



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
P.O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718

www.nps.gov/havo

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park News Release

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Contact: Jessica Ferracane/Public Affairs Specialist, jessica_ferracane@nps.gov, 808-985-6018

Portion of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park closed due to potential volcanic hazards

Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i – Due to the possibility of a new eruption and unstable geologic activity, park management closed 15,688 acres near Kīlauea Volcano's Pu'u 'Ō'ō vent to the ocean today, including the gravel emergency access road from the eastern gate near Kalapana, to the western gate at the end of Chain of Craters Road, and all land on the makai (ocean) side of the emergency road.

“The recent eruption changes and increased seismicity around the East Rift Zone and Pu'u 'Ō'ō vent may threaten land and the community outside the park. The partial closure in the park is necessary to prevent unsafe travel onto lands under the jurisdiction of Hawai'i County and to keep people safe,” said Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando. “Most of the park, which is 333,308 acres in size, remains open,” she said.

On Monday afternoon, April 30, the crater within Pu'u 'Ō'ō collapsed, and a flurry of low magnitude earthquakes continues to shake the eastern side of the island, particularly communities in lower Puna. A small fissure opened to the west of the vent on Tuesday, May 1, but scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory report that an intrusion of magma is heading eastward from the vent towards Highway 130.

Puna residents are encouraged to sign up for Hawai'i County Civil Defense messages at <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts/>, and to subscribe to volcanic updates via USGS: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>.

The current eruption at Pu'u 'Ō'ō is off limits to hikers. However, the summit of Kīlauea continues to erupt within Halema'uma'u Crater within the park, and is best viewed from the Jaggar Museum overlook. The lava lake within the crater has risen dramatically since April 21, and has occasionally spilled onto the crater floor. The park is open 24 hours a day.

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Closed Areas: East Rift Zone

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