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Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Statement by George D. Szigeti, President and CEO, Hawai'i Tourism Authority

RE: Hawaiian's Haneda-Kona Service Expands Hawai'i's Appeal to Japan Travelers

HONOLULU – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement regarding Hawaiian Airlines' launch of international nonstop service connecting Haneda Airport in Tokyo with Kona International Airport at Keahole on the island of Hawai'i.

"Congratulations and mahalo to CEO Mark Dunkerley and his team at Hawaiian Airlines for introducing their award-winning service to international nonstop flights between Tokyo and Kona. This expansion of air service is a significant achievement for Hawai'i's tourism industry in attracting travelers from Japan, our top international market.

"We are also grateful to Gov. David Ige for his leadership in making international flights to Kona possible with the recent establishment of a new federal inspection facility to process passengers through customs.

"Hawaiian's Haneda-Kona service will provide a boost to the tourism industry for the island of Hawai'i and the State as we enter 2017. We project these flights will generate $54.2 million in visitor spending and $6.1 million in state tax revenue annually.

"Hawaiian has performed superbly with its nonstop service between Haneda and Honolulu, and we anticipate travelers from Japan will embrace these new flights to Kona and how this opens up more of Hawai'i to explore. The opportunity to book a nonstop flight from Haneda to Kona will help strengthen travel demand from Japan and make Hawai'i even more appealing as a destination."

About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority
The Hawai'i Tourism Authority is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawai'i, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure the sustainability of tourism's success.

For more information about HTA, please visit www.hawaiitourismauthority.org. Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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