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

RE: Delta Announces New Daily Nonstop Flights Between Seattle and Kaua'i

HONOLULU – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement regarding the announcement that Delta Air Lines will be launching daily nonstop flights between Seattle and Kaua'i beginning this December.

“Delta’s expansion of service to Kaua'i from its Pacific Northwest hub speaks to the confidence the airline has in the Garden Isle to drive demand from travelers in the greater Seattle area and nationally.

“Reliable air access extending throughout the Hawaiian Islands is instrumental to our tourism industry’s continued viability to support businesses and residents statewide. Delta’s new Seattle-Līhu‘e service strengthens Hawai'i’s ties to one of our major gateway cities, and will make it easier for travelers anywhere in the mainland U.S. to make daily flight connections to Kaua'i.

“It’s gratifying that Delta has factored Kaua'i into its nationwide expansion plans considering the options available to the airline. HTA meets with Delta’s route planners on a regular basis, which included the Airline Summit we hosted last September at the Hawai'i Tourism Conference. As HTA does with all carriers, we provided information on the advantages of increasing flights to Hawai'i, especially to the neighbor islands.

“Kaua'i’s economy will benefit significantly from this new service. Delta’s Seattle-Līhu‘e flights on Boeing 757 aircraft will add 63,510 air seats annually to Kaua'i, generating an estimated \$77.9 million in direct visitor spending for the island, and \$9.1 million in tax revenue for the State.”

About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://hawaiiitourismauthority.org) 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.hawaiiitourismauthority.org. Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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