



Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Chain of Craters Kalapana Road

Interim Public Comment Summary and Response Report - Comments through November 24, 2014

INTRODUCTION

On October 30, 2014 the National Park Service (NPS) approved the construction of an emergency access route along the lava-covered section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Due to the emergency nature of the project there was not time to complete an environmental impact statement prior to beginning work. Therefore, NPS agreed to alternative NEPA arrangements with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), pursuant to CEQ and Department of the Interior NEPA implementing regulations. As part of the alternative arrangement provisions, public comments are being accepted while construction of the road is in progress to consider adjustments to the proposed action and enhancement of proposed mitigation measures.

NPS is committed to protecting the natural and cultural resources within the park to the greatest extent possible, as this is the reason the park was established. Specifically, the purpose of the park is to protect, study, and provide access to Kīlauea and Mauna Loa, two of the world's most active volcanoes; preserve endemic Hawaiian ecosystems; and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian culture connected to these landscapes.

This is a unique project for a national park unit to undertake and adds many challenges to an already challenging environment. NPS is working towards balancing the needs of all members of the public while continuing to provide a positive visitor experience and protection of irreplaceable resources.

SUMMARY

This report includes comments received by NPS from November 4, 2014 through November 24, 2014. During this time 209 individual correspondences were received. These were all read and then divided into separate comments that were then assigned codes based on the topic the comment addressed.

For this report comment topics are noted in **bold**, and a statement is included that summarizes the thoughts included in the comments under each topic. Representative quotes have been selected for each comment topic and the response from NPS is just below that. A report that includes all of the comments received, in their full context (with personal identifying information removed) is included as Attachment A.

Currently, the deadline for public comments is Friday, January 9, 2015 and will be extended if construction of the emergency access route is still on-going at that time. Upon the close of the comment period, a final comment response report will be completed.

Table 1: Total Comments Per Code (in alphabetical order)

Code	Code Description	Total
ACS100	Access: Does not support restrictions on access	105
ACS200	Access: Supports some type of restrictions on access (incl. fees)	5
ALT100	Alternatives: Raised Highway	3
ALT200	Alternatives: Build an entirely new road/route	1
ALT300	Alternatives: Other	6
CR	Cultural Resources: Impacts of Proposal	4
GC100	General Comment: Support for project	6
GC200	General Comment: Clarifying question	12
GC300	General Comment: Importance of Protecting Park Resources	6
LE100	Law Enforcement: Increased crime concerns	4
MI100	Mitigations: Suggestions to avoid/minimize impacts	44
NR100	Natural Resources: Invasive species concerns	4
NR200	Natural Resources: Concerns with impacts to nēnē	3
PC100	Public Communication: General Comment	1
PO100	Park Operations: Impact of Proposal	10
PS100	Public Safety: Impacts of Proposal	15
RD100	Road Comment: Pave the road	97
RD200	Road Comment: Don't pave the road	2
RD300	Road Comment: Open road before Railroad Ave. is covered	6
RD400	Road Comment: Don't reopen the road	5
RD500	Road Comment: Keep road open permanently (i.e. not just for emergency access)	5
SE100	Socioeconomics: Impacts of Proposal	48
TR100	Transportation: Increased traffic concerns	11
TR200	Transportation: Support for efficient residential access through Park Entrance (i.e. express lane, decals)	16
VE100	Visitor Experience: Impacts of Proposal	2

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Not supportive of access restrictions (this includes comments assigned the codes Cultural Resources: Impacts of Proposal and Socioeconomics: Impacts of Proposal)

Many commenters expressed concerns regarding the decision to only allow residents and essential services to use Chain of Craters Kalapana Road.

Representative Quote

Please allow this road to remain open to all residents, friends and family of residents, and all people and goods that allow lower Puna to remain a viable, thriving community. Do not restrict it to residents only. (Correspondence ID 16)

Our area greatly depends on tourism and over half of the homes in Kapoho Beach Lots are vacation rentals who pay considerable taxes to the state. To ban all other visitors from our area will destroy our economy and result in many foreclosures. (Correspondence ID 25)

The Hawaiian culture is centered on large, extended families who don't always live in the same community. Our family members are often not even 'blood' related. We don't want to ever tell our family and friends that they cannot come over to visit and talk story, because our government had restricted access to the area we live. (Correspondence ID 11)

Response

The proposed action in the Environmental Review and Decision document stated, “[t]he emergency access route would be used for access by emergency vehicles, transportation of commercial goods to sustain the community, and egress and ingress of residents in the communities in the Lower Puna region that are anticipated to be cut off by the closure of existing routes, Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue. This emergency access route is not designed to handle large volumes of traffic; therefore it would not be open to general public use, only ‘local’ traffic.”

However, based upon public comment received on the proposed action, it is apparent that visitors to the region are part of what is ‘required to sustain the community during the emergency’ (as described in the Environmental Review and Decision document). NPS received comments from the public that the community would not be sustained if only ‘local’ traffic and vehicles providing essential services were allowed to use the road and that there is a need to allow individuals to visit that would not fall under the definition of local traffic. Local traffic was not specifically defined in the Environmental Review and Decision, but was intended to include friends, family, and invitees of residents. Lower Puna region was not specifically defined, but was intended to include from the Hawaiian Beaches subdivision south and southwest to Royal Gardens (adjacent to the park boundary). Dr. Mark Kimura, a University of Hawaii-Hilo researcher in economic geography, said there are about 257 businesses providing almost 1,200 jobs in Puna that would be cut off or affected by the lava flow. This includes six hotels and lodging areas, several educational institutions and libraries, and six health services facilities.

Because of these concerns, NPS has decided to expand the definition of local traffic to include visitors to the region who will use the road in addition to residents and vehicles providing essential services (commercial goods, emergency vehicles, etc.). The park does not intend to encourage the park visitors specifically to drive down the emergency access route, but will not prohibit people from using the road to access the Lower Puna region.

The impacts of allowing visitors to the region to use the road in addition to local traffic and vehicles providing essential services fall within the impacts disclosed in the Environmental Review and Decision document. No additional adverse impacts will occur as a result of this change because it is expected that there will be less local traffic than originally estimated and any increase in other traffic would not result in levels greater than the original estimate in the Environmental Review and Decision document.

The NPS will monitor use of the road and will restrict access to only local traffic and vehicles providing essential services or apply other mitigation measures if resource or safety concerns warrant.

Support for some type of access restrictions

These commenters were supportive of creating some level of restriction on access through Chain of Craters Kalapana Road; mainly due to concerns regarding criminal activity and traffic.

Representative Quotes

Only residents who own land, rent vacation rentals or other rentals, should be allowed through Volcanoes National Park. Permission for family and friends can be reported so the park knows who is on Federal land. (Correspondence ID 105)

Unless there is control on both the Kaimu end and the Park end, visitors, whether on tour vehicles or in private vehicles, will have a great incentive just to use the C of C road as a passage into lower Puna, or conversely into the "backside" of the Park. (Correspondence ID 17)

Response

As stated above, NPS has decided to allow visitors to the region to use the road to access the Lower Puna region, in addition to local traffic and vehicles providing essential services. The emergency access route will open only after Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue are closed. There currently is a ranger station near the existing end of pavement and this site will be used to interact with visitors and residents as needed, in addition to informational signage. In addition, a ranger station/kiosk will be constructed at the park boundary on Chain of Craters Kalapana Road to manage the traffic entering the park from that direction. The rangers who staff these stations will carry out law enforcement activities as necessary. In addition, the park is seeking additional funds to support activities related to the road, some of which will support law enforcement activities.

Alternatives: Raised Highway

A few commenters proposed the idea of building a raised highway that goes over the lava flow.

Representative Quote

Please investigate the potential of an elevated roadway and or tunnels to mitigate any future flows from disruption of service. (Correspondence ID 153)

Response

NPS will, to the extent practicable, support and work with state and local governments to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes to the park road, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i. However, the development of those alternatives is outside of the park's authority.

Alternatives: Build an entirely new road/route

Some members of the public expressed their support for the building of an entirely new road.

Representative Quote

We hope that an alternative road will soon be made to the Chain of Craters Kalapana Road. It is definitely not the first choice of residents but it may be our only choice for a while. (Correspondence ID 8)

Response

As stated above, NPS will, to the extent practicable, support and work with state and local governments to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes to the park road, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i. However, the development of those alternatives is outside of the park's authority.

Alternatives: Other

A variety of other alternatives were suggested as well.

Representative Quotes

There must be other options, such as bridges, or ferries that would make more sense than turning our beautiful park into a commuters' speedway. (Correspondence ID 205)

Response

Some of these alternatives were considered in the Environmental Review and Decision document; see Section IV, Alternatives Considered, page 13, "...the options of relying on helicopters or water based access were considered. However, because helicopter access is frequently limited by weather conditions and because the area does not have access to a viable harbor, these options would not be able to provide the necessary level of access and therefore would not meet the purpose and need for taking action."

Additionally, as stated above, NPS will, to the extent practicable, support and work with state and local governments to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes to the park road, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i. However, the development of those alternatives is outside of the park's authority.

A far better solution would be to expand use of Railroad Road and/or Beach Road, opening them all the way into Hilo. (Correspondence ID 48)

Response

Both of these roads are on land owned and managed by others and is therefore outside of NPS jurisdiction. Any decisions related to those roads would be at the discretion of the land owners or managers.

General Comment: Support for project

Several comments expressed support for the construction of the emergency access route.

Representative Quote

This letter serves as my support and request for the opening of further access roads to and from lower Puna through our Parks where it is beneficial and necessary. (Correspondence ID 75)

Response

NPS is committed to protecting the natural and cultural resources within the park to the greatest extent possible, as this is the reason the park was established. Specifically, the purpose of the park is to protect, study, and provide access to Kīlauea and Mauna Loa, two of the world's most active volcanoes; preserve endemic Hawaiian ecosystems; and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian culture connected to these landscapes. NPS appreciates the support of the public and, as stated earlier, is committed to working with state and local governments to the extent practicable to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes outside of the park, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i.

General Comment: Clarifying question

Many comments were received that included clarifying questions. These questions are addressed in Attachment B.

General Comment: Importance of Protecting Park Resources

A variety of comments were received that expressed concern regarding ensuring that the Park's resources are adequately protected.

Representative Quotes

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a precious cultural and environmental landmark. Let us be mindful of this fact as we face the difficult realities ahead. Let us stop and consider what is best for the park and not let our rush to create a commuter route offset the obvious mitigations that must take place to protect this important World Heritage Site. (Correspondence ID 103)

Remember, this national park was chartered to conserve and protect lands and wildlife, not administer to evacuees. (Correspondence ID 205)

Response

NPS has committed to following through with numerous mitigation measures that are intended to avoid or minimize as many adverse impacts associated with this project as possible. Please see Attachment C for a list of all of these mitigations. Additionally, these measures can be found in the Environmental Review and Decision document, Section IV, page 14; and Appendix A.

The staff and leadership of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is dedicated to the mission of the National Park Service as well as the park's specific mission. Protecting, preserving, and educating the public about the unique resources of the park are vital to achieving the goals of these two missions.

Law Enforcement: Increased crime concerns

Some residents expressed concerns about increased crime as a result of a potentially large increase of people travelling through the park and using Chain of Craters Kalapana Road.

Representative Quote

You/we don't need the drunks, drug addicts, criminals, and squatters while the region and its inhabitants try to heal from the changes. Those who make money from drugs should be well aware that transporting on Federal land is not the same as transporting on state land. Suspicious vehicles should be pulled off the road and inspected inside and out. (Correspondence ID 105)

Response

NPS understands these concerns and has committed to the following mitigations to address them (Environmental Review and Decision document, section IV, page 14):

The park is seeking funding for the increased operational need, including additional staff and is working to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.

Increased law enforcement and other staffing (maintenance, interpretation, etc.) will be necessary to protect visitors, park resources, and ethnographic resources and rights. This includes patrolling roads, responding to emergencies, traffic control/management, resource monitoring, enforcing legislated rights (Native Hawaiian access), maintaining restrooms and other facilities along the roadways, etc.

All state and federal laws will be strictly enforced within the park boundaries.

Mitigations: Suggestions to avoid/minimize impacts

Numerous commenters provided suggestions for actions NPS could take that could help avoid/minimize the impacts of the project. Some of the suggestions had already been included in the NPS Environmental Review Document. A list of all of these suggestions, as well as responses to these suggestions and all mitigations NPS has committed to, is included in Attachment C.

Natural Resources: Invasive species concerns

A common concern from the public was regarding the potential for an increase in invasive species such as the little fire ant and coqui frogs.

Representative Quote

One obvious impact is the introduction and/or continuing spread of invasive species such as little fire ants, stinging caterpillars, and coqui frogs that will hitchhike on vehicles and end up in the park. Lower Puna is ground zero for invasive species on the Big Island. (Correspondence ID 103)

Response

NPS has committed to following various mitigations measures regarding invasive species; preventing them from entering the park as well as an eradication process. Please see Attachment C of this report, as well as the Environmental Review and Decision document, section IV, page 14; and Appendix A.

Controlling invasive species by eradication, prevention, and education, is something the park has been committed to since its inception. NPS has long standing practices in place for achieving these three goals and overall has been very successful in controlling the negative impacts of invasive species. The park will continue these practices, in addition to the assigned mitigation measures from USFWS to ensure this level of success endures.

Natural Resources: Concerns with impacts to nēnē

Concern was expressed regarding impacts to the endangered nēnē, with increased car traffic along roads where they are known frequent.

Representative Quote

It is not a question of IF but WHEN speeding drivers will run over and KILL Nēnē birds who have the well-known habit of walking along the side of the pavement where morning dew collects and so moist vegetation grows. (Correspondence ID 31)

Response

NPS has committed to following various mitigations measures regarding the nēnē. For a list of these mitigation and protection measures please see Attachment C of this report, as well as the Environmental Review and Decision document, section IV, page 14; and Appendix A. In addition, NPS is working with USFWS on formal consultation to determine if other measures are needed.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has worked very hard to protect and increase the nēnē population within the park and will continue to do so when Chain of Craters Kalapana Road opens. The emergency access route will open only after Highway 130 and Railroad Ave are closed. The park monitors the locations where this endangered species frequents and will provide extra monitoring and protection to the areas near the Chain of Craters Kalapana Road where the nēnē is known to be present.

Public Communication: General Comment

One comment provided a suggestion on public communication.

Representative Quote

Have an open forum and discussion with those affected. Take the lead from how Civil Defense has been handling the situation. We get daily updates; there are weekly or so meetings, etc. (Correspondence ID 28)

Response

Since October 30, 2014 NPS has been attending the public Lava Flow Meetings that are held in Pāhoa every Thursday night. Information and maps are provided and staff is there to speak with the public, answer questions and address concerns. NPS representatives have also met with various small groups in the Lower Puna region and will continue to do so as requested.

Park Operations: Impact of Proposal

Several commenters expressed concerns regarding potential traffic and enforcement issues, maintenance of the emergency access route, and park staffing and operational issues,

Representative Quote

Should Chain of Craters Kalapana Road become a commuter route, the park's fiscal and personnel resources, it seems to me, will be overextended in order to patrol the evacuation zone for such potential problems as speeding, abandoned vehicles, invasive species, unsecured cargo, increased traffic, bottleneck traffic at the entrance, hazardous materials, illegal activities, vehicle breakdowns, entrance pass eligibility, etc. This is not the purpose of a national park. The purpose is to protect and preserve for the enjoyment of all. (Correspondence ID 110)

Response

The NPS understands that the opening of this road will adversely impact park operations. As described in the list of mitigations in the Environmental Review and Decision document, section IV, page 14, NPS is working on obtaining funding to support additional support staff to come on board when the road should open (the emergency access route will open only after Highway 130 and Railroad Ave are closed):

The park will seek funding for additional staff and is working on expedited hiring to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.

