



# *Proclamation*

*In Recognition of*

## **The Return of Japan Airlines Flights to Kona**

**WHEREAS**, Japan Airlines (JAL) has played a vital role in Hawai'i's history by providing continuous service to our islands for more than 60 years and helping to develop Hawai'i's tourism industry, economy, and the cultural exchange we enjoy with Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, this latest direct route from Narita to Kona marks the return of JAL service to Kona since it ceased operations there in 2010 due to the worldwide economic downturn; and

**WHEREAS**, the decision to reinstate service fulfills a commitment and hope expressed by then president and current chairman of the board, Masaru Onishi, other members of JAL leadership, and Hawai'i government and business leaders for JAL's eventual return to Kona; and

**WHEREAS**, JAL's inaugural flight today marks the beginning of the strategic diversification, expansion and sustainability of our tourism economy by creating direct access to and from international destinations and our neighbor islands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Narita to Kona flights will operate with fully revamped JAL SKY SUITE 767 (767-300ER) aircraft seating 199 passengers and is expected to result in approximately \$84 million in visitor expenditures and about \$10 million in state tax revenue while supporting about 1,000 jobs statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, the new daily service to the Elison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole, which is well on its way to becoming Hawai'i's second major international port of entry, adding to Hawai'i's existing inventory of 14,703 flights from 27 international cities; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i—the most remote islands in the world—affords our international guests the opportunity to enjoy our spectacular island land and seascapes and more importantly, to interact with Hawai'i's diverse cultures, to appreciate Hawai'i's unique sense of place, and to experience the aloha spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond the economic benefits of tourism, the most important benefit of international travel is the forging of mutual respect and friendship through connecting with a place and its people, which ultimately can lead to a more peaceful world community;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2017 as**

## **“JAPAN AIRLINES RETURN TO KONA DAY”**

in Hawai'i and to recognize this day as the path forward toward sustainable and responsible growth for our tourism economy.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifteenth day of September 2017.

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i