's Pacific Daily News poll. Today's question:

Will you let your child get the H1N1 shot?

■ Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**

Obama OKs \$734M for buildup

By Amritha Alladi
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Guam will receive more than \$734 million for military buildup projects, as outlined in the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which was signed into law Wednesday by President Obama.

That's more than four times the amount that was appropriated for the Department of Defense for military construction in 2009, according to

Gary Hiles, chief economist at the Guam Department of Labor.

"The \$734.2 million in military construction projects is more than double the previous record of military construction appropriation for Guam of \$345 million in fiscal 2008. The appropriation for fiscal 2009 was \$180 million," Hiles said.

"That's probably the biggest ap-

propriation that Guam has seen for a military project," added James Martinez, president of the Guam Contractors Association.

This sum roughly translates into about 7,000 new construction jobs created for fiscal 2010, based on the ratio of construction industry project amounts to jobs in the 2007 Economic Census for Guam. Every million dollars in expenditures created about 10 construc-

tion jobs at that time, Hiles said.

It's the skilled trade workers who will be the most in demand, according to Martinez. However, Guam probably won't see these jobs open up until early next year, Martinez said. The projects most likely will be let out for bid during the first quarter of 2010, in the March-to-April time frame. That cushion of time will allow Guam's construction industry to evaluate how many qualified

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LOCAL

Defense: 3,000 construction jobs possible

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workers there are in the labor pool, he said.

"I would expect that by the end of calendar year 2010, Guam will add in the neighborhood of 2,000 to 3,000 construction jobs to the existing number of 6,700 as of June 2009," Hiles said.

But the defense spending bill requires that construction companies look for qualified U.S. citizens and residents first before turning to recruitment of foreign workers.

Reliable Builders Project manager Rey Brigino said he hoped the local worker pool would support the need presented by construction companies.

"At this time (the workers) are available, but by next year, once the boom really starts, there will be shortage of manpower," Brigino said. "We have to advertise (locally) that these positions are open before moving to importation. That's the last resort."



DEFENSE SPENDING ON GUAM

President Obama has signed the first year of buildup funding for Guam. Under the version passed by the House in June, Guam military construction projects would have been appropriated \$934 million in fiscal 2010. The House-Senate conference committee compromise trimmed the budget for Guam military construction by \$200 million. The smaller, \$734 million figure was what became law.

Project Fiscal 2010 amount

Projects on Andersen Air Force Base

Commando Warrior Operations Facility	\$4.2 million
Northwest Field Perimeter Fence and Road	\$4.7 million
Northwest Field Combat Support Vehicle Maintenance Facility	\$15.5 million
Electrical infrastructure upgrades	\$33.75 million
Andersen north ramp improvements, phase 1	\$88.8 million
Andersen north ramp utilities, phase 1	\$21.5 million

Defense Logistics Agency

Agana Naval Air Station gas storage facility	\$4.9 million
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Army National Guard Barrigada Readiness Center	\$30 million
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Navy

Apra Harbor wharves improvement, phase 1	\$127 million
Consolidated training facility	\$45.3 million
Defense access road improvements	\$48.9 million
Military working dog relocation	\$14 million**
Torpedo exercise support building	\$15.6 million
Family housing, replace North Tipalao phase 3	\$20.7 million
Defense Health Programs	
Hospital replacement, phase 1	\$259.2 million*
Total:	\$734 million

(Figures may not add up due to rounding)

*The House initially approved \$446 million for this hospital project, and the conference committee figure is \$187 million less.

**The military working dog relocation was funded at \$24 million under the House version, and the conference committee figure is \$13 million less.

Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's office

oversight and accountability of the military buildup on Guam, according to a press release issued from her office.

The release said Bordallo considered Obama's signing of the defense spending bill reaffirmation of the commitment to the military buildup on Guam.

Guam Chamber of Commerce Chairman Frank Campillo felt the

same. The sheer magnitude of money being appropriated for Guam is itself a reaffirmation of the importance that Guam has to the U.S., he said. The \$734 million for buildup expenditures will positively influence Guam's economy, according to Campillo.

Meanwhile, Toltest Inc. project manager Ted Hamilton said the only effect from federal funding for

the buildup that he has witnessed thus far has been to support studies of how to plan for the buildup — not for the construction projects themselves.

"We haven't seen any direct impact of the money," he said. But he feels the president's signing of the defense spending bill this week will bring to life all the plans that have been in the works until now.