Increased law enforcement and other staffing (maintenance, interpretation, etc.) will be necessary to protect visitors, park resources, and ethnographic resources and rights. This includes patrolling roads, responding to emergencies, traffic control/management, resource monitoring, enforcing legislated rights (Native Hawaiian access), maintaining restrooms and other facilities along the roadways, etc.

Public Safety: Impacts of Proposal

Concerns were expressed regarding public safety issues such as vehicle break-downs, speeding, crime, and traffic.

Representative Quote

A significant increase in commuter traffic, often with time-stressed drivers who under-calculated the time needed to get to work, would also greatly increase safety hazards for pedestrian and tourist traffic on Crater Rim Drive. (Correspondence ID 83)

Response

The Chain of Craters Kalapana Emergency Access Road will have a speed limit of 20 mph, as this is the speed that creates the safest conditions for motorists on the gravel route. The paved portion of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road has speed limits ranging from 25 mph to 35 mph. Additionally, as stated earlier in this report, NPS is currently seeking funding to hire additional staff for this operational increase of traffic and safety related issues.

Road Comment: Pave the road

Many commenters suggested that the emergency access route be paved.

Representative Quote

Should the Chain of Craters Kalapana Road become the only means in and out of lower Puna for vehicular traffic, it will need to be paved so as not to incur unnecessary repair expense, so as to avoid causing unnecessary damage and expense for vehicles using the road, to provide reasonably quick vehicular access, and to allow for passage of emergency vehicles should a vehicle stall, especially during rush hour. (Correspondence ID 172)

Response

In order to create a paved road that meets NPS park road standards, significant upgrades would be needed. The roadway bench would have to be widened further to provide additional clear zone at cut slopes, and the vertical profile smoothed out to safely accommodate the higher speeds motorists will drive on a paved surface. Additionally, before an investment in pavement could be made, upgrades to the quality of the sub-base would be required (the sub-base being built now is not as well graded or compacted as would be required for a permanent facility). Storm drainage improvements would also likely be necessary. It is estimated that such improvements would cost about \$2 million per mile, or about \$11 million for the 5.5 miles total (of roadway within the park). There is no funding to pave the road and there is not time to complete this work before the use of the emergency access route is necessary. It would also be fiscally irresponsible to pave the road due to the high probability of future lava inundation. In addition, funding would be needed to complete further NEPA compliance, which would likely result in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statement.

Road Comment: Don't pave the road

A few commenters expressed support for not paving the emergency access route.

Representative Quote

I am perhaps one of the few, NOT in favor of paving the C of C road not only because of the added expense to the taxpayers and extended preparation time, but because of the unknown environmental ramifications, and the fact that a gravel road will necessarily limit speed, which is a great thing on an island where poor driving habits are the norm. (Correspondence ID 17)

Response

The approved road is a two-lane unpaved gravel road.

Road Comment: Open the road before Railroad Ave is covered

A few commenters suggested the emergency access route should be opened prior to other viable access routes being closed.

Representative Quote

There are thousands of people in my situation where highway 130 will be cut off and it is forecast that Railroad will be a long difficult and crowded detour. I live close to Kalapana and would mostly choose to drive a little longer and avoid the traffic jams if I am able to drive Chain of Craters. Others in my same situation would make the same choice. This would also reduce the congestion on Railroad and Beach roads. (Correspondence ID 181)

Response

The County of Hawai'i is currently making improvements to Railroad Avenue so that it is better prepared to handle additional use/traffic. The purpose of the park is to protect, study, and provide access to Kīlauea and Mauna Loa, two of the world's most active volcanoes; preserve endemic Hawaiian ecosystems; and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian culture connected to these landscapes, not to provide commuter access for the local community. Therefore, the NPS will only open Chain of Craters Kalapana Road when Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue are covered or closed due to the lava flow, as stated in the Environmental Review and Decision document and as is also stated in the agreement between the NPS and Hawai'i County.

Environmental Review and Decision document, section II, Proposed Action, page 3:

The road will only be used when the NPS has determined it is safe to use and that both existing routes, Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue, have been closed because they are covered by lava or otherwise deemed unsafe (e.g. volcanic fumes).

Road Comment: Don't reopen the road

Several commenters suggested the emergency access route should not be built.

Representative Quote

I am not understanding why funds are being spent to rebuild Chain of Craters Kalapana Road so that displaced Lower Puna residents can use it for commuting from the lava flow area. This doesn't make sense for our precious park. (Correspondence ID 208)

It also does not seem to make sense to me to carve a road through an active inundation zone that most recently saw lava flows in August 2013. (Correspondence ID 85)

Response

NPS recognizes that the area in which Chain of Craters Kalapana Road is located is frequently covered by lava flows, most recently as 2013. The road has been blocked by lava for 37 years of its 49-year existence. NPS did not have any intention of reopening the road because of the high potential for it to be covered by lava once again (Environmental Review and Decision document, section II, Plan Conformance, page 4). However, due to the need for emergency access, NPS determined a two-lane, unpaved gravel road is necessary.

Road Comment: Keep road open permanently

A few commenters suggested the emergency access route be opened permanently.

Representative Quote

I generally agree that the Chain of Craters Road should be opened as an emergency access route, although once the road is open Puna residents (with the appropriate decal) should be able to use it regardless of whether or not Rte. 130 is closed. (Correspondence ID 48)

Response

The purpose of the park is to protect, study, and provide access to Kīlauea and Mauna Loa, two of the world's most active volcanoes; preserve endemic Hawaiian ecosystems; and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian culture connected to these landscapes, not to provide commuter access for the local community. Therefore, the emergency access route will open only when Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue are closed and will remain open only until another viable route out of the Lower Puna region is available.

Keeping Chain of Craters Kalapana Road open permanently would require a permanent increase in the park's budget and staffing levels, which is unlikely to occur. Also, historically this area has been frequently inundated by lava it is unknown how long the road would remain viable. NPS would be required to conduct further NEPA compliance if the road were intended to be permanent, as the compliance completed for the current action was for an emergency access route only. This level of compliance would likely be an Environmental Impact Statement.

Transportation: Increased traffic concerns

Commenters expressed concern regarding traffic issues, such as congestion and speeding.

Representative Quote

The traffic through the National Park is a problem as there will be many times the normal traffic daily traffic if Puna residents need to use that path. (Correspondence ID 40)

Response

NPS is committed to alleviating the traffic along the roadways as much as possible. Several mitigations have been developed to address this impact. However, due to the potential volume of traffic, congestion will remain a problem. From the Environmental Review and Decision document, section IV, page 14; and Appendix A:

The park is seeking funding for the increased operational need, including additional staff and is working to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.

Increased law enforcement and other staffing (maintenance, interpretation, etc.) will be necessary to protect visitors, park resources, and ethnographic resources and rights. This includes patrolling roads, responding to emergencies, traffic control/management, resource monitoring, enforcing legislated rights (Native Hawaiian access), maintaining restrooms and other facilities along the roadways, etc.

NPS will, to the extent practicable, support and work with state and local governments to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes to the park road, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i.

Transportation: Support for efficient residential access through park entrance

Many commenters expressed support for a system that allows quick passage through the park entrance for residents.

Representative Quotes

Install an express lane for resident use at the Volcano Park entrance to shorten our trip time. (Correspondence ID 25)

Lower Puna residents should receive a decal, allowing them free access to Chain of Craters through the park. (Correspondence ID 64)

Response

The NPS is supportive of allowing residents "express" access through the park entrances; the park will issue car decals to residents to address this concern. Further changes to provide for efficient entry/exit will be considered as necessary.

Visitor Experience: Impacts of Proposal

Concern was expressed regarding the impact of the proposal on the park visitor's experience.

Representative Quotes

What will the visitor experience be like when there are perhaps dozens and dozens of cars bottlenecked at the park entrance all day long? (Correspondence ID 141)

I am also concerned about Namakanipaio campground as well. It could become a layover place for commuters who want to divide their drive in half. With the limited amount of campground space that exists now, this could be a problem in terms of occupancy for those residents and visitors who enjoy camping at Namakanipaio campground. (Correspondence ID 103)

Response

NPS recognizes that there will be potentially significant adverse impacts to the visitor experience with the opening of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road (see Environmental Review and Decision document, section III, Potentially Significant Adverse Impacts, page 7) for more details. The key mitigation that NPS will follow in attempt to reduce the impacts to visitor experience is the following:

The park will seek funding for additional staff and is working on expedited hiring to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.

Increased law enforcement and other staffing (maintenance, interpretation, etc.) will be necessary to protect visitors, park resources, and ethnographic resources and rights. This includes patrolling roads, responding to emergencies, traffic control/management, resource monitoring, enforcing

legislated rights (Native Hawaiian access), maintaining restrooms and other facilities along the roadways, etc.

Having enough staff on board to protect resources, including visitors, to maintain park facilities, including trails and roadways, and to provide educational outreach will be essential in protecting the visitor experience. However, additional staffing is dependent upon the park receiving enough additional funding to support the hiring of such staff.

In addition, once the road is open, further changes may be determined necessary to address congestion and efficient flow of traffic.

NPS would also like to note that since 2012, Nāmakanipaio Campground has been managed by a park concessioner with NPS oversight. Campground users are required to pay a fee for camping.

ATTACHMENT A

Public Comments

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 1

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am member of the "General Public", living in Hilo.
I used to go to Kalapana on a regular basis and would like to be able to continue doing so. The wording "Emergency Access Road" implies to me that visiting is not a good enough reason to use the road and I don't particularly like the idea.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 2

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kurtistown, HI 96760
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I find it incomprehensible that a discussion like this is necessary. The complete road existed in the past but was obviously covered in segments at various times by previous lava flows. Historically, the road was always replaced. The Nene survived and invasive species were dealt with. Life went on. We now live in a time when concerns over the potential of spreading invasive species or the potential of negative affects to Nene trump public safety. Perhaps we need to remove all roads in this County to alleviate any concerns such as these. Ludicrous thought? Exactly. Perhaps logic and reason need to trump the absurdity of extreme political correctness. Replace the road.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 3

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
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E-mail: [REDACTED]t

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I sincerely hope that the re-building of Chain of Craters Road will be a paved surface. Once the lava crosses highway 130, this will be the only fully paved access and egress from my neighborhood (Kapoho).

Although Railroad and Government roads will create temporary access, they will ultimately be covered or interrupted by lava, so there is no point in paving them for short-term use.

Once those roads are no longer usable, residents of South Puna will need a good permanent road. We will be stranded without supplies if heavy trucks cannot deliver gasoline and groceries to the South side of Pahoa and to Kalapana.

THIS ROAD IS OUR LIFELINE. Once it is in use, it will be difficult or impossible to improve with asphalt. PLEASE BUILD AN ADEQUATE ROAD NOW.

I hope that once completed, the road will be opened to aid those who do not drive pick up trucks or 4WD vehicles. The gravel roads may be much shorter but with use and East Hawaii weather, they could deteriorate, and become impassible, for those of us driving low clearance sedans.

Thank you for your consideration of these opinions.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 4

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014	Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The lava will cut us off from all major commerce. For the almost 10,000 residents down here in lower Puna we will only have access to the most basic of services. Two small stores one clinic one gas station and a few places to eat. There wont even be a drug store near here. You need to pave the chain of crater road before it becomes the only road in and out of the area. The rain will make it impassable for most cars in short order.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 5

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a retired General Contractor BC-12154 with 31 years in construction on the Big Island of Hawaii, I encourage you to pave the Chain of Craters road to provide 2 way access. If it turns out that this road becomes the only access out of and into the lower Puna district, it will be very heavily traveled. Base course will not hold up to even moderate traffic without constant maintenance. Having to constantly grade the surface would slow traffic to a crawl and add to the frustration and time factors we Puna residents will have to face if the lava cuts off all other routes.

Thank You for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 6

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
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E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Restricting access to only residents with a sticker??

What about all the vacation rentals that are down in Kapoho?

By doing this you are going to cut income to many people - the owners, and more importantly the staff whom live right here - cleaning people, maintenance people, etc. There are very few jobs and you are going to take the few that currently exist if tourists are not allowed to visit Kapoho.

All for a few miles of road?

I am appalled.

Figure out something else but if you do this you will drop property values even more and make people destitute who live here. Seriously, the support staff isnt the rich folks who own these houses. They live day to day, barely in many cases.

The national park is all of ours - even tourists.

This press release probably just alone damaged and dropped property values without even the flow affecting one home yet.

Sincerely,

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 7

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Shelby, NC 28021
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

AS a frequent visitor to the Puna area I feel access should be open to all. The businesses of the lower Puna area depend on public access to make a living and without outside access will be forced to close. The elderly and disabled depend on family and friends to take them to doctors and to market. The businesses of Puna have the opportunity for increased income if tourists are allowed to enter and view the work of Pele in a respectful manner. Please do not isolate the residents of lower Puna.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 8

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 967788412
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It is vital that the new, planned portion of the Chain of Craters Road be accessible all of the public. It is vital to our community's sustainability to have access to anyone that wishes to travel the road. This includes vendors of supplies, farm producers, families and friends of residents, long and short term home renters and tourists.

Our community is too small to sustain itself. Business such as restaurants, clothing/souvenir stores, realtors and grocery stores need tourists. Our islands economy is based on tourism and Puna is no different than the rest of the islands.

We hope that an alternative road will soon be made to the Chain of Craters road. It is definitely not the first choice of residents but it may be our only choice for awhile.

We are grateful to the NPS for making this road available to us and understand your concern about environmental impact but feel that uninterrupted access to our community is vital for our district .

Mahalo for hearing our concerns,
[REDACTED]

Please do not release my personal information but my name and town may be used.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 9

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Shelby, NC 28021
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a frequent visitor to the lower Puna area I feel access should be open for all. The businesses of the Puna area should not be forced out of business due to limited access. The businesses of lower Puna should be allowed to prosper during this time. The elderly and disabled need to have access of family and friends. All should be able to view the work of Pele in a respectful manner.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 10

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
PAHOA, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

There are rumors that chain of craters road will only be open for local residents of lower puna.

I am strongly opposed to this. Please think about the residents of lower Puna.

First of all, what about family and friends that want to visit.

Most importantly though, is think about our jobs. Many of our jobs are based on tourism. In my case, I'm a massage therapist. I work at a retreat center (Kalani) which would have to close if visitors arnt allowed. My other clients are from local bed and breakfast and vacation rentals who would have to close if no visitors were allowed.

This affects more than me. You see, I spend the majority of my money locally, at the farmers market, on local honey, cheese, local labor. Say I don't get money from a tourist, then my laborer doesn't get money from me, then the food vendors at the market don't get the money from him, then the produce vendors don't get the money from the food vendor. This way, me not making \$10 from a tourist, takes \$40 out of our local economy.

I know you've thought about this but I hope you will re-consider. It will shut down most business down here, then all of us who work locally will have to communte on chain of craters road to get to work in town which will create the traffic that limiting visitors was supposed to restrict!

Anyway, thanks for your consideration.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

Aloha,



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 11

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The Chain of Craters road, that will ultimately provide the only road access to lower Puna, must be constructed in a manner that will NOT restrict passage to only to residents. That our government may allow such a thing is a sorry event.

We must have service providers, family and friends, and our tourists. When we have a broken appliance that needs to be serviced, our repair person needs to get to our home. The Hawaiiin culture is centered on large, extended families who don't always live in the same community. Our family members are often not even 'blood' related. We don't want to ever tell our family and friends that they cannot come over to visit and talk story, because our government had restricted access to the area we live. The tourism industry helps support not only lower Puna small business owners, but also contributes to the entire island and state, with our paid GE and transient taxes. If access is restricted to residents, how do we get police, fire, EMT, HELCO here to service our needs? Yes, we pay taxes and feel we deserve to have our providers get to our community.

