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32ND Guam Legislature
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April 5, 2013

The Honorable John S. Pistole

Administrator

Transportation Security Administration

601 South 12th Street

Arlington, VA 20598

Subject: **TSA Policy – Allowing Knives on Planes**

Dear Administrator Pistole:

On behalf of the people of Guam and Guam based flight crews, I write this letter to express our grave concern with the decision of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), to again, allow knives on commercial airliners.

Permitting passengers to bring knives and some previously prohibited sports equipment onboard the aircraft reverses accepted safety procedures of post 9/11 travel. This concern is especially discerning to the men and women who ensure our safe passage between ports.

Moreover, the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, is an international hub, often referred to as the Gateway to Asia. The latest report from the airport authority reflects that there were over 44,000 flights in and out of Guam with well over 2.8 million people from every ethnic group and demographic traveling via the A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

Though this number may not sound large in comparison to the flight and passenger volumes elsewhere, this still provides 2.8 million opportunities by persons intent on disrupting the flight plans of 44,000 jet planes loaded with passengers.

I have met with Guam based flight attendants, and understand their concerns. I have also signed the “*No Knives, EverAgain*,” petition at NoKnivesOnPlanes.com, and am urging my colleagues in the 32nd Guam Legislature and Guam’s delegate to the United States Congress to do so as well.

Though I understand TSA's logic, I remember the tragedy that occurred on 9/11; I remember the billowing clouds of black smoke from the World Trade Center; and I remember the grief of lost lives on TV. I cannot support TSA's decision.

As members of Congress have asked you, The Flight Attendants' Union Coalition, representing some 90,000 Flight Attendants, and on behalf of all stakeholders from Guam and elsewhere, who fly the friendly skies, I respectfully urge you to rescind this policy before the implementation date.

Sincerely,



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker, 32nd Guam Legislature

C: All Senators
The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to Congress
Governor Eddie B. Calvo, Governor of Guam