



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2015

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

Re: DOT-OST-2010-0018

Aloha Secretary Foxx:

As Governor of the State of Hawai'i, I would like to express my full support of Hawaiian Airlines' application to the US Department of Transportation for non-stop air service between Kona International Airport in Kona, Hawaii, and Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Japan, submitted on Jan. 5, 2015.

Air Access to and from the Hawaiian Islands, is vital not only for our visitor industry but for our community and economy overall. According to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), total visitor arrivals continue to increase and in the first 11 months of 2014, total expenditures rose 2.3 percent to \$13.3 billion. This increase in visitor spending generated an incremental \$293 million more into the state's economy compared to 2013, provided \$1.4 billion in state tax revenue and supported 170,000 visitor industry and related jobs.

Industry data shows that Hawai'i Island is the strongest market for Tokyo-Haneda service. During the first 11 months of 2014, we welcomed 1.5 million total visitors from Japan. Of that, Kona welcomed more than 110,000 visitors, making it the second most popular destination in the state among this market. The HTA estimates that direct daily service between Tokyo-Haneda and Kona will bring nearly 92,000 visitors to Kona annually and could generate \$146 million in incremental visitor spending, enhancing our tourism industry and strengthening our state economy.

Hawaiian Airlines' service from Tokyo-Haneda to Honolulu has proven to be the most stable of the four Haneda-US routes awarded in 2010 and Hawaiian Airlines has served the state well by promoting authentic Hawaiian hospitality and earning a reputation for unparalleled, on-time service.

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A direct Haneda-Kona route would also help to reduce congestion at Customs & Border Protection screening queues at Honolulu International Airport (HNL). All passengers travelling from Tokyo-Haneda to Kona annually must disembark in Honolulu and clear Customs before proceeding on to connecting flights. This slows service for international arrivals at HNL overall and diminishes our visitor experience with an avoidable backlog. A direct Haneda-Kona route could help ease congestion at HNL and would streamline this process significantly and improve our visitors' first impressions of our islands. My administration will work with our partners in the federal government to ensure that Kona International Airport will be ready to receive these passengers when Hawaiian initiates this exciting new services.

Given the tremendous benefits to our state that this direct Haneda-Kona route would bring, I hope you will support Hawaiian Airlines' application as strongly as I do. We appreciate your consideration in making this possible. Thank you very much and mahalo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "Y".

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor
State of Hawaii