Imagine a community on the mainland being cut off by a natural 'diaster'. A landslide, flood or earthquake can easily stop passage into an entire community in a heartbeat. No community on the mainland would stand for deliberately being cut off from 'the outside world'. Why do our government officials think we in Puna are less deserving than any other tax payers?

Please do not restrict the access on the chain of craters road to residents. It's just bad policy. I'm embarrassed that this is even being considered...embarrassed for our politicians and for the administrators of the national park.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 12

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/05/2014 Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

According to Lower Puna Infographics by Dr. Mark Kimura, 35% of the residents of Puna work in lower Puna. That includes employed, self employed or own business. Both me and my partner are self employed and depend on the outside visitors. So closing the access to our community makes this disaster even worse. Not only we are dealing with the lava and the potential for some people to lose their houses, but if the access to our community gets limited a lot of people will lose their source of income as well.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 13

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

While this route is being created for use of Pahoa residents, please consider that there are many people in this area who are part time residents and own property in Pahoa. These individuals should be granted the same access rights through the Emergency access route as full time residents as they are tax paying property owners as well. There are many reasons to afford part time residents the same parity as full time residents for purposes of Emergency route access such as maintenance of their homes/property, upkeep of the area generally and reducing financial impacts to the local economy and tax base.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 14

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Island park, NY 11558
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Cindy Orlando, HVNP staff,

I wanted to comment on the re-opening of Chain of Craters road to connect the people in lower puna to the rest of Hawaii if the June 27 flow continues and covers the emergency Railroad Ave access for that community

In the HVNP document it stated that the gravel road will need to be re-graded every 2-4 weeks. think the road should be opened as a paved road from the start. I've been to the park and the road to the sea is already paved. If the paving is done BEFORE the road is open, it would have the least impact" be the most cost effective and be the best for all involved

Thanks

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 15

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am extremely grateful to everyone who is working to provide alternate access to the residents of lower Puna due to the impending lava flow. However I totally disagree with the plans or suggestion to provide each resident with a "free window decal" and then limit the access to residents only. That would effectively totally isolate all of lower Puna. How are we supposed to have any family visit us if they do not already live in lower Puna? No one could have a family member visit, unless we drove with our authorized car to pick them up and then drive them back home. There are many businesses that depend on outside goods and tourists in order for our town and community to survive. We do not want a one way escape route out of lower Puna, we want an alternative route other than the main highway, where we can continue to live, thrive, and raise our families. This is a huge area, and we all pay our taxes to the government. We are talking about a few miles of road through a park that our tax money helps support. Please get your priorities straight, and put yourselves in our shoes. Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 16

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pukalani, HI 96768
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

PLEASE ALLOW THIS ROAD TO REMAIN OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RESIDENTS, AND ALL PEOPLE AND GOODS THAT ALLOW LOWER PUNA TO REMAIN A VIABLE, THRIVING COMMUNITY. DO NOT RESTRICT IT TO RESIDENTS ONLY.
They need our help and we should be standing together to help them. Mahalo!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 17

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Indie Author Counsel
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My partner and I have lived in Kapoho for 9 years. I no longer commute daily to work in Hilo and while we try to limit our trips even into neighboring Pahoa, sometimes we need to go to Hilo for medical and/or supply reasons. Thus, as you stated, the Chain of Craters access would be our only option to travel via land if/when the lava flow cuts off Railroad avenue and the Jungle road. Hopefully, Pele will remain calm and rest for awhile, but historical odds seem to be against a long-term period of inactivity.

I have a few brief comments and a question or two:

I am perhaps one of the few, NOT in favoring of paving the C of C road not only because of the added expense to the taxpayers and extended preparation time, but because of the unknown environmental ramifications, and the fact that a gravel road will necessarily limit speed, which is a great thing on an island where poor driving habits are the norm. Also, I know that many people used to fish from the beaches on/near the Kaimu flow, and while I am not summarily opposed to persons fishing for recreation or food, a road would open this figurative "can of worms" - allowing vehicles to pull off the road and camp, whether under a popup tent or overnight. Obviously, this type of activity would further congest an already narrow road so perhaps frequent motor patrols could disallow this.

Has the issue of Kona winds been addressed, especially since they seem to be more and more frequent? That is, the closing of the road on the south and west side (as is done now within the park, at least the last time I visited) Will those same "unhealthy air conditions" be ignored if this road is built, or how will they be handled?

Also, will traffic be limited to local travelers? Unless there is control on both the Kaimu end and the Park end, visitors, whether on tour vehicles or in private vehicles, will have a great incentive just to use the C of C road as a

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

passage into lower Puna, or conversely into the "backside" of the Park. If Yes, access will be limited, what is the plan?

Thanks for the forum and Good Luck. We all know that regardless of what is done, there will be some naysayers and critics, but the bottom line is that we need a possible route out of lower Puna if the lava limits our options.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 18

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Employee HDOE
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Pahoa, HI 96778
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E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

1) As regards the control of invasive species. The two most threatening species to wit are the coqui frog and the little fire ant Lower Puna has been subjected to a plague of both species for several years now; they are both entrenched causing considerable harm to visitors, residents, flora and fauna alike. The USDA is culpable for failing to eradicate these pests. My suggestion is that the USDA work with County and State agencies immediately on an intensive eradication campaign. Whether or not the Chain of Craters Road is ever utilized, eventually both species will infest HVNP.

2) Lower Puna has an abundance of drugs and chemically dependent people. The DEA is remiss in failing to control this problem. I suggest that The DEA, along with County and State counterparts, work together to curtail the flow of drugs and drug money in and out of Lower Puna. Couriers, distributors, importers and manufactures, as well as users need to be brought to justice immediately. This also applies to drunk drivers. Again, whether or not the road is ever utilized, this problem, if left unattended, adversely impacts HVNP.

3) Crimes against property in Lower Puna are rampant. Federal, State, and County authorities need to control this problem. Perpetrators of these crimes operate with near impunity. Much of the stolen property is exported. Criminal organizations large and small need to be eliminated from the area altogether. Acting on this now will ease pressure on HVNP law enforcement personnel regardless of whether on not the road is open.

In all, many of the issues surrounding Chain of Craters Road access need to be addressed by the Federal, State and County agencies both prior to and during it's period of operation. Failing to do so will negatively impact HVNP as well as Lower Puna.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 19

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I think paving the road would be more environmentally responsible. It would keep dust and the inevitable maintenance cycles down. This would result in less heavy machinery noise, time, and fuel consumption. I think a moderate speed (40mph?) paved road with residential thru traffic would have the most utility and minimal impact. Delivery trucks are an issue. Traffic congestion holds the potential for large impacts on the atmosphere of the park, a smooth moderate flow of traffic would benefit everyone. Speed TABLES (not bumps) could be installed where needed to manage traffic speeds. Clear signage from the park entrance to CoC would be important. Perhaps park visitors could be routed off the feeder routes to CoC.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 20

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Volcano, HI 96749
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

About your limiting access to the Chain of craters Road. You ONLY allow residents to use it all the businesses will fail causing a second disaster. What about those of us on the North side of the divide? It is imperative that full access is allowed. Many people's livelihood are at stake. How can anyone make such a sweeping devastating blow to the Puna Community?

Volcanoes national Park is supported by the public and here in Hawaii mainly tourists, so is Puna, so goes Hawai'i. Don't cut off a foot to please a few people. How will we get to Pohoiki to go surf or fish?
How can the Natl. Park system be so selfish?

As CoC Rd. will be the only road in and out in the future and most likely years to come, it would be very short sighted to restrict access and it would decimate the possibility for those who live there to survive. They aren't all farmers and they all can move. The sticker idea was not very well thought out.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 21

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As someone who travels down a gravel road (Wa'a Wa'a) quite often, it has been my experience that every time the road is graded (with gravel) it might last as an easy to travel road for about 2 months. This road is not that heavily traversed, and it takes a short time to turn into pothole hell. My suggestion is to pave the road first , before letting traffic on it at all. Otherwise, it will be a constant money pit of maintenance and lawsuits from people who damage their vehicles from driving on a poor road. Thanks you for welcoming input.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 22

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am in support of reopening the closed section of chain of craters road as a permanent route from Kalapana into the park for any and all that want to drive that route with no exceptions. There is a rumor that this route would only be for residents of lower Puna to use with a resident sticker. This would be a terrible idea as it would block friends, family, tourists etc. for whom this area is dependent.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 23

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Puna Pono Alliance
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If you are going to the volcano, the road is great. But if you have to go to Hilo, you better leave half a day early. If there was only a way to divert traffic from just above Pu'u O'o directly the HWY 11, it would be much better. I'd suggested a raised highway around the island with sufficient height and spaces for lava flows to go around and underneath, but that would be prevention and for some reason, those in charge tend to prefer quick fixes, as it makes them look good in time for elections. C'esspool la vie! Aloha

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 24

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This is in regard to paving the 130 thru Volcano National Park. I'm hearing that the unpaved road will have a speed limit of 20 mi an hour. That's gonna take 30 minutes to go 10 miles. Doesn't make any sense? Deciding to pave it after the opening will cause major delays. Not paving it could cause some serious emergency issues if 130 is the only way available. Please consider paving now as we still have time before the flow hits the beach and before it's open. Mahalo Please keep my information and identity private

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 25

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Kapoho, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

We are retiree residents of Kapoho Beach Lots. We are facing the loss of Hwy 130 which is our route to Hilo for doctor visits and shopping. Because of this we may be forced to use Chain of Craters Road, which will be a much longer drive for us, adding around 2 more hours each way for us.

We have heard that the VNP plans to limit access to our area to residents only and we will be required to have stickers. Our area greatly depends on tourism and over half of the homes in Kapoho Beach Lots are vacation rentals who pay considerable taxes to the state. To ban all other visitors from our area will destroy our economy and result in many foreclosures. This will also keep us from having family and friends visit and make us feel like prisoners in our own homes.

Here are our recommendations:

The newly graded Chain of Craters Road needs to be two lanes and paved with a shoulder as it was before lava originally covered it.

All road users would be required to have a National Park day, yearly pass or resident sticker.

No restrictions on those who use this road as long as they have a pass or sticker.

Install an express lane for resident use at the Volcano Park entrance to shorten our trip time.

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PEPC ID: 55067

One thing to keep in mind- -the lava that will be blocking Hwy 130 to Hilo will be coming from your park. If you would keep it in the park, we would not need to drive on the park roads. LOL

Mahalo,



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 26

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of lower Puna, I'd like to see the Chain of Crater's Road paved and wide enough for 2 cars with pullouts every half mile. Many folks who live in lower Puna have older cars that will be challenged by driving across a large graveled road surface...especially once potholes begin to develop.

And I'd like to express my desire for visitors/customers to have access to vital business such as Uncle Robert's, Kalani and the store. Identifying residents for park road access is a good concept as long as there are measures in place for visitors to support our local businesses.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 27

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Royal Gardens Community Association
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha Havo
I'm the President of Royal Gardens Community Association.
We have mixed feeling about the road being replaced.
We replaced it at our cost and the county replaced it.
Each time it was covered by lava not long after.
Its a huge problem maker. It will mean people will start building in Royal Gardens again.
We do not support this. In fact we want the Subdivision to become Preservation area and change the Zoning. We hope some how to add it to the Park some how.
Yes not all our land owners agree. Its clearly not a safe place for a community.
Please contact me to discuss this as I have a long list of goods and bads.
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 28

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

1. The road needs to be paved. Even with limited traffic it will not be sustainable if it is not paved.
2. Access can not be limited to just residents.

First, who is a resident? For example, how will mail be delivered? The last time I looked, UPSP was not a resident of Lower Puna, Pahoa or anywhere else. It is a Federal business. So how will mail be delivered? Are businesses that operate in Pahoa or else where in Lower Puna considered residents? Do you mean to have all businesses that are in Lower Puna close? Even with the road there is still isolation if only residents can use the road and not USPS, local businesses (I assume if their owner qualifies as a resident it is not an issue???, but what if the owner lives just on the other side of the lava flow?), their suppliers, etc.

Second, it is called an Emergency Access Route. What is that? Does that mean it can only be used in an emergency, even if you are a resident? What is an emergency? If the use of the road has nothing to do with emergencies, then call it Chain of Craters Road and leave that title buried. And, since emergency vehicles are not owned by residents, but by governments and businesses, can they use the road?

3. Have an open forum and discussion with those affected. Take the lead from how Civil Defence has been handling the situation. We get daily updates; there are weekly or so meetings, etc.

Enough for now.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 29

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014	Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

In order to safely handle the volume of traffic from Puna, the Chain of Craters Road needs to be paved.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 30

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha and mahalo for taking the time to read my comments.

As a resident of Lower Puna I thought it important to tell you about my community. We are a small yet vibrant part of the island. We have Hawaiian families that have lived on the same land for generations. Natural wonders abound and attract thousands of visitors a year. We have the Hot Pond, Kapoho Tide Pools, Kehena Black Sand Beach, and miles and miles of untouched wild beauty. All seen from a slow majestic drive down the 137 Hwy. Recently Hwy 137 was awarded Scenic Byway designation by the State of Hawaii.

I applaud the national park's willingness to offer the Chain of Craters Road to help our neighborhood stay connected!

Recently I heard that access to Chain of Craters road may be restricted to local residents only. This would have a detrimental effect on our lives. As much of Hawaii, our area is dependent on tourism. We have a major retreat center (Kalani), a huge amount of vacation rentals, and farmer's markets that are geared towards visitors. Many local artisans make their living selling crafts at these markets. Local food vendors, farmers, and restaurants depend on visitors ability to come here. Many area residents have gainful employment that is created by these businesses.

At the risk of sounding dramatic, I think this decision would kill our community. The ability for everyone to travel freely in and out of our area is essential to it's existence. I urge you to carefully consider this when making the final determination about access, and who shall have it. I encourage you to drive down here and see the community and all the beautiful sites. It's often described as "Old Hawaii". We need to continue to share this stunning unique area with visitors who choose to vacation off the beaten path.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

Would you consider having the option for visitors to purchase a decal that was valid for the time that they are visiting? This fee would help subsidize the additional costs associated with maintaining the road. Just one thought of probably many once we try to come up with a harmonious solutions that benefits all.

Mahalo!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 31

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

BUILDING A ROAD THROUGH NENE HABITAT

It is not a question of IF but WHEN speeding drivers will run over and KILL Nene birds who have the well known habit of walking along the side of the pavement where morning dew collects and so moist vegetation grows.

What possible effective mitigation could prevent Nene being flattened by speeding drivers along the side of the road.

That is a LONG lonely section of road with no traffic enforcement.

Birds always walk there for moisture and vegetation.

Add speeding automobiles and you end up with dead Nene.

This is not the ONLY choice... There are other roads like Government / Beach road from Kapoho through Wa'a Wa'a with no Nene birds.

You are building a road in the Nene habitat.

The politicians are not caring about the Nene but only votes.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 32

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I'm not sure I understand the rules about who can use the road. Does "invitees" include patrons of the restaurants and other businesses in the area? And just how would one prove they were going to dine at Luquin's or see the chiropractor in town, rather than just sightseeing?

I'm confused about how lower Puna businesses are supposed to stay in business if they only have lower Puna residents to depend on for income?

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 33

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Laakea community
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

please pave Chain of craters Road where it goes from Kalapana to Volcano. It will be a very long ad grueling drive to get to Hilo from Pahoa, and it will be even worse if the road is rough lava dirt, that has to be constantly graded and smoothed out. Lava is rather fragile and breaks down easily. thank you [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 34

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Hawaiian Paradise Vacation Rentals
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Pahoa , HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha HVNP,

We manage a lot of vacation rentals, many in the cut off area of lower Puna. We will require access for our visitors, many of whom will be paying to enter your Park the regular way. However, this may be the only access to their vacation rental. Please contact us so we can start working with you on a resolution for our many guests.

