



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

NOV 21 2012

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sablan:

Thank you for your November 1, 2012 letter to Secretary Napolitano requesting an extension of the current policy of providing humanitarian parole on a case-by-case basis to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain stateless individuals in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). I was asked to respond to you directly on the Secretary's behalf.

Paroles granted under this policy announced November 23, 2011, are now set to expire on December 31, 2012, with the exception of certain stateless individuals granted two-year parole. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes your legislative solution through bill H.R. 1466, which would provide a path to lawful permanent residence for most individuals covered by this parole policy. As you note, that legislation remains pending, but we understand your concern that this group will not be able to remain in the CNMI lawfully after December 31, 2012.

USCIS may grant two-year extensions to individuals who have been granted parole under the current "immediate relative" parole policy and who, based on a case-by-case review of their request for such extension, continue to warrant the favorable exercise of discretion. An extension will allow these individuals to lawfully remain in the CNMI, provided that they do not otherwise violate the immigration laws, and to apply for extensions of employment authorization (if previously granted) or an initial grant of employment authorization. We will continue to monitor processing times for employment authorizations to ensure timeliness.

We remain committed to implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 in humane ways that consider the complexities presented by the variety of immigration situations in the CNMI. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has exercised discretionary parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations. The decision to grant parole and parole extensions continues to be based on a variety of factors including the need to minimize any adverse effects of the transition from CNMI immigration law to Federal immigration law. In establishing the December 31, 2012 sunset date for the "immediate relative" parole policy, USCIS took into consideration, among other factors, pending legislation that would grant some members of these groups a temporary immigration status or permanent resident status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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Thank you again for your letter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alejandro N. Mayorkas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Director