

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write in support of Japan's participation in Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Global Entry program. President Obama's recent trip to Japan reaffirmed our bilateral alliance as an important part of the United States' commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. Along with our diplomatic and security engagement with Japan, economic cooperation is a critical third pillar that can be strengthened by expediting clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers.

A report by the U.S. Travel Association found that as of July 2013, travelers used Global Entry kiosks more than 5.4 million times, reducing traveler wait times by 70 percent and saving CBP officers more than 50,000 inspection hours. Expansion of Global Entry-eligible countries will continue this remarkable success across America's airports and help direct CBP resources to higher-risk, unknown travelers and enforcement. Including Japan among the foreign nations eligible for Global Entry recognizes the longstanding trust and security cooperation between our countries.

The 3.7 million Japanese that visited our country last year represent the largest inbound U.S. visitor market from Asia, and this number is projected to increase by 190,000 visitors over the next four years according to the U.S. Commerce Department. Japanese travelers underpin trade flows and business ties that create jobs for the American people and opportunities for American businesses large and small. Making Japanese citizens eligible for Global Entry will help to improve the travel experience for both tourists and business travelers.

Travel and tourism continues to deliver jobs and economic activity to the U.S. and expanding Global Entry to Japan will help our nation to accommodate future growth. In 2013, travel supported a total of 8 million U.S. jobs, and Japanese visitors spent \$18 billion, second only to Canadian visitors.

We strongly support Japan's membership in CBP's Global Entry Program and urge you to expedite the finalizing process. We request an update on this process including any outstanding issues that are left to be addressed.

Sincerely,



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



DEAN HELLER
United States Senator



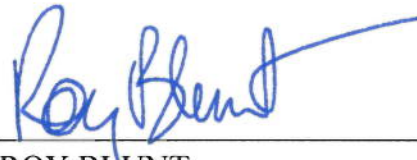
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