Mahalo,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 35

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/06/2014 Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

You can't limit people from coming and going to Lower Puna. This will kill a community this area of the Island is way I moved to this area. You are going to tell us we can't visit are friends and family and support local businesses that are needed. This road should be paved as it was at one time. This road may be the only thing that keeps a community alive. Just my family goes to boat ramp every weekend and your going take that away from everyone?

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 36

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kurtistown , HI 96760
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a former resident of Leilani Estates, I have many friends in lower Puna and participate in many commercial activities there. I take classes and volunteer at Hawaiian Sanctuary, I attend events at Kalani and Uncle Roberts, I buy coconuts from a harvester, i join a friend on her farm to ride horses. The lava may impede the frequency of my visits but to exclude people from the charms and businesses of lower Puna would be an absurd act for a non communist government. I know people are beginning to feel their basic rights are being taken away with the current restrictions in place pertaining to lava access, but this restriction of movement on a federally funded roadway is really raising ire in the community. Too much government control.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 37

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

Many thanks for taking very seriously the publics' comments about construction, mitigation, and access use of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road as the public is aware both bulldozers from each met up to the middle, particularly still early before completion, before Dec 5th deadline for comments here, and before lava has crossed Main Gov't Road, Highway 130, Railroad Avenue, and Govt Beach Rd and entered ocean.

I hope you take pride in and make great efforts to expand the publics' horizons by infact not taking a wallpaper approach to a gravel road that will grind down in short amount of time and over long period of time need maintenace and repairs of potholes, washboard effect that would cause more expense, time, further delays, road contruction frustration of residence, their vehicles, doing business, business trucks needed to go to and from our area, generating commerce, tourism, and still going forward with life in Lower Puna.

Did this road have thermal imaging before the path was bulldozed to be made aware of hot spots of concern and hot spots to avoid? Would appreciate a two-laned PAVED road from the beginning and start as long as the asphalt will withstand the heat of any steaming lava underneath for EVERYONE'S SAFETY and EASE. Consideration must also be taken for the vehicle weight limits and safety of delivery trucks. Need the Gas Company truck driver to be able to still deliver two 23 gallon tanks of Propane to residence especially considering an aging population of seniors and those with disabilities who are not going to be physically hauling and schleping heavy propane tanks. Will big, heavy tanker trucks for ethanol free gas for generators and unleaded gasoline for transportation be able to access and travel road? Will heavy equipment trucks also be able to do the same? Will trucks hauling construction materials from Hilo be able to get us supplies when we may need to make repairs and maintain our homes and properties?

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

Will we still be able to have household appliances delivered such as a rusted refrigerator or oven replacement, etc? I hope not advised or under instructions to take a wallpaper approach that covers or plasters over what is essentially needed to be done right by the public and business in the first place.... or a long drawn out impact study that will delay things further, especially if under emergency or such would place folks into more emergency.

Respect must be paid to many, especially now looking to have appropriately safe and comforting conditions as normal as possible, rather than challenged. Particularly sensitive are the residents who live here, their livelihood, their neighbors, community, friends and family, visitors, tourism industry, business to conduct and carry on, business yet to survive and thrive that will be necessity in Pahoa Village, business that will still need to be conductive from Hilo to here and back. What is NOT needed is a restrictive and crippled road adding more stress and crippling our community further. No leave us in the gravel dust here wearing down the rubber on our wheels or be beaten outright or passively by schlack on a road that is coffin varnish and death to a community of people and their business. This road need not be shoddy, cheap, or inferior if it IS and becomes our ONLY access road over time and this access DOES and will necessitate to be SHARED vs. Restricted and Limiting.

Many thanks for our concerns, see if some of the "edge" could be taken off, at least as life and lava has calmed down a bit and may grow more intense in time with lava flow growing. On a personal note, a couple here will be going to Queens for needed heart procedure first weekend in December and will need to get back HOHM for healing with our six cat friends~ we will use the best road available as you and your beloved would want to also.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 38

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha! The operative word here is "emergency." We need a way in and a way out. But we also need groceries, gasoline, propane and basic services. Passes to waive fees are appreciated by residents like myself who need access to their homes as we face financial ruin in potentially being unable to live in them due to being cut off. We still need to get to work to pay our bills and taxes. The park will have an increase in revenue stream from the increased traffic and ancillary sales from those who pass through, assuming we will be allowed to stop to have dinner and use a restroom.

Also, invasive pests hitch rides on cars, trucks, and materials every day on big island; therefore they are no part of the discussion of access during this particular emergency. None of us brought these pests just like no homeowner ever went to a nursery and bought an albezia sapling to plant it!

Some thinkers come up with valuable ideas like wrapping the HELCO poles to keep them from burning. Let's keep fostering the productive ideas! Thanks to the road workers for giving us something to discuss!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 39

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014	Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Please pave the Chain of Craters Road leading into lower Puna. This is not a "bridge to nowhere" it is a vital access road into lower Puna. Why not sell passes to visitors and give residents a decal? Lower Puna needs visitors to stay alive, and selling passes will help generate revenue for the park. Be a good neighbor and steward at the same time!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 40

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: NA
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This new road will be a fulltime, 'normal' road for Puna residents for many years assuming the current June 27 flow continues. PLEASE keep this in mind during the planning. It won't just be a temporary, emergency road. It may turn into a major road for the area that will be used quite a bit.

I'm a little confused about the environmental impact... isn't this just an old lava flow? It's just cooled lava - a natural parking lot.

The traffic through the National Park is a problem as there will be many times the normal traffic daily traffic if Puna residents need to use that path.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 41

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The list of reasons are endless, from tourists, that we need down here to friends from other parts of the island and many more reason. The sticker suggestion is not acceptable to every resident living down here and every resident on the island and every vacationer who wants to come down here and spend money, eat, vacation, site see. The Hawaii Travel Bureau spends money on promoting the area also. This idea will not work and will cripple lower Puna.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 42

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As one of the thousands of residents who may be cut off from anything north of Pahoa by the impending lava flow, I urge unrestricted access to Chain of Craters Road to Kalapana. Assuming Highway 130 cannot be quickly re-opened after being covered by lava, nearly 10,000 of us will have to use this road to survive. This road will need to be paved at that point. While obviously Park fees will need to be collected from those simply visiting the Park, there are many who visit lower Puna who don't intent to spend time in the Park. Our entire economy is based on tourism, agriculture, and construction down here. My house is in perfect condition as our many others. Not allowing free access to this area to all traffic will have the effect of making my area a quarantine zone, and no businesses will be able to survive.

If the plan is ultimately to restrict access to lower Puna via Chain of Craters you can bet there will be massive civil disobedience by residents, and this will put Park employees at risk. I would personally join a lawsuit against the Park and the individuals personally who would make the decision to restrict access. Please do not let that happen!

We all pay taxes and since the vast majority of us will have no lava impact directly on our properties and businesses, we must be given the same access to roads unrestricted as everywhere else in the state.

Restricting access is NOT an option.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 43

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha! First, I appreciate the National Parks cooperating to provide access over the old Chain of Craters Road for lower Puna resident access should Railroad Avenue be overrun with lava. It is essential for maintaining a lifeline to this hard hit part of the Island (first by hurricane and then by lava). Second, it is also essential that some economy continue, rather than converting this area into a 3rd world pocket in Hawaii. In order to maintain an economy that is based on tourism, agriculture, and services we need for all persons, not just Puna residents, to have access via the new Chain of Craters Road. Without that, Lower Puna will simply stagnate and residents (already hit hard and trying to continue living there) will be forced to leave. This will cause real estate to depress further than it already has. Also, people visiting the Island will be unable to discover this beautiful area. The Park Service will also benefit, should they creatively figure ways of having discounted entry fees for those accessing Lower Puna and keeping the Chain of Craters Rd open as a park entry following the lava ceasing flowing. Mahalo for accepting these comments and I trust any decisions you make will be pono! [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 44

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa/ Kapoho, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: mslewis5@hawaiiintel.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please open the road and keep it open. It was a special road to travel on before the flows covered it. My family always stopped at the information center near the ocean , it was a special place to visit. Now it may well be our only access from our home in Kapoho. Also we own a Royal Gardens Property and someday wish to again have access it . It would also be a great tourist destination that would greatly increase Park use. Thank You, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 45

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I believe that the road should be paved. With as much traffic as this road will get if need, a gravel road will need much upkeep. Re-surfacing will be difficult once in use, and expensive as pot holes and ruts will develop fast from traffic and rains. It would pay to do it right from the beginning.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 46

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahia, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please consider that we are real people, with friends lives..etc in Puna Makai... I should think that anyone with HI ID should get a 'free pass" as well as F/F visiting from other places...

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314
Correspondence: 47

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

the chain of craters road needs to be paved to sustain the 9,000 residents of lower puna east of the lava flow.
Mahalo

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 48

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I generally agree that the Chain Of Craters Road should be opened as an emergency access route, although once the road is open Puna residents (with the appropriate decal) should be able to use it regardless of whether or not Rte. 130 is closed. Chain of Craters Road would not provide reasonable or convenient access to services in Hilo, so it cannot function as a replacement for Rte. 130. A far better solution would be to expand use of Railroad Road and/or Beach Road, opening them all the way into Hilo.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 49

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Essentially if you cut off access to anybody but registered inhabitants of lower Puna you are essentially suffocating the region. Unless you can justify this in some way it is absolutely untenable. I strongly urge you to reconsider and open up the road to general traffic, certainly discouraging looking loose but allowing for free flow of traffic. If not I'm sure you will get the fight of your lives from those of us who live here. Makati nui loa for your consideration.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 50

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

this chain of craters road MUST BE PAVED as we will be using this as our ONLY way of getting in and out of where we live to buy food and everything else. EVERYTHING else.
thank you
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 51

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I read that the road will only be open for "the transportation of goods and services needed to sustain the community including vendors, contractors, and service providers". Well, customers are also needed for sustaining the vendors. Volcano residents would like to be able to use the new road to access the Kalapana Night Market on Wednesday nights! Otherwise it is too far to drive. We are the customers, helping to sustain the community. The tourists in our vacation rentals and b&bs are also very interested in the Kalapana market!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 52

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Mainstreet Pahoa Chamber of Commerce
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

We, the merchants, restaurants and residents of Pahoa and Puna respectfully request that Highway 130 and Chain of Craters Road be paved and open to the Public. We understand that you have to charge visitors using the road and we are ok with that. Wear and tear on the Park Roads and the congestion that will occur warrants continued Fees for ALL except local residents and business owners. The continued flow of commerce is vital to the economic vitality and sustainability of our Historic Town.

Again, we urge you to open it up to all who seek to visit our town.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 53

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please pave the road. It will end up being our only way in and out. We own our home and cannot really afford to move. Disabled and retired my husband and I need to stay here as long as we can. Paving the road only makes sense. Thanks you.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 54

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014	Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

We really need to have a paved road on the Chain of Craters improvement. With all the traffic and trucks it will waste away the road that we really need to last.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 55

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Pave it. One lane traffic jam on chain of craters road will result in a mess for hours. Pave it ...with turn outs. Pave it.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 56

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please pave Chain of Craters Road. So many of us will be needing a paved road when we lose Highway 130. Our food and fuel suppliers and the post office people will all need to service us and need a paved road.

Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 57

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please consider the people of lower Puna a priority in your process in managing the National Park. At the cost of the Chain of Craters road to be rebuilt not created as it already existed as access in the past to community members and also tourists. Please help keep an access to a community that is slowly being taken away our economy, our homeowners insurance, our commuting access and times, and our sense of the last 100 years.

Please don't become the last nail in the coffin of our community for economics and ruin home owners home prices. How did the Chain of Craters road in the past National Park management plan work while the road was a usable road? It was included.

We as a community appreciate your assistance to Lower Puna community - -- real people, with real lives, homes and business. We will be a bedroom community which was a term used by the Department of Interior in the 90's working along with the National Park to deal with community members and a common support of the National Park to contain tourism out side of its boundaries. That is still an important to the National Park and Department of Interior correct? Or has that changed?

Please consider your actions will affect thousands of people and understand your management of this road will have impacts beyond possible any National Park decision in the past. Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314
Correspondence: 58

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to insist that we have chain of Craters Kalapana road paved all the way through and access for everyone. Our commerce and income depend on tourism and travelers driving to and from the area, spending money. Please make this a two lane paved road with free access for everyone.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 59

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Solar Sound Services
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Why not take this time that the lava is stalled, and start work on PAVING the entire road. Make it 2 lanes on each side.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 60

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa (Seaview), HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha!

Short term resident of SoFlo here. (15 years)

I would like to politely but strongly state that full and unfettered access across CoC road is the only pono solution to the situation we face.

Admittedly lava crossing beach Road is something nobody wants, but if it does the entire area in lower Puna is dependant on CoC road. Any kind of charge, or restriction on access will have a devitlstatng effect on the entire area. Please look for solutions that allow the park to function as well as keep Lowe Puna alive.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 61

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa/Kalapana Seaview Estates, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

In the event that CoC road becomes the only way in and out of Lower Puna the road needs to be (a) open to everyone and (b) paved.
It would not be akamai to put the park's needs, rules and regulations above the essential needs of thousands of people in Lower Puna.

Aloha and Mahalo

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 62

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 1971
[REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014	Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The entire district of Puna NEEDS to have the Chain of Craters Road to be open to all people, residents of the entire island as well as visitors. Considering the kind of rain we have it is really best that the road be paved. Thank you for your consideration.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 63

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am very concerned about the proposed limits to the "emergency access" route called Chain of Craters Road. My concerns center around: the impact on the local economy, the general restriction of access, the designation as "emergency access" only, the need for a permanent road and the difficulties presented by the suggestion of decals for access.

Impact on Economy

I am a licensed contractor who lives in lower Puna. My job is dependent on people who live here and people who visit while vacationing and decide to build or renovate here. Many of my customers are people who drove to the Puna district while vacationing and discovered this oasis and decided to invest here. I am dependent on the ability of people to freely access this part of the island. Any restriction placed on visitors to discover this part of the island will negatively impact my ability to make a living here. I also work for current owners of vacation rentals. The same issue is true for them. Many people who discover this area while driving to see the sites end up renting here and contributing indirectly to my income. Any restriction on the ability of tourists to travel in lower Puna will lower the property values in the area since so much of our local economy is dependent on these tourist dollars.

Restriction of Access

I have not chosen to live in a gated community. I want my guests and friends to be able to freely come and go as they wish at any hour of any day or night. Asking them to somehow obtain some kind of permission in advance of a visit is a restriction on my freedom and theirs which I do not welcome. I have also heard talk of a potential gate restricting travel at night. If that is true, I can not express my disapproval strongly enough. To be locked in or out of my community at any time will never be acceptable.

The inconvenience of having to present a decal for access will be outrageous for a community of this size. At present, there is usually a line of several cars and a wait of several minutes to enter the national park. It is currently

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

estimated that 7,000-10,000 cars a day travel through Pahoa on Highway 130. When that access to Pahoa is blocked by the lava, some large percentage of those vehicles will be passing through the National Park gate on a daily basis in addition to the current visitor load! I can only imagine the colossal backups that will happen if a decal is required to be displayed or someone needs to stop and explain why they don't have one. It is bad enough that my travel time to the nearest city of Hilo will be increasing by over 90 minutes each way. To add a bottleneck at the entrance to the park will be completely unacceptable.

The other difficulty with decals will be the logistics of granting passes to all of those who are entitled to them. Who will inform the tens of thousands of tourists who visit the Big Island each year that they will need passes to visit a large portion of the island? Who will pay for that bureaucracy? What about the many thousands of friends that those of us in lower Puna have? From whom will they have to seek permission to visit us? What about commercial vehicles? What about unmarked commercial vehicles like home health-care workers? Will they have to acquire decals? Will it cost additional money for me to have visitors to my own home?

