

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Kerry and Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Administration's efforts to secure a new aviation agreement with the Japanese Government that would further liberalize access to Haneda Airport ("Haneda"). Such an agreement, even on an incremental basis, will expand consumer choice, benefit the U.S. economy, and create jobs.

In 2010, the United States and Japan signed an aviation agreement that provided U.S. carriers with the opportunity for four daily nonstop flights between the United States and Haneda, Tokyo's downtown airport. Those flights, however, are subject to a strict nighttime curfew. We understand the U.S. Government and the Japanese Government may be close to a framework deal that would allow U.S. carriers currently serving Haneda to operate during daytime hours and add new, immediate capacity. While full liberalization may be an aspirational goal, such aspirations should not prevent interim incremental liberalization that will bring immediate expansion of service, consumer benefits, and economic growth. For example, additional Haneda flights will bring more visitors to the United States, with significant economic impact. We are aware of data that show tourism spending has such far-reaching effects that adding a single daily wide-body flight carrying predominantly foreign-originating tourists can result in \$65 million in direct spending, \$117 million in U.S. GDP growth, and more than 1,150 U.S. jobs.

Finalizing an agreement during the upcoming negotiations is imperative. We understand the Japanese Government is under growing political pressure to allocate the remaining Haneda capacity to other trading partners. The Administration should secure these routes to benefit consumers, the American economy, and U.S. carriers who are trying to compete in the U.S.-Japan market. We strongly urge the U.S. Government to secure and finalize an agreement to enhance U.S. carrier access to Haneda Airport.

Sincerely,



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Cc: Under Secretary Catherine Novelli
Assistant Secretary Susan Kurland