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**David Y. Ige**  
Governor

**George D. Szigeti**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

For Immediate Release: April 27, 2016  
HTA Release (16-20)

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

### **RE: Dengue Fever Outbreak Halted on Hawai'i Island**

**HONOLULU** – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement in response to today's announcement by the State of Hawai'i that the spread of dengue fever on Hawai'i Island has been stopped.

"Today's report that the dengue fever outbreak on Hawai'i Island has been halted is a huge relief for residents and tourism industry partners statewide, as well as travelers planning a Hawai'i vacation. Travelers can book and experience all of the Hawaiian Islands with confidence and without hesitation.

"Hawai'i is fortunate that locally acquired cases of dengue never got beyond Hawai'i Island, and that the vast majority of cases occurred before February. Despite negative publicity associated with the dengue outbreak, visitor arrivals statewide, including those for Hawai'i Island, are ahead of last year's record-setting pace through the first quarter. That speaks well of Hawai'i's enduring brand as a quality global destination and to the response of both the State and County of Hawai'i in halting dengue.

"Mahalo to Gov. Ige, the State Department of Health and the Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency for the diligence of their collective efforts in bringing an end to the dengue outbreak.

"With the longer, warmer days of summer coming, it's imperative residents, travel industry partners and visitors on all islands be conscientious in helping to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses. Using insect repellent while enjoying nature and taking steps to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes cluster and breed will help keep Hawai'i safe and healthy."

#### **Background**

At a press conference held today in the office of Hawai'i Governor David Ige, it was reported that there have been no new locally acquired cases of dengue fever on Hawai'i Island in the past 30 days. The final day of the infectious period for the last reported case was March 27. Since then, three periods of the maximum human incubation period of ten days have passed with no new cases reported.

Starting on Sept. 11, 2015, there have been 264 cases of locally acquired dengue fever confirmed on Hawai'i Island over the past six months, with 238 cases being Hawai'i Island residents and 26 being visitors. No locally acquired cases of dengue fever have been reported on any other island in Hawai'i. Dengue fever is not endemic to Hawai'i, but can be imported by infected travelers from endemic areas.

#### **About the Hawaii Tourism Authority**

The [Hawaii Tourism Authority](http://hawaiiitourismauthority.org) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawaii's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawaii, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support

Hawaii'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.hawaii tourism authority.org](http://www.hawaii tourism authority.org). Follow updates about HTA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@HawaiiHTA) and its [YouTube Channel](#).

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