

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Secretary Johnson and Secretary Kerry:

We write urging you to consider prioritizing international airports in Japan for participation in Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) preclearance program.

International travel to the United States has continued to grow, providing jobs and improving economies across the country. In 2013, travel supported a total of 8 million U.S. jobs. Visitors from Japan in particular spent \$18 billion, second only to visitors from Canada. Providing preclearance at Japanese airports would help expand tourism and the economy by allowing leisure and business travelers alike the ability to pass inspection before they embark, giving passengers the benefit of being able to arrive in the United States and proceed to their final destination without further CBP processing. Our national security also benefits from preclearance by allowing CBP to better utilize its limited resources on our soil, while scrutinizing travelers before they even gain access to U.S. bound flights, and if necessary, deny a passenger the ability to board an aircraft long before they reach our border.

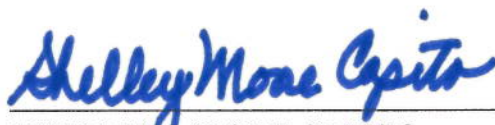
We believe the significant volume of travelers from Japan and presence of U.S. airlines there meet the economic benefit requirement in the 2015 evaluation criteria contained in CBP's final preclearance guidance released in November 2014. Expanding preclearance to Japan will help to improve U.S. competitiveness in the emerging outbound tourism market in Asia. For example, in 2013 over 40 million international passengers flew through Narita and Kansai airports. With major U.S. airlines operating routes from these two major Asian hubs, our economy will benefit from the competitive advantage of being able to provide the best traveling experience to this sizable portion of passengers from Asia if those airports—or others like them—offered preclearance.

Including Japan among the few nations hosting CBP preclearance operations recognizes the longstanding trust and security cooperation between our countries. We strongly support Japan being part of CBP's preclearance expansion initiative and request an update on this process including any outstanding issues that are left to be addressed. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



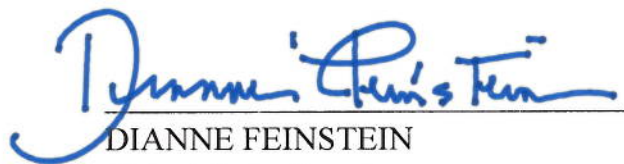
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United States Senator



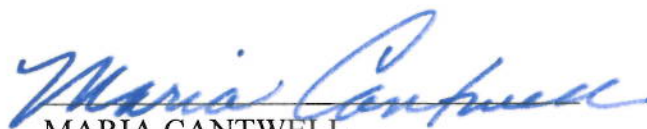
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