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[TEST] New Kona/Haneda flights

1 message

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Friend --

Great news for our Big Island residents and Hawaii tourism as
reported by the Hawaii Tribune-Herald.

Excerpt:

By BRET YAGER West Hawaii Today

KAILUA-KONA — The first international flights between Kona and Japan in a half-dozen years could be touching down later in 2016, under an agreement for a new Hawaiian Airlines route to Haneda airport in Tokyo announced Friday.

And a new state request to reopen federal inspections at Kona International Airport could pave the way for West Hawaii as the state's second international gateway — with potential for flights from around the globe.

The U.S. Department of Transportation approved Hawaiian's application for three flights a week between Haneda and Kona and four flights between Haneda and Honolulu. The state Department of Transportation is requesting federal Customs and Border Protection officials approve the return of a temporary inspections station to Kona, and Gov. David Ige's administration will make approval of that facility a priority, his staff said Friday.

Mike McCartney, Ige's chief of staff and former director of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, said the new Kona route gives momentum to building Hawaii Island's tourism and also Ige's desire to have a second international port of entry at Kona.

"Our long-term tourism strategy is to have greater distribution to the Neighbor Islands," McCartney said. "This is a great first step."

<http://hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/hawaiian-air-kona-tokyo-route-approved> for the full story.

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