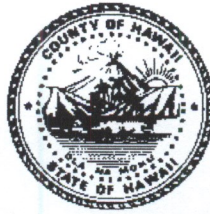


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 14, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE,
Washington, D.C., 20590

Subject: Docket Number DOT-OST-2010-0018

Aloha Secretary Foxx,

The County of Hawai'i strongly supports Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.'s application to provide passenger service between Kona International Airport on Hawai'i Island, and Haneda International Airport in Tokyo.

Hawaii is critically dependent on air travel, and the approval of this application would be a big boost for our state and county. The visitor industry is the largest sector of Hawaii's economy, supporting thousands of working families, and the Japanese market represents a major revenue stream for our community.

According to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the proposed daily service will result in 531,721 visitor days, generating about \$146 million in visitor spending. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc. calculates that service directly to Kona will attract 39,000 additional visitors and result in 1,151 new jobs and \$65 million in new direct spending.

Our island features nearly every ecosystem that exists and is steeped in culture and history. It continues to grow as a favorite destination for Japanese visitors but we have been without scheduled flights from Japan since Japan Airlines ended service on Oct. 29, 2010, from Narita International Airport, after 14 years of flying to Kona.

A direct flight to Kona will make it easier for Japanese visitors seeking to spend the majority of their time here and the resumption of international flights to Hawaii Island will help alleviate congestion at Honolulu International Airport.

We continue to collaborate with the state Department of Transportation, businesses and community organizations to encourage U.S. Customs and Border Protection to reopen the international arrivals inspection facilities in Kona.