

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, a federal judge in Hawaii issued a nationwide temporary restraining order ("TRO") that prohibits the U.S. government from enforcing an executive order that sought to suspend the entry of nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, and refugees from all countries. The travel entry suspension was due to take effect on Thursday, March 16, at 12:01am, but is now on hold.

The TRO was issued in a lawsuit brought by the State of Hawaii against the Trump Administration. The Administration is expected to appeal the court's decision and could seek an emergency stay of the TRO. In addition, plaintiffs in other lawsuits sought separate TROs against the executive order today, meaning that further rulings could be issued.

The Trump Administration's travel ban order sought to prohibit nationals of the six restricted countries from entering the United States for 90 days and refugees for 120 days, unless they qualified for an exemption or were granted a waiver. Among others, the executive order exempted U.S. lawful permanent residents, holders of valid U.S. visas, foreign nationals present in the U.S. on the effective date of the order, those holding a valid advance parole document, certain refugees, and dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-restricted country.

The TRO means that foreign nationals who would have been subject to the executive order should be able to apply for visas and enter the United States, provided they are otherwise admissible. However, when planning travel to the United States these individuals should be aware that future rulings could permit the federal government to enforce the entry suspension.

We will continue to provide updates as they become available.