Any solution which does not allow for unrestricted access to and from my home is unacceptable to me.

Need for a Permanent Road

We are community of many thousands of taxpayers. When the lava makes its way to the ocean, Chain of Craters road will be the only way for us to travel to and from our homes. There is no other way without crossing the active lava flow. Because it will be the only route and it will be heavily traveled, it needs to be a safe, permanent road surface. It needs reflective markers to highlight the lanes like many other roads on the Big Island. It needs shoulders for emergency stopping. It needs to be a durable surface that can be easily traversed by many of the thousands of vehicles in our community and by commercial vehicles. It will already be difficult enough to transport goods the extra 60 miles from Hilo. Eight miles of a gravel road will make some companies reluctant at any price to come to our community and contribute to the local economy.

"Emergency Access"

The designation of this route as an emergency access is a misnomer. I would like it to stop being referred to in this way. When the lava crosses State Highway 130 and the other temporary access roads through the subdivisions and then flows into the ocean, Chain of Craters Road will be the ONLY possible route in or out of any area that is home to about 8000 people. There is no other place to site a road to this area which avoids the current lava flow without going through the Volcanoes National Park. This road will be the only way in or out of an area with hundreds of millions dollars in real estate investment. It will not be our emergency access road. It will be our only road to home.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 64

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The Chain of Craters road should not restrict access to only lower Puna residents, their guests, agents and vendors. As permanent residents of Keaau, we feel a deep connection to the town of Pahoa, which soon may be "so near, yet so far." We also enjoy visiting the beaches and tidepools in lower Puna, and the community gatherings at Uncle Roberts every Wednesday night. It is our understanding that the current proposal would prevent, or at a minimum complicate, our visits to these favorite locals and friends on the far side of the potential flow.

As the owners of a vacation rental property in Keaau, we also fear the impact this restricted access could have on our business, since many of our tourist guests come specifically to enjoy the businesses and natural sites that may require Chain of Craters Road access.

Lower Puna residents should receive a decal, allowing them free access to Chain of Craters through the park. All other visitors who pay the park entrance fee (either on a single use basis or annual pass) should also be able to enter lower Puna via the Chain of Craters Road if they so desire.

It's bad enough that the lava flow may disconnect us from the rest of our community. The National Park service shouldn't be a co-conspirator...

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 65

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96779
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Concerns for Chain of Crater Kalapana rd: This road should be paved. Maintaining a gravel road will be endless work and cause traffic issues. The road will become rough and dangerous. Causing excessive wear on vehicles. Have I been misinformed? Seems like a waste of money not to pave this road. This is a huge concern to all of us that may come to rely on this road. No doubt it will be addressed again and again. Studies show if it rains again gained road is traveled it will suffer immediately. I hope the park will consider again gained the vehicles and people that will travel on Chain of Craters Kalapana road and understand that it rains frequently here. Why would pavement not be again gainfully standard? Safer and less maintenance. ...

Mahalo

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 66

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Camarillo, CA 93010
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I'm curious why the chain of craters kalapana road should even consider limited access to just residents?

If it's funding issues, set a toll for non residents.

I think the road should be open and available for all.

It's very expensive to get to the area for vacation or visiting family and to have such restrictions potentially is disappointing.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 67

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: .
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am glad to hear the Chain of Craters Road will be two lanes wide. If it becomes our only way in and out of lower Puna, I would sure like to see it paved. It doesn't matter to me if the 'public' is also allowed to use that road. The town of Pahoa will need all the support it can get once the lava crosses over Hwy 130. If the tourists want to come to Puna to see it up close and personal, let them! They can help support the businesses that stayed in Pahoa. Those businesses are going to need that financial support.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 68

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I implore you to consider the implications to the residents in regards to restricting access to the newly reopened Chain of Craters Road to residents and their invitees only, in addition to the possibility of a \$20 charge for access to those headed to lower Puna through the National Park. The town of Pahoa is undergoing a great deal of upheaval and many of our neighbors have already moved. However, there are several who intend to stay and adapt and we need to maintain some sense of normalcy. I and my family don't want to live in what would in essence be, a gated community. Many of my neighbors earn a living through tourism, unexpected visitors who pass through our town, stay and spend money, whether it's spending money on a vacation rental, handmade jewelry or pottery, which we in turn spend in our community. The restrictions described in your "update" don't seem to take this into consideration and with restricted access, even more of my neighbors and friends will have to move, save those who don't have the means to move. We have friends who live in Hilo and other towns on island. The idea that in addition to the additional drive time and gas, they wouldn't be able to stop by for a visit without special invitation or paying \$20 would result in further isolation of what's left of our community. Please consider that the Chain of Craters Road could end up being the last lifeline to our community and restricting that lifeline could ultimately strangle our community and contribute to its death. Thank you for your time - [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 69

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/07/2014 Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

no commercial delivery, or outside peoples.
Invasion plants or bugs..also nene on roadway.
Lava flow view or burglary issues.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 70

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Lower Puna, I am writing to urge the National Park Service to reopen Chain of Craters Road to ALL traffic if and when the lava takes Highway 130. Railroad Avenue alone will not be adequate to handle daily traffic and Government Beach Road is only one lane. I recognize that the additional traffic may adversely affect portions of the national park but this should be considered a temporary situation until other alternatives become feasible. To help mitigate and manage the traffic impacts, I would support the concept of a toll road.

The National Park Service should recognize that Lower Puna can be a asset to the park. Reopening Chain of Craters Road will provide better access to more than 170 vacation rentals and numerous restaurants and services in Pahoa. Accessible coastal resources like tide pools, beaches, and geothermal hot ponds would compliment the upland mauka resources of the park and provide a broader experience for park visitors.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 71

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

\$\$\$\$

Economics.

If you isolate that community, they will not be able to afford surviving there.

If you make it "The Pilgrimage to Pahoehoe" (like the Road to Hana, in Maui) people will bring \$ to park and to Pahoehoe.
(All people who don't actually live there should pay or have park pass.)

If u r trying to stop looters, what looter is going to take a one hour road each way, with two checkpoints and have to pay to get in?

Have a light sign before entrance to park, "if there are reports of looting all cars will be required to stop at exit."

The looting will be triple fold, from within the contained area, if you isolate.

If Pahoehoe becomes the "end of the road" in which people can go see history, learn or see about lava, and eat at the
Awesome restaurants already there... They could survive \$\$\$

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 72

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If you are using taxpayer funds to fund the Emergency Access Route then you had better open up that road to those of us taxpayers who are funding that road. I don't come from Pahoa but I might want to visit the town one of these days and I don't want to be kept out of an area just because you don't want the traffic. I can pay your park fees at the top but you need to refund those fees when I get to the bottom and vice versa. QUIT RESTRICTING ACCESS. You don't even OWN that land, it belongs to the Hawaiian Kingdom!!!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 73

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am a Pahoa resident, and longtime parks pass holder. I enjoy HVNP and support it.

I suggest the Chain of Craters Kalapana Road be 2-lane paved and freely accessible to anyone paying a fee or buying a pass. I do not believe that residents should have access free of charge; however, I also do not believe it is appropriate to severely limit access to Lower Puna.

This new road is an asset the park should take advantage of. It should provide income to the park. It could become the outside world's only access to the live lava flow, so it could be a huge revenue stream. Develop it in partnership with the people of Lower Puna so we can all thrive.

Thank you for your consideration

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 74

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Malama Ki Buddha Wisdom Garden
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha ~

Thank you for reading this.

As a resident of Lower Puna, I would like to join my voice with many others to say that we would like all of Chain of Craters Road to be paved. Otherwise, it will wreak havoc with our vehicles, and be too slow-going, causing lots of traffic.

Also, residents who have business in lower Puna should have decals that they can give to our customers, guests and visitors. Otherwise, the lifeblood of lower Puna will die, economically. We need the money to come in from the visitors to our island.

Thank you for understanding,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 75

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello Park Representative,

A friend just informed me that Park Service would be the most appropriate organization to contact regarding my concern with the access to my home in lower Puna from the rest of the island.

I have heard rumors of the Chain of Craters road possibly opening to provide an alternate route when the pre-eminent lava flow crossing of Highway 130 near Pahoa town. I have also heard that the progress of the paving and opening of this road is being delayed although it seems rather urgent and practical for safe & efficient passage amongst the island.

This letter serves as my support and request for the opening of further access roads to and from lower Puna through our Parks where it is beneficial and necessary.

Thank you for your attention here, and for all of the good work that you do to take care of our land.

Aloha,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 76

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Due to the predicted flow and the possible duration of the lava flow, I think it is wise to think of Chain of Crater Road as a long term solution. Therefor I would like to see a paved road wide enough to cater to lower Puna. I think you should also consider not calling it an emergency road. It needs to be a regular access road.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 77

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Honolulu, HI 96826
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I own a home in lower Puna, it is a vacation rental most of the time. I employ an agent, a gardener and a water service guy to maintain it, so it contributes quite a bit to the local economy. i hope that non-resident owners can get decals for their vacation rental tenants. (Some of my neighbors are residents of lower Puna and also have vacation rentals, so presumably their renters will be allowed to use the road as their invitees.)

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 78

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Coffee Labs Roasters
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Tarrytown, NY 10591
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hi,
I am a regular vistor of Lower Puna. I am already planning to go for 3 weeks in Feb. I listened to the plan on a recording from someone from you park. It sounds very restrictive & not like a long term plan. We want to continue to vist lower puna for years to come & even hope to buy a home there. How hard will be for me to get a pass if I am staying at my firmed home? Also if it is just a gravel road it sounds restrirve to travel for all, those working, traveling etc
Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 79

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for the road!! I would like to see the road paved and open to everyone. However consistency with other Park rules, such as the park pass requirement or entrance fee, is totally acceptable to me. Having a safer paved road which could enable me to continue living in my home and working in Hilo, with daily returns to my home instead of weekly returns, is invaluable. The ability to have goods delivered to our stores and homes is invaluable. I believe paving the road would enable truck deliveries, safer and faster transport to and from the Pahoa area. It would also allow visitors operating rental cars to come in and out.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 80

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern, We live in the Puna area which is about to be cut off by the new Lava flow. Chain of Craters road is going to be our only access to the outside when the Lava reaches the ocean. It could be another 31 years before things change. Thank you for giving us access but my concern is long term. I hear that it is going to be just a gravel road, if paving is out of the question so be it. There is going to be a lot of visitors coming and thru access may boost business for the town of Pahoa. Paving the road may give the town a chance to survive. Thank you for supporting the people of Puna.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 81

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident who lives in lower Puna, and one who will have to make use of the Chain of Craters Rd. I'd like to see it paved. This will be the safest use of the road, will allow for easier traffic flow and I think it should be open to everyone. Why cut off a community that will need that road access to survive? This will only complicate issues. Giving decals to residents seems time consuming and complicated for an area that is a visitor's paradise. It would seem to me that residents with valid I.D. could have their fees waived. The same would apply to delivery trucks. Invite people to the park, that is what the Big Island is famous for. I think the increase in visitors would offset any costs involved. Let's not live in 'fear' and lack of abundance. We have all that we need to make it work for everyone.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 82

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I strongly believe that the proposed access road over the old Chain of Craters road through HVNP should be open to everyone without restriction the same way it was before being covered over with lava. If all the other roads into lower Puna are cut off then this road through the park will be vital for sustaining the economy of this area. If access is restricted, most businesses in the area will fail, including restaurants, resorts, and vacation rentals. While there may be an initial period of increased traffic, as soon as Hwy 130 is made accessible again this would probably diminish to what it was before the Kalapana flow.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 83

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kula, HI 96790
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If Chain of Craters Kalapana Road (even if it were paved) and Crater Rim Drive are the only access between Lower Puna and Highway 11, it is pretty obvious that Lower Puna could no longer be a feasible bedroom community for Pahoa, Kea'au and Hilo due to the increased commute time. Slow winding Crater Rim Drive going past Thurston Lava Tube and the Kilauea Iki look out, with all of the tourist buses, rental cars and pedestrian traffic, was not designed to be a significant transportation link between Lower Puna and the rest of the Island. Attempting to convert Chain of Craters Kalapana Road & Crater Rim Drive to the only access for Lower Puna would be devastating to the economic engine that drives Volcano Village being the tourist spending generated by the National Park. The questions, therefore, are: 1) What would be the impact on the National Park visitor experience if Crater Rim Drive/Chain of Craters Kalapana became the only access to Lower Puna; 2) What would be the economic impact on Volcano Village and nearby communities (including Hilo's hotels and restaurants), if the visitor experience of the National Park was significantly degraded due to a major increase in traffic; 3) How would emergency services to Lower Puna be affected if police/fire/ambulance had to access the area via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road & Crater Rim Drive. A significant increase in commuter traffic, often with time-stressed drivers who under-calculated the time needed to get to work, would also greatly increase safety hazards for pedestrian and tourist traffic on Crater Rim Drive. There will certainly be people who will attempt to pass on those blind corners because they are late to work/appointment or just impatient. The National Park will need to greatly increase its law enforcement/traffic control to deal with this influx of commuter traffic.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 84

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am in favor of unrestricted access thru Chain of Craters road. Living in Volcano I want to have access to lower Puna businesses. Some of my favorite restaurants, my bank and the swimming pool with handicapped access is in Pahoa. Do not cut me off from the Pahoa community. Purchasing a park pass should not be a problem for locals wishing to cross the line to the other side. Mahalo for your consideration of my request.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 85

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Captain Cook, HI 96704
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Ms Orlando,

I'm very concerned about the new emergency access route through the park. While I am very sympathetic to the plight of our neighbors in Puna, I also believe that like all national parks, HVNP is chartered to protect and conserve. Allowing this road to become a commuter lane does not seem to serve that purpose. I worry about invasive species being brought into the park as well as just general overload of traffic through a park that already handles several thousand vehicles a day. I also worry about the endangered nene being hit by all this extra traffic because commuters will be rushing around to get to Hilo and back. I would imagine there will be much more stress on the park's budget in overseeing the route, money that will be diverted from conservation to evacuation control, traffic enforcement and the like. Again, does not seem the domain of the national park's charter.

I very much doubt the original Chain of Craters Road was ever intended to serve as the only way out of a large, populated area that is located beneath a very active vent.

It also does not seem to make sense to me to carve a road through an active inundation zone that most recently saw lava flows in August 2013. I understand that as they were dozing they found several hot spots! What happens if surface flows bubble up or lava tubes collapse while motorists are driving on this road? Who's liable?

As a concerned citizen and huge fan of our very unique HVNP, I would beg you to please make sure that our park and its resources are protected and that all other alternate options other than running a commuter/evacuation road through a national park are examined for feasibility.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

Not only will the wonderful peaceful vibe of the park be disturbed for local residents who enjoy visiting, it will also affect the visitor experience, as HVNP is the busiest national park in the state and a huge draw to our island, and thus our economy. PLEASE PROTECT THE PARK!! The beauty, serenity and viability of this special park hangs in the balance.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 86

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear National Park Service,

The residents and visitors coming to Hawaii since recorded history have had access to and viewed the lava, since Kalapana days Harry Kim at Civil Defense monitored the situation and I remember personally witnessing Kamoamoa, the Visitor's Center, Queen's Bath and most of Kalapana proper disappear never to be seen again.

You cannot seriously think to keep tourists out of lower Puna. The residents who choose to stay will be counting on marketing our local value added food products, art and crafts to visiting tourists to help finance our trip to town for supplies we cannot produce ourselves.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 87

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/08/2014 Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I live in Kalapana Gardens and want to support the Chain of Craters Road being PAVED and open to the general public. Residents of lower Puna as well as delivery trucks making deliveries to those residents should be allowed to pass through the park without paying any fees, while others are still allowed to use the road to access lower Puna when they pay the park fee.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 88

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96787
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014	Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

You must stop power mongering. Remember who gave up the land for the park. Meet their needs and stop being so callous and detached pave chai of craters kalapana road.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 89

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Hokulani enterprises
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Mountainview , HI 96760
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha . We live in both districts and need to have reasonable transportation through national park lands or by pass around it . There are better services in SoFLow then will be available for upper puna . We provide the only road in Existence that is private but is forced to have public used traffic . We do provide transportation through Hawaiian acres for your tourists . Many years ago the county took Our land for a road that cuts off an hour travel for the benefit of tourists from The park to lower puna and access to Kalapana flow . There will be no availability to share this unless we have equal access . Believe me the tour guides and tourists will be traveling that road and our district must be contiguous . Mahalo . This will benefit the park too . We all lived here when the thousands of Tourists used that road and our roads . This will be no different . Kick out the offenders and allow the entire district 5 into our open space

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 90

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Volcano, I would feel terrible if it were possible to get to lower Puna and I were restricted from using the route. The Wednesday Market and Kalapana in general are very important to many of us. One also needs to consider those who are left in lower Puna. I have already offered to bring food and supplies to friends and business that are cut off from any other route. I also have many friends down there and would like to visit without need permission from the Park.
thanks for listening,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 91

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Business owner and teacher, NEA, HSTA, Mainstreet Pahoa
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pshoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,
As I have a business downtown and work at Pahoa Elementary, I find it vital to have paved access to the rest of the island. We already have to cope with the vog and lava threat as the flow finds its way to the sea. Please do not inhibit the road building in any way from Chain of Craters all through the access roads at Railroad and Beaches. I traversed the Beach Road yesterday and the dirt parts are already full of deep potholes, so for a sedan, it becomes a dangerous route, and there is very little area for cars to pass when two are using the road. I am grateful for all the efforts to keep us able to drive in and out, and I know that paving costs plenty, but there are ways to recoup some of that and all ways should be explored rather than stopping the exits and entry points or slowing down the progress of their creation and maintenance.
Please kokua.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 92

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing in regards to the Chain of Craters Road. I live in Pahoa and work in Hilo. The thought of having to drive such a distance the C o C road will require is a nightmare. If the road is not paved the commute will be more time consuming as we have to drive very slow" this will also put much wear and tear on my new vehicle.

I do not agree with limiting access to only residents.... What are we, a ghetto? My family and friends from outside the area will not be able to enter unless they get permission... Your stand on this issue is very self serving and creates more stress and isolation for the people that are living here. How about some compassion and understanding instead always thinking only of the mighty Dollar.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 93

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in regards to Chain of Craters Rd, which will at some point be the only road leading in and out of lower Puna. It is crucial that COC be paved to allow residents, business owners, deliveries, mail service and visitors alike access to and from Puna in a timely manner. The current 45 min trip to Hilo will soon become more than 2hrs each way if the road is left unpaved. Residents already limit trips to Hilo and other areas on our island because of the traffic and gas involved getting to and from. An unpaved road will make it almost impossible for many residents to make the drive. Potential visitors to our area will choose not to come and businesses will lose money and eventually have to close. Then there are the hundreds of residents in lower Puna who work in Keaau, Hilo and Kona who will have to decide whether the minimum wage job they are commuting to is worth the 4-5 hr. round trip commute. There is no doubt it is going to be a "rough road" for lower Puna when the lava crosses Hwy 130, but if COC is left unpaved THAT may very well be the demise of our small town. Please reconsider and provide a reliable, finished, road in and out of lower Puna. Mahalo

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 94

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Chain of craters road needs to be paved and available to Puna residents, having one way in and out is not enough. This should have been completed long ago, why do we need to wait for an emergency. Please open the road, at least to residents.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 95

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If the park superintendent has any problems with the very important issues of paved 2lane access, then please remove her from her position. Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 96

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I live in Volcano Village and would like to be able to use the Chain of Craters Road to access Uncle Robert's Wednesday Market in Kalapana and also be able to access and use the beautiful beaches in lower Puna. Will not be able to do this if access to local residents of this island outside of Puna is denied.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 97

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have lived in Volcano since the 1980s, and can remember a time when this road was a paved two-lane road open to the public.

In the event that the southern portion of Puna is otherwise cut off from all vehicle traffic due to the lava flow, I would like to see this road become open to anyone, without restriction. Puna will suffer severe economic hardship if tourists and non-emergency users are forbidden from using the road.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 98

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Ohia house bed and breakfast
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96779
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

When lava covers hwy 130. Railroad, & government chain of craters is
Our life line for deliveries and B&B guests not to mention
The numerous visitors who wat to see Pahoa.
Please let the road be paved don't strand us

Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 99

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: my family
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa , HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I'm writing to express my concern over Volcano National Park's impedance in the matter of the new Chain of Craters Rd./ Kalapana.

There are thousands of people that are about to be facing some very isolated times and stress, without a functioning and maintained ingress/egress, this side of the island will sure die. From vacation rentals to small business, the lower Puna are will wither away. I urge all in the decision making process to please consider our section of the island and access we need to survive in this area.

Thank you for reading thus far and I hope you take our plight to heart.

Aloha!

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 100

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
PAHOA, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: ezuger@earthlink.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

ALOHA, I AM A RESIDENT AND HOME OWNER OF 10 YEARS IN LEILANI ESTATES.
I AM A FULL-TIME WORKING REGISTERED NURSE.
I AM A GREAT SUPPORTER OF NATIONAL PARKS, AND PROUD TO BE LIVING CLOSE TO HAWAII VOLCANOS NATIONAL PARK.
I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROUTE FOR LOWER PUNA VIA CHAIN OF CRATERS ROAD.
CINDY ORLANDO MADE THE COMMENT THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE RESIDENTS OF LOWER PUNA TO HAVE THE ROAD OPEN TO ALL. I WONDER HOW THAT IS IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF CINDY ORLANDO TO DECIDE WHAT IS IN OUR BEST INTERESTS. I FELT PATRONIZED BY HER COMMENT, AS , SINCE WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY, WE THE PEOPLE OF LOWER PUNA SHOULD HAVE INPUT ON THIS DECISION.
WE ARE FACING A DISASTER THAT FOR MANY OF US, THREATENS TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE SPENT A LIFETIME BUILDING.
WE NEED TO HAVE A PAVED ROAD, OPEN TO ALL, SIMILAR TO THE HIGHWAY FROM KONA TO HILO THAT RUNS FOR MANY MILES THROUGH THE PARK. NONE OF US WANT TO DISRESPECT THE PARK IN ANY WAY, BUT IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THIS ROAD MAY BE THE LIFELINE FOR ALL OF US IN LOWER PUNA FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.
WE ARE CONCERNED FOR THE VIABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY, OUR LIVES, OUR SAFETY, AND OUR PROPERTY VALUES.
THIS HIGHWAY, THROUGH THE PARK, IS OUR HOPE TO MAINTAIN A SEMBLANCE OF NORMAL, PRODUCTIVE LIFE IN LOWER PUNA, SHOULD WE LOSE HIGHWAY 130.
I THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERATION OF MY COMMENTS.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 101

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
PAHOA, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
[REDACTED]

Correspondence Text

ALOHA, I AM A RESIDENT AND HOME OWNER OF 10 YEARS IN LEILANI ESTATES.
I AM A WORKING REGISTERED NURSE.
I AM A SUPPORTER OF NATIONAL PARKS, AND PROUD TO BE LIVING NEAR HAWAII VOLCANOS
NATIONAL PARK.
I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ACCESS ROAD FOR LOWER PUNA VIA
CHAIN OF CRATERS ROAD.
I WANT THE ROAD TO BE PAVED AND OPEN TO ALL.
IT IS NOT IN CINDY ORLANDOS JOB DESCRIPTION TO DECIDE WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF
THE PEOPLE OF LOWER PUNA.
MANY OF US ARE FACING THE LOSS OF WHAT WE HAVE SPENT OUR LIVES BUILDING.
THE ROAD IS OUR HOPE OF MAINTAINING A SEMBLANCE OF NORMAL PRODUCTIVE LIVES IN
LOWER PUNA.
THANK YOU.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 102

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014	Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

This road needs to be open so that we can visit friends/family/businesses.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 103

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Captain Cook, HI 96704
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

While I acknowledge the difficult, pending situation facing Lower Puna residents in the coming months/years, I am also deeply concerned about the well being of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Now that Chain of Craters road will become a commuter road as opposed to an evacuation route, there are so many potential damaging impacts to the park that MUST be addressed and mitigated before a single car is allowed to pass over this road. One obvious impact is the introduction and/or continuing spread of invasive species such as little fire ants, stinging caterpillars, and coqui frogs that will hitchhike on vehicles and end up in the park. Lower Puna is ground zero for invasive species on the Big Island. Vehicles laden with trash or green waste could prove permanently damaging if drivers do not take the necessary precautions in tying down their cargo. Illegal dumping could happen as well. Will there be regulations regarding the hauling of trash, hazardous and green waste? Will any and all types of vehicles be allowed to commute through the park? It appears so, based on the proclamation signed by the governor.

Another potential problem will be vehicles speeding through the lower areas of the park in the rush to complete the long and strenuous route. I have recently learned that Nene geese are now breeding off lower CofC Road. How will this new traffic and inevitable speeding affect the endangered Nene goose; our Hawaiian state bird? Vehicular breakdowns and abandoned vehicles will also happen, guaranteed. What is the cell phone coverage like down there? I'm guessing it's nill. How will someone be able to phone for help in the middle of the night if a clunker car breaks down in the hinterlands of CofC Road? What happens when you run out of gas on your 73-mile commute? The nearest gas station is KMC in the park. The park will need to add more staff to patrol this area. Where will the funds come for additional staff? I am in favor of having a guard shack down there so that vehicles with heavy cargo, waste or hazardous materials can be cleared before entering the park, and so that shenanigans like illegal fishing, camping, etc can be prevented.

I am also concerned about Namakanipaio campground as well. It could become a layover place for commuters who
Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

want to divide their drive in half. With the limited amount of campground space that exists now, this could be a problem in terms of occupancy for those residents and visitors who enjoy camping at Namakanipaio campground. I'm also opposed to the granting of free passes to anybody and everybody who lives and works or commutes to Lower Puna. With the NPS threatening to raise entrance fees across the board, it is not fair to those of us residents who have to pay to enter the park every time. There should be a time limit on these decals, and then they can buy a park pass like the rest of us. It's the least that Puna commuters can do to help mitigate the environmental impact that more cars, more traffic, etc will have on the park. It's no different than having to pay to drive a toll road. Sorry for sounding so harsh, but Puna citizens should contribute the well-being of the park if they are going to be using it as a commuter route. I cringe at the thought of commuters racing through the park to get to their destination, trash flying out of the back of pickup trucks, little fire ants and coquis hitchhiking on green waste that might fly out of the back of a truck. Speed limits must be strictly enforced.

I'm also dismayed that the county would spend up to \$15 million on a road that was inundated as recently as 2013 and is still hot. Who is the recipient of these funds? Who got the contract? Was it no-bid?

I am heartbroken for the residents of Puna who will potentially be cut off, but there are other factors to consider when it comes to this situation. The health and protection of Hawaii's most visited attraction is at stake. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is a precious cultural and environmental landmark. Let us be mindful of this fact as we face the difficult realities ahead. Let us stop and consider what is best for the park and not let our rush to create a commuter route offset the obvious mitigations that must take place to protect this important World Heritage Site.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 104

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

to whom it may concern,

After reading proposal of road at chain of creators emergency access I have a number of thoughts and concerns.

The number of residents using the road will most likely be much higher than proposed. Many people work in hilo and Kona and other areas and will probably be higher than 1500 to 2000. This number I believe to be unrealistic.

The road will most likely need to accommodate a much higher number.

Also there are many businesses that depend on access from the rest of the island in the form of tourism. The impact from tourists driving rental cars would be less of an impact because of the cleanliness of rentals. These rentals would be unlikely to carry ants and coqui frogs and there restriction should be relaxed.

The impact on monies brought to the Kalapana and Pahoa , Kehena etc, in the form of bed and breakfasts, restaurants, and other businesses that exist almost exclusively on tourism. This would basically put these places out of business. Impacting these areas financially to the point of a hardship that would be to the detriment of the island and the lives and survival of this side of the island.

This will basically end life for these individual businesses. This is a culturally rich area, and these are people's livelihoods that will be impacted to a point as bad or worse than the lava itself. This must be addressed.

The gravel road will not accommodate this traffic.

Also if you cannot park or walk on the road the safety of travelers without cell phone communication will instigate another hazard. Cars breakdown in unexpected places and people need to be able to walk or somehow get rides to safety.

A paved road seems the only option, also allowing people to walk on the road if there is an emergency is paramount

.

There are many concerns to people's lives and this road will mean life will be threatened to a point of being worse than the lava is imposing.

Please consider the rights of the people trying to simply live, buy food and support themselves. Whether it is going to

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PEPC ID: 55067

their jobs or running there businesses. It is bad enough to have to deal with this crisis without making it practically impossible to support ourselves financially.

Artists, restaurants bed and breakfast, people going and coming from work are not asking to much that their tax dollars be used to help them survive this dilemma.

We are people that live here and need to be protected the same as the animals and environment of the park.

Please respect us and consider these thoughts and needs of almost 12000 people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our needs and not make this a worse crisis than it already could be.

Yours, aloha

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 105

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/09/2014 Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I live close to the end of highway 130. In order to maintain our largest money maker on the island visitor friendly, South Puna residents should have identifying car stickers or ID's until the fallout from the destruction of Pahoa dies down. Only residents who own land, rent vacation rentals or other rentals, should be allowed though Volcanoes National Park. Permission for family and friends can be reported so the park knows who is on Federal land.

You/we don't need the drunks, drug addicts, criminals, and squatters while the region and it's inhabitants try to heal from the changes. Those who make money from drugs should be well aware that transporting on Federal land is not the same as transporting on state land. Suspicious vehicles should be pulled off the road and inspected inside and out. Speed limits need to be strictly enforced as some drivers will weave dangerously around traffic to get one car ahead. We don't need numerous accidents on a steep and narrow road.

It's a privilege not a right to be able to pass though Volcanoes National Park, and as such it should be respected. Those who cannot abide by the rules can find somewhere else to go. Tourist buses to the warm ponds, or lava viewing can be encouraged to bring tourist dollars into the region.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 106

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Instead of requiring nearly 9000 of us to have decals, why not have all paying Park visitors be given a pass to put on their dashboard or rearview mirror? On any given day, the majority of those going into and out of the Park are going to be Puna residents or others visiting and/or serving lower Puna. Tourists are used to stopping, paying, and putting something on their car to identify that they have paid. I have to do this myself when parking at any hotel in the state. There should be a free lane for everyone who is not visiting the Park so as not to impede traffic or penalize people for living in or visiting lower Puna.

Anyone using the free lane and then parking or hiking in the Park could be easily ticketed with a heavy fine if they do not display a Park pass. I have a Park pass basically at all times so someone like me could simply go through the visitor gates at those times when I wish to visit the Park (as I do now) and get the pass. Or perhaps I could get a mirror hanger that I put my pass into so that when I park it is clear I have paid. Again, the burden of proof should be on visitors and NOT on residents.

This is an emergency, and if the flows continues north of the East Rift Zone for decades this is going to be the only route for thousands of people for the foreseeable future. It would almost certainly be unconstitutional and struck down if we and our visitors are made to "show our papers" every time just to get into and out of our homes.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 107


Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank-you for rebuilding the Chain of Craters road in our national park.
Please complete it with asphalt blacktop!
Aloha,


PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 108

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Solar Sound Services
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I am wondering why you do not make 2 lanes for traffic. Start a second lane today. This was done in such rush, it just makes sense. And eventually, you will pave both of these roads. It is not as though no one will use them. The original road is likely right below the Chain of Craters route.

Mahalo for taking this on.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 109

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I like the idea of stickers for residents so we don't have to stop and check in at gate. I have great concern if our guests must pay or be banned from using chain of craters road. (residents only) Our life is going to continue here and we don't want to live in a police like state. I also am concerned that the quality of the road will be hard to maintain if it is not paved. I am handicapped and don't look forward to riding on a bumpy road, for that could be very difficult physically for me.

mahalo,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 110

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to comment about the massive amount of emergency funds being spent on the rebuilding of Chain of Craters Road to serve as a commuter route for displaced residents of Lower Puna. First of all, the millions being spent on this endeavor could go up in smoke tomorrow, as this road has been inundated by lava as recently as 2013. Furthermore, it is still hot underneath the road, as shown in current thermal satellite images. Before spending any more money on this road, the County of Hawaii should evaluate if funding could be better utilized to provide an alternate access over the actual June 27 lava flow itself should it cross HWY 130. One idea would be to construct a "boardwalk" for hiking across the flow to a community parking lot in Pahoa, where people can leave their vehicles or take a shuttle bus. It seems much more practical to hike across a cool flow to get to your vehicle or shuttle (or drive across a bridge), than it would be to make the arduous 70-plus-mile journey through Hawaii Volcanoes National Park one way, speeding the entire way in all likelihood and potentially scattering hitchhiking invasive species throughout the park.

Also, I am dismayed by some of the comments I've read on social media that demonize Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando for her mission to protect the park and its environs. It's as though the County and the mayor are running roughshod over the park itself, as if park's existence and preservation are secondary considerations. In everything I've read thus far, the park has very real concerns which should be acknowledged and appreciated, not dismissed and scoffed at. Should Chain of Craters Road become a commuter route, the park's fiscal and personnel resources, it seems to me, will be overextended in order to patrol the evacuation zone for such potential problems as speeding, abandoned vehicles, invasive species, unsecured cargo, increased traffic, bottleneck traffic at the entrance, hazardous materials, illegal activities, vehicle breakdowns, entrance pass eligibility, etc. This is not the purpose of a national park. The purpose is to protect and preserve for the enjoyment of all.

Also, the notion that the park should allow anybody and everybody free access to get to Puna is absurd. Puna

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PEPC ID: 55067

commuters should pay for an annual pass after the current emergency has subsided. This will help offset the negative impacts to the park should the road become a highly utilized commuter route.

I understand the Puna needs a way out, but Chain of Craters Road as a commuter alternative will turn out to be a worse-case scenario for most people in terms of gas, mileage, wear-and-tear and the extra hours spent on the commute. It would be better and more fiscally responsible for the County to concentrate its next phase of efforts on finding solutions closer to Pahoa, such as building a bridge or boardwalk over the June 27 flow itself.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 111

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Minneapolis, MN 55416
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Use of the emergency access route needs to be opened to a use wider than simply residents. I am a property owner on Kipuka St in lower Puna. I am in the planning process of building a home and must be able to have access to my property. A decal system is not workable as I do not own a car on the island.

Limiting access to residents only will also negatively impact institutions such as Kalani Oceanside Resort which serve important cultural, education, and tourism purposes. Rental property owners would also negatively be impacted.

Limiting use of the road will have a significant economic impact on the residents and property owners of lower Puna.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 112

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96718
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The amount of traffic that will be coming through the park and onto route 11 seems to be excessive. I am concerned about the traffic jam that will happen at Thurston Lava Tube. On a good day, it is an extremely busy area, with cars, busses, and walkers. Add people trying to make the 2 1/2 hour trip from lower Puna to Hilo to this area and I see a disaster waiting to happen. What is the Park Service planning to ensure the safety of all concerned in this area?

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 113

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Nobody wants to do this intentionally. This is only for emergency use if all other ways out of lower Puna are closed. But having a rough narrow road, is not really much help. We need a solid, paved road base at least. And really, wider than 22 feet would be nice too. We do need this done soon, as no one knows what Tūtū Pele is going to do. All I've been hearing is that the National Park is holding this all up. Again ! no one wants to do this - we have to. I have no place to buy food, and other necessary items. If the 130 and any emergency road is blocked by lava, I am trapped and the Chain on Craters Road, even though as a last resort is our only route to help and necessary supplies. That will put us able to shop in Kurtis Town and still have a long drive to Hilo.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 114

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Vaughn, WA 98394
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I vacation in Kalapana Seaview Estates and would like for you to build the road linking to Chain of Craters so that I and others like me can get to and from Hilo. Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 115

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Hale Moana Bed & Breakfast
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

[REDACTED] am the owner of Hale Moana Bed & Breakfast, located in Leilani Estates in Puna, Hawaii, about 7 miles from Pahoa and the current lava flow.

Lower Puna will be an enclave once the lava crosses Hwy 130 and subsequently the alternate routes along Railroad Avenue and Government Beach Road on its way to the ocean. The area's only access in and out will be along the Chain-of-Crater Road. Thousands of households will rely on this road every day: traffic will include daily commuting, supplies in and out, medical and other emergencies, visitors, residents, families, friends,...

It has to be our common goal to keep this area as vibrant and self sustaining as possible. This is only possible under the following access conditions for the only access road in and out of this area:

1. Two lanes
2. Paved roads
3. Unrestricted access to all who want to come in and out of this area

Without these conditions being met, the area south of the flow will die. Merchants, Bed & Breakfasts, vacation rentals, restaurants, banks, stores, gas stations, service providers, all businesses, and residents need unrestricted access to be able to survive. Without visitors businesses are condemned to shut down. It should be in everybody's interest to keep the economy going and that should be our highest goal together with safety and security.

Everything short of it will cause a huge up-roar in the community and the community will not accept it. We feel

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strongly about this and will fight for our rights.

Please, contact me, if you have any questions,



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 116

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The road s/b open to whoever wants to use it. Controlling the use of the highway will be very difficult. Not sure that this road will be a viable solution as there are a lot of vehicles in puna that will never be able to climb that road.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 117

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/10/2014 Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Decals & no fee for Lower Puna residents & business transport. Kama'aina discount passes for other Big Island residents.

A system to identify and admit family, guests and customers of vacation rentals (short term residents) maybe matched with a resident's decal number upon request. A phone number we can reliably call to get guests admitted or an online registry process?

The way will be grueling, even for the best vehicles! Maybe rest stops, pull outs or an on call emergency service based in the Park!

Find some kind of less toxic pavement that will not burn like tar if it heats up out in Kalapana again! Cement?

Solar emergency phones and water available in case of overheating up CoC Rd.

Maybe the stretch of road thru to Kalapana should have a gate like the top entrance?

Shuttle bus round trip from Uncle Robert's up to Volcano Village, or a new HeleOn route.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 118

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Naalehu, HI 96772
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

i was always taught that if you are going to do something do it right the first time. This plan of using "gravel" is lame and cruel. The people in Puna are stressed enough. It is unfair to subject the working residents to those road conditions on an almost daily basis. Pave the blasted road and let people use it. This old tune about money, county land, federal land is so very old. Fix the road correctly for the benefit of the people.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 119

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Los Angeles, CA 90065
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I live in both California and in Seaview Kalapana, HI. I am concerned that when I come to stay at my property in HI, that I wouldn't be able to use the COC road, or have access to my property. Furthermore, tourism, vacation rentals are a huge part of business, employment and revenue for the state. Please make it easy and accessible for, residents, owners and visitors.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 120

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Resident
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to your report,

I will try to be succinct ...

First, I believe there will be more than 1000 to 2000 people using the road.

Also, not paving the gravel stretch is problematic if the road is used for years. Emergencies and delays from grading etc become life threatening concerns.

Financial issues, people going to work, bed and breakfasts, restaurants that depend on tourism etc. will cause loss of a large monies base , we are tax payers, and want to not be cut off from income to support our families.

Also, tourists won't cause the invasive concerns because they would be driving clean rental cars.

Other issues, walking on the road, if a car breaks down. No cell reception, can be life threatening issues.

We need public meetings and open discussions on these and other issues that concern the residents impacted.

We are tax payerswe need to be able to run our businesses and go to work, and expect to protect our children and family in cases of emergencies.

Please put yourself in our position and let our concerns be heard.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 121

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Resident
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes: This is a duplicate comment to #120.

Correspondence Text

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to your report,

I will try to be succinct ...

First, I believe there will be more than 1000 to 2000 people using the road.

Also, not paving the gravel stretch is problematic if the road is used for years. Emergencies and delays from grading etc become life threatening concerns.

Financial issues, people going to work, bed and breakfasts, restaurants that depend on tourism etc. will cause loss of a large monies base , we are tax payers, and want to not be cut off from income to support our families.

Also, tourists won't cause the invasive concerns because they would be driving clean rental cars.

Other issues, walking on the road, if a car breaks down. No cell reception, can be life threatening issues.

We need public meetings and open discussions on these and other issues that concern the residents impacted.

We are tax payerswe need to be able to run our businesses and go to work, and expect to protect our children and family in cases of emergencies.

Please put yourself in our position and let our concerns be heard.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 122

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Comments for
CHAIN OF CRATERS RD
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The following are my opinions regarding use by lower Puna residents and all other Puna traffic:

1. Of the two entrance gates at the Volcano side main park entrance one should be reserved for lower Puna traffic only and should be a slow but open flow with no attendant and no stopping. The other gate can be manned and service typical Park traffic. Specific signage to advise.
2. The current park policy of leaving the gates open and unmanned during the night could be officially noted and Puna traffic encouraged to use the road during those hours (possibly expanding the unmanned hours) for a freer flow.
3. No stopping of traffic at the Kalapana side park entrance.
4. No restriction of use to residents, open public use.
5. Puna traffic should not allowed to stop in park to use park facilities unless in possession of a valid park pass, displayed on dashboard. Ticketing of violators parked cars without a park pass. Signage advising us all of these concerns.
6. A wash station for lower Puna traffic entering park on Kalapana side could be made available right at the county water spigot where 137 meets 130 in Kalapana. This might help with the invasive species. It could be an optional free carwash that we are encouraged but not required to use.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 123

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Garland Engineering
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I want to hike it! I would like to hike it now so that I could watch them build it. As an engineer I'm interested in how they're doing it.

But they kicked me out...!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 124

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Nicoco
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I am writing to ask that the park open the road for all that come through. Lower puna is suffering right now and struggling. We have all made sacrifices during these trying times to help eachother and the greater good of this community . I am hoping the park will respect the community in which it resides as much as the rest of us. As you well know we have a 40% wrking class here that relays on tourism in this area another 40 that travels back and forth to hilo. And 20 retired/self/in employed. That means that 80% o our residence and 100% o the working residence need your assitence and easy access in and out of lower puna. Many here rely on the tourism and I know that the park does as well. We all envision a park that tourists can come visit and drive through entering in volcano and leaving in Puna. I know the tourists would prefer the route and have a beautiful destination to end up in. Tourism is your and our life blood and having a little village at the end of your road will help you as much as us. It is hard already getting people down here now I hope the park understands that if we work together this can be a great time for both the citizens of this community and the national park. Please do not restrict access. Please do not raise fairs. And please be mindful of the many lives at stake when making a decision . Sometimes choosing empathy over profit in the long runs pays off much better. For if it wasn't for pele the park would not exist and look at how that tragedy turned to triumph. Please do the right thing.

Mahalo,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314
Correspondence: 125

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, Hawaii, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

NPS has the ultimate power to turn Pahoa into a ghost town or a boom town ! Please allow visitors in to help our little town thrive !

Cordial regards,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 126

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Lower Puna and one who may be having to travel Chain of Craters Road to get the basic necessities- doctor appointments, dentist appointments, shopping at Wal-Mart/Target/Safeway or going to a movie or theatrical production, I think you should pave the Chain Of Craters road to give us who live here, and the tourists and visitors who want to spend their money and keep Pahoa alive and thriving. It's a tough time for all of us here, but if done right, we will survive but we need a decent road in and out and promote Pahoa like Hana, Maui does.

I don't understand why you are against paving the road and making it a decent highway in and out of the park and Pahoa. You can still collect your fees from visitors and let us in without trouble. There are no invasive species here that is not in the park.

Thank you for your consideration in helping us in Lower Puna

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 127

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96718
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/11/2014 Date Received: 11/11/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear HVNP,
I think it's entirely appropriate that Volcano area residents be able to use the Chain of Craters Road to access the Kalapana area. Myself, I have business and obligations in Puna on Sundays and would use the road perhaps once a week. I hope you allow for modest use of this road for Volcano residents, not by strict or limited invitation only.
Thank you. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 128

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Tustin, CA 92780
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/12/2014 Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Whom It May Concern,
I am a frequent visitor to the Big Island. I have friends on the Big Island, and I consider myself a friend of the Big Island.

Each time I visit, I drive down to the Volcano Park area. I enjoy the serenity of that drive, as it seems I can drive for miles without seeing one car. I am concerned about the proposal of opening the park road up for emergency traffic. Of course, it makes sense, when there is an emergency on the Big Island every clear road should be an access for safety. My concern is that the amazing park that has been so long preserved and protected will become a commuter trek for anyone and everyone. It would seem that would be very difficult (if not impossible) to enforce.

I know that there will be great discernment and consideration when deciding upon a matter of this magnitude. I ask that you consider the historic reference that could become traveled by people without the same respect for this unique and natural protected area.

Please make the best choice for the Island.

[REDACTED]
Frequent Visitor

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 129

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/12/2014 Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I feel that all residents need access to both sides of the lava flow if/when the lava cuts Rt. 130 in Pahoa and that the chain of craters road will help to provide that important link. While I understand that it is being constructed as an emergency escape route at present , I feel it needs to eventually become a regular road free and open to all that need it in order to keep our town alive.

I am not opposed to some initial tag or pass to limit traffic in the early stages , but I urge you to make the road fully usable by anyone who would normally travel Rt. 130 as soon as possible.

Mahalo

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 130

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/12/2014 Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Regarding the intersection of Chain of Craters with Crater Rim Drive an alternative flow could be temporarily established. Traffic approaching chain of craters from the Volcano park entrance direction could be given the right of way to go left onto C of C without stopping. Traffic approaching C of C after going the long way around Crater Rim could be stopped by a temporary 'stop' sign at that intersection.

A temporary free 24/7 carwash station at the lower Puna side near the existing water spigot if offered to area residents would probably be widely used. If invasive species are truly a concern, perhaps the NPS can put its money where its mouth is without restricting access?

Traffic should not be restricted to residents or any other group, but should be open to the public.

Chain of Craters should be a two lane paved road not necessarily up to Federal standards as it will be a temporary road for foreseeable future (per Pele).

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 131

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Self, Kapoho Beach Community Association
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/12/2014 Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for accepting comments.

Please consider that access to lower lower Puna (Kalapana, Opihikao, Pohoiki, Kapoho, WaaWaa, Leilani Estates, Kehena, and Pahoa town, needs to be available to anyone who wants it, and at all hours of night/day. It is obviously a longer trip from these subdivisions, residential areas, and the commercial hub of Pahoa to South Hilo and most of the rest of the island. However, it is necessary for all residents, visitors, and businesses.

The National Park will gain some revenue this way, as the visitors may or may not have an annual pass already. Many residents do not have annual passes.

Please also consider paving this access route from the beginning. To pave a two-lane road, already in use, would be unnecessarily difficult. We have the chance to re-build the road now, and to anticipate the lifeline that it may become.

