

# Guam News Factor

## [Abercrombie: Buy-American Policy Will Be "Win-Win" For Guam Military Housing](#)

### News Analysis

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GUAM - An additional statement made by Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii -- and revealed by Gannett newspapers today -- is underscoring Abercrombie's perspective that the bulk of Guam's military housing contracts must go to American firms.

Since at least February Abercrombie, a key member of the House Armed Services Committee, has consistently and forcefully weighed in against Japan playing a major role in Guam's military-housing or other construction contracts. This, despite the \$6 billion that nation has agreed to invest in transplanting thousands of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

In a story that borrowed heavily from an article published six days ago in its Guam sister publication, the Pacific Daily News, the Gannett-owned Honolulu Advertiser has added a quotation from Abercrombie. His remark amounts to this: if a successful, established system of providing military housing through American companies isn't broken, then why bother fixing it?

Here is an excerpt from the Advertiser article that includes Abercrombie's statement:

*Typically, military housing on American territory is built using a 20-year-old public-private arrangement. Private firms — usually American — finance and build the housing in exchange for long-term maintenance and rental contracts.*

*"It's been win-win virtually everywhere it's been tried," Abercrombie said.*

According to both newspapers, soon the House Armed Services Committee is expected to consider a proposal that would make the Japanese "equal players" during bidding for the Guam housing jobs. The articles also mention that Abercrombie is running for Governor of Hawaii.

Several Hawaii-based firms may stand to benefit from the Guam housing projects.