



May 3, 2018

RE: ISLAND OF HAWAII VOLCANO UPDATE

Aloha!

As news of new volcanic activity taking place in East Hawai'i continues to make headlines around the world, it is important that travelers headed to the island of Hawai'i understand that there is **absolutely no reason at this time to change or alter your leisure or business plans.**

The Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole (west) and Hilo International Airport (east) continue to operate normally, as do all accommodations, activities and other attractions on island.

The activity surrounding Kīlauea's Pu'u'ō'ō is limited to an isolated area in lower Puna on the island's east side. This is more than 85 miles away from the western Kohala Coast, where the island's major visitor accommodations and resorts are located. This is the area furthest from the current activity.

Hawai'i County Civil Defense, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (USGS), the County of Hawai'i and the Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau continues to closely monitor the activity. For the most accurate, timely, and detailed updates regarding volcanic activity:

- **Hawai'i County Civil Defense** – 808-935-0031 or <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense>
- **Hawaiian Volcano Observatory** – 808-967-8862 or <http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov>

While Kīlauea is one of the most active volcanoes on Earth, the topography of the island between east and west is un conducive for a natural flow. Due to the vast open space of Hawai'i Island's east side, flows often move through barren areas that are undeveloped.

It is also important to put into context the type of eruptions that take place on our island.

Eruptions of Hawaiian volcanoes are typically nonexplosive or weakly explosive. **Hawaiian eruptions**, which is a term used by volcanologists worldwide to characterize similar eruptive style at other volcanoes, are usually gentle due to its highly fluid lava composition which tends to flow freely both beneath the surface and upon eruption. For more information about Hawaiian eruptions, visit <https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/hawaii/page26.html>.

With regards to accessibility in East Hawai'i:

Accessibility

- Pohoiki Road has been reopened between Highway 132 and Leilani Boulevard. Metal plates have been placed over the damaged pavement. Area motorists are advised to be on alert for roadway damage.
- For those who have rented accommodations or made tour reservations to experience the area should check with those respective companies for the latest updates.

ISLAND OF HAWAII VISITORS BUREAU

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- Unless otherwise noted, area businesses are open and accessible. Motorists are advised to drive with caution and be prepared for increased traffic.
- Residents of lower Puna have been advised to prepare and review emergency plans in the event they need to evacuate.
- As a safety precaution, the County of Hawai'i has closed the Kalapana Viewing Area until further notice.
- On May 2, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park closed 15,688 acres near Pu'u'ō'ō to the ocean, to prevent unsafe travel. Most of the park, which is 333,308 acres in size, remains open at this time.
- Visitors to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park can still enjoy viewing the lava activity and glow from Halema'uma'u Crater.

Visitors who have already booked a trip to the island of Hawai'i with accommodations or activities on the east side, should call their provider with any questions or concerns.

Travelers planning a trip to the island of Hawai'i who have questions can contact the Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau at 1-800-648-2441.

Warmest Aloha,



Ross Birch
Executive Director
Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau