



PRESS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

DHS Officials Arriving to Explain Visa Waiver Details

(Tuesday, January 6, 2009; Tumon, Guam) A delegation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be visiting Guam and the CNMI next week, according to the Guam Visitors Bureau. "The purpose of this visit," said GVB Chairman Tydingco, who has been working on this issue with political and industry leaders in Guam and in Washington, "is to explain the regulatory framework that will allow Guam and the CNMI to diversity and grow their source markets in the region."

According to GVB, the new regulations, set to take effect in July this year, will outline specific requirements under which visitors from any country will be allowed entry into Guam and the CNMI. "This is good news," Tydingco says, "because it means we should be able to attract new markets, such as China, and the Philippines for that matter, so long as certain requirements are met."

The delegation is led by Immigration Policy Advisor Alex Hartman, from the Office of Policy Development, and will include senior Customs and Border Patrol executives who will discuss these requirements in detail and who will be available to answer questions on the new regulations.

While on Guam, Hartman and his party will be meeting with the Governor, Legislature, media, business and community leaders. Guam and the CNMI have been working jointly to have China and Russia included on the list of countries approved under a single visa waiver program (VWP) as authorized under P.L. 110-229.

The delegation will be on Guam January 15th, and in the CNMI on the 16th.

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