Aloha, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 132

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kalapana, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/14/2014 Date Received: 11/14/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I would like to reiterate Mr. Philip Maise's comment by adding that the titles on our properties are now changed (damaged) due to legal access issues. The financial fallout from this alone is crippling. Besides the affect on real estate, scores of business are in jeopardy. A paved two lane road is the very least HVNP/County and State of Hawaii can provide in the way of accommodation. Failure to act invites a host of legal issues that residents will have no choice but to pursue.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 133

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/17/2014 Date Received: 11/17/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for allowing a two lane route to be constructed in the first place. By being proactive with communities in lower Puna that are in need of a much needed route is very commendable and appreciated. Once this route is opened for access needs of our communities I strongly believe that with continued proactive measures of local and government leaders the general public, National Park and lower Puna will benefit with very little environmental impact. This is already the case of co-existence between the community of Volcano, the National Park and the South side Island communities and businesses of Hawaii.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 134

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/18/2014 Date Received: 11/18/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I live north of the current lava flow (Keaau). I have a doctor in lower Puna. Will I be allowed to come down the Chain of Craters road to see my doctor?

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 135

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: hrainerk@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/18/2014 Date Received: 11/18/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent.

All lower Puna residents need the road to avoid being cut off and a 5 miles gravel road with a 15 miles per hour sign is not a great thing to have but better than nothing.

Absolutely nothing should be nailed down right in terms of who can use the road because more research is needed. Whatever needs to be decided right now should be subject to any (short term) change.

All options should be discussed with the people in lower Puna.
As much as we need a paved access road we also need all the tourists here to come and not only vacation rental guests.

We need a lot more information how decisions will impact the road too.

Would the park like to be open only to locals vacation rental visitors only?
The Park will not do well without the tourists and so do lower Puna residents.

Every business will suffer (some to closure) with the loss of the already yearly numbers of visitors declining.

Mālama aina and include the local people living here...

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 136

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/18/2014 Date Received: 11/18/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

November 18, 2014

Dear NPS:

Thank you for agreeing to a 2 lane road through the Volcano National Park, but this road should be as it was in the past, a paved road. I have owned a vacation rental home in the Kapoho area since 2010 and presently have 4 rental properties, all of which have suffered a 70% drop in revenue, due to the bad press we have been receiving in Lower Puna/Pahoa. For the NPS to state on their websites that only locals will have access to Lower Puna/Pahoa is very damaging to the East Hawaii tourism industry. There would be in excess of 300 vacation rental units/farmstay units in lower puna. On VRBO alone there are 285 listings, not counting numerous eco/farm stays on AirBnb etc. Only Kona has extensive hotels and resorts, this is why vacations rentals are normally in such high demand in East Hawaii and to reduce lodging in the area would have a negative impact for everyone associated, including the NPS. We need positive press for Pahoa/Puna. Please consider that likely more than 10,000 people (large numbers of rural people are not being counted due to living on a property without a permitted permanent house) living in lower Puna simply cannot sell their homes/properties to afford to move to another area and must do their best to survive in what was already a depressed economy. We need tourism and the ability to do business in our area and not be restricted. Only today I called the Big Island Visitors Bureau and Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau and their call centers both told me the same exact thing, only residents could enter Pahoa, you could drive HWY 130 around Pahoa but could not enter Pahoa. This is a completely false statement being propagated for months by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and which has never been true since the June 27 lava flow commenced and is to the detriment of East Hawaii tourism.

Please consider that the NPS depends upon tourism as does at least 24% of Hawaii. The Chain of Craters road should be open to the public, not just for local and commercial services use. If the road is not open to the public, many businesses will slowly die in the Puna area. How are restaurants and other service industries expected to survive if more than 50% of their public clientele is shut out.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

My suggestions:

1. The road should be 2 lane paved road with no speed bumps and open to the entire public. If you must limit the public entrance here could be public entry days 4 days a week. The other 3 days could then be better utilized by locals to make their shopping trips to Hilo and of course open to holiday rental guests and commercial service vehicles. To stop or limit public entrance to lower Puna you would be required to construct and man another entrance station near the newly constructed road which would be another truly unneeded expense and another impediment to local traffic and trip driving time.
2. There should be at least 2 stations to enter the NPS and one should be an automated park entry system that electronically reads the park passes for lower puna residents, commercial service vehicles, visitors with pre-paid accommodation bookings in lower puna, tour buses etc. This would ease the congestion and actually cut back on staffing costs. I suggest you offer a 3 day pass at Reduced and Affordable Family Rates, for those visitors staying in Lower Puna/Pahoa who will be entering and exiting the Puna area via Chain of Craters Rd, which means they would be covered by a paid pass when both entering and exiting the park and actually increase park revenues. Resident Cars should not be stopped for routine inspection for fire ants, coqui frogs, insurance and registration verification, etc. 90% of my vacation rental guests pay to see the National Park on their visit here and have been driving from Puna to the park for years and the park has thus far not been overrun by fire ants and coqui frogs from these visitors cars, so they are very unlikely to become a major threat from future cars transporting them into the park or the park would already be experiencing heavy infestations of fire ants and coqui frogs.
3. Open the road when it is completed, let the busy bodies check it out before the road it is really required as the only road in and out and would thus cut down on the initial rush to drive the new road. Why spend Millions of taxpayers dollars on a road that no one is initially allowed to use?
4. The Park is not likely to attract more visitors due to the reopening of Chain of Craters Rd and there will likely be no more visitors to the actual park attractions, as residents will not be stopping in the park except for a possible restroom break, via their very long trip to Hilo. There could be a need for more restrooms in the park, placed at more isolated spots in the park. The Park experience may change slightly due to increased traffic but so will life for all those living in this area. Day Tourist cars could be banned from the park and NPS vans or mini buses could do hop on/hop off stops throughout the park, creating a much more pleasant park experience.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 137

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014	Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Chain of craters road should be paved and open to all. And it should be open regardless of any other roads being open or closed. It will bring the latest lava flow out to be seen by all visitors

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 138

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

We live in Kapoho and own 2 vacation rental homes here. This represents our life savings, as well as considerable debt. Kapoho is a beautiful, idyllic area with fantastic snorkeling, and is very popular with vacationers who know about it. We depend on these vacationers to help pay our mortgages and help us earn a little money. In addition, we pay property, General Excise, and Transient Accommodations taxes to the State of Hawaii (in excess of \$20,000 in 2013) from these properties.

It is essential to us that these vacation renters, as well as any guests or service people, have the ability to get here within a reasonable period of time, on a road that rental car companies will allow their cars on.

Many people live in this area and require supplies and services. This is not a wealthy area. We need these things to be affordable. This means that their access to our area must be affordable to them as well.

We also need to go to Hilo regularly, to jobs, stores, services, supplies, courts, etc., that are not in our community.

For all these reasons, we need a road that can accommodate a large amount of traffic going both ways. It needs to be a good road that meets rental car requirements, paved and sufficiently wide to permit maximum speed travel. It should be separate from the Park system's roads. We should not be slowed down by having to wait in line to receive permission to go through.

I realize this is a lot to ask, considering the terrain, distance, and the fact that it is Park Service land. But Puna is a viable community, and needs to stay viable and be able to thrive. We all hope and pray that our current road system

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

will remain intact and continue to improve. But if it doesn't, we will need our alternative route to be a good one, allowing access to Puna in the shortest amount of time possible, and open to all who need, or maybe just want, to use it.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 139

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano , HI 96785
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014	Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Opening this road to all residents, tourists, and paving it would be a boon economically to the big island.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 140

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Due to this recent lava flow that threatened the lower Puna area. It has really opened alot of eyes as to the validity of how much infrustructure is needed in lower Puna. Chain of craters road was initially developed to bring access to and from lower Puna and should be again. It needs to be paved once again and I do think that it will create revenue to the Park system. A gravel road will in the long run require more upkeep and expenses then to have it paved. Stickers for residence and guest who have rented vacation homes should be allowed to pass and tourist and non residence can pay the park fee. Or simply charge residence a \$25 year annual fee and non residence the day or or week guest pass but I think the fee is only warranted if it is a paved road. Aloha for the consideration and time.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 141

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I agree that Puna needs an access road in the event that the region is cut off by the lava flow. But I worry about the impact this will have on Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. What will the visitor experience be like when there are perhaps dozens and dozens of cars bottlenecked at the park entrance all day long? What about the inevitable speeding that will take place when commuters are racing through the park to get to their destination? What kinds of extra funds and staffing will be needed for the park to deal with the influx? If the national park becomes a major commuter thoroughfare, the negative impacts are varied and many. I believe that the people of Puna can contribute to the park's burden by paying for a yearly park pass, which isn't too much to ask.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 142

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Re: Chain of Craters Road from Kalapana HI to Volcano National Park.
Due to the need to be prepared for emergency use this road should be paved, two lane, two direction, provide occasional pull outs for safety reasons.
Residents who may need to use this roadway ought not to bear any charge for its use. Our tax dollars paid for it already. Maintenance should be split between the county of Hawaii for it's section of the road way and the Nat. Park Service for the portion on Park land.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 143

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I won't go into detail but join the many other people advocating for a paved road (not just an emergency trail) between Kalapana and VNP with free access to all that live on the Big Island. An unpaved road with no shoulders will not work with needed commercial deliveries and no way to get around stalled vehicles or wrecks. You will cause the slow death of a large community otherwise.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 144

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Honolulu, HI 96728
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha all!

My opinion might be just a drop in the bucket, but I think you should seriously consider opening the "new" Chain of Craters - Kalapana stretch of road to the general public.

This road should be paved and open to the public even if the other two emergency access roads are still available. For one thing, for people driving from the Ka'u or Kona side, it would be shorter and more convenient than having to go to Kea'au and then down to find the two 'new emergency access roads'(if they ever open them to the public)

To state a few facts:

*the covered section of Chain of Craters road was open to the public at one time, so it's not as if this is a novel idea, and if lava had not covered a section of it, it would still be open today.

*I understand the needs of the park charging admission, so an entrance toll gate can be built on the 'new entrance' side but build it away from the threat of another Pu'u O'o eruption going south - maybe just before the hairpin curves.

At the junction of Chain of Craters Road and existing Park Entrance, the visitors could then turn left to go on into the Visitor Center area of the park to continue their visit and the locals using the road as a through-way can take a right towards the exit to Hwy 11.

*At the new toll gate booth, legal Puna residents would just need to display their Park Entrance Permit decals on the windshield and all others, island residents who live in other areas of the island and visitors alike, would need to pay the entrance fee.

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

*I hear there is concern about introducing invasive species into the park by letting the general public use the road...I can't see the problem since there is already an entrance - from Highway 11 - into the park where anyone can go through.

*Most of us who live on the island have relatives and friends who live south of Pahoa; it would be a convenient way to visit them or visit recreational facilities in that area without having to go through a lot of hassle to go through the park.

Please, don't make this more complicated than it needs to be.

Much aloha!

[REDACTED]

(20 plus year resident)

Honomu, HI

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 145

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My comment is.... How can you say that tourists and non residents won't be allowed to go to go to Pahoa, warm ponds etc? By cutting off access to everyone that doesn't live there, you are making lower Puna all private property. As a tax paying land owner, you can't do that. As an American, regardless if I live Volcano, Honolulu or Los Angeles, there is nowhere in our great country I'm not allowed to go that's not private property. Either condemn all of lower Puna and pay people for their land or open it up so those people can make money from the tourist. I'm not opposed to the decal so the parks can get paid by tourists and visitors, but the tourist MUST be allowed to visit the other side and residents need to have the right to build "end of the road" restaurants, shops etc....

I really hope that money, power and politics don't get in the way of doing what's right for everyone!!!!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 146

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Volcano, HI 96785
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

The park belongs to us all and if there is ever a question about restriction of access, the answer is always Do NOT restrict.

The majority of visitors to the park who are non-residents who will use the emergency access will be those who drive to the bottom of chain of craters, and then on. Of those, perhaps two thirds will opt to continue on to Hilo for dinner, or perhaps stop in the fabled Pahoehoe. Any - any at all - who return back up Chain of Craters would have done so anyway. So to restrict access does nothing but punish visitors.

Mahalo, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314
Correspondence: 147

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: seaview
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

i am a older woman. I live alone. I have an old car. Help me get to town. To the doctor. Help me remain independent. A good road is necessary for a quality of life. [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 148

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha and many thanks for the work done so far to the Chain of Craters road. Please please please continue and make it a viable roadway capable for traffic to and fro the puna/Pahoa district. Now more than ever, no matter that current flo has paused, it has been shown that we need another route to keep us connected to the rest of the island. As a senior citizen it is so important for me to know I have more than one road keeping me connected to food source, gas and propane and good medical care as well as tourist traffic which many of us need to survive here. Many mahalos

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 149

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am born and raised here on the Big Island of Hawai'i. From infancy my parents brought all my siblings and I to visit "Tutu Pele", especially whenever there was an eruption that could be viewed even if I was a baby and did not understand why I was there, my parents made it a point to visit. Now that I am an adult I visit when I can with my ohana(family)and bring a "makana" (gift) for Tutu Pele. We pay the entrance fee just because we have to. I feel strongly that we, the people of Hawai'i have every right to visit our special places without being taxed for ridiculous entry fees,kept out or monitored especially if we pay the fees. I understand that there should be some kind of control especially if there is a danger concern but also feel strongly that we, the Kama'aina Nui should be given access to these special and sacred places so we can give our respect. I also go to these places to pule (pray) and get solitude, gather my thoughts and find peace. Like I said, I have been brought there (Volcano)as an infant, I still live here on this beautiful Island of Hawai'i, I still visit Tutu Pele and other sacred and special places. But those special places are slowly being either taken away, destroyed, limited or bought out. Really tired of seeing all these gates! I will still visit, still pay, and do what I have to do to visit these places but please stop making it all about control! Please give us locals access and please open up the Chain of Crater Road. There are so many memories being with my father (who is no longer here with us) traveling down that road and now I would like to do the same with my ohana, my keiki. It's disappointing enough to travel all that way just to come across a closed gate or I should say GATES. I always love and enjoy seeing the indigenous plants being Ohelo Berries, trees like the majestic Koa trees and Ohia, Nene, listening to the birds, these precious things that thrive only there, so much to appreciate! We are truly blessed! Mahalo for giving me a chance to share my mana'o. ALOHA!

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 150

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing about the Chain of Craters Road through the Volcano National Park. I live in Nanawale, about 10 minutes from Pahoa town.
I can't see how a gravel road will last long, with traffic and heavy rain.
If that becomes the only way out, it will need to be paved.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 151

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,
Please pave the Highway 130/Chain of Craters Road so it will be open to all island residents and visitors. The road was paved before. Maintaining an unpaved road, especially where there's 70-110 inches of rain/per year, can be expensive. (Source: <http://rainfall.geography.hawaii.edu/interactivemap.html>)

As a resident of this island, I want to be able to visit the area easily.

Mahalo in advance,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 152

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please pave the chain of craters rd.. I would need to travel that road 3 times a week if hwy 130 is cutoff. It would make the trip faster and less stressful for everyone. Thank you, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 153

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please allow all traffic to pass on the chain of craters road. Collect a once a year fee for passing for locals.
Please investigate the potential of an elevated roadway and or tunnels to mitigate any future flows from disruption of service.
Toll fee would be an acceptable if that was done but with a waiver for poor folks.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 154

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Essential for safe and prosperous lives. Let's pave and open chain of craters!
Not too much cost to create and maintain land values and create a interesting model community.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 155

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My wife and I both would like to see the new chain of craters road "paved" and open to the public like it was before the lava crossed the road. Have a parks station there to collect an entry fee. If and when lava crosses highway 130 and Railroad...then and only then should access to the park on chain of craters road be limited in some way that allows trapped residents an exit and entrance yet still allows visitors entrance.

Thank You

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 156

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Oregon City, OR 97045
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

While i am not a resident I have a plan in place and am actively looking at a real estate purchase in the next year, so I feel I have a relevant interest.

If it is with in the scope of the work, I for one would be encouraged to purchase real estate if i saw that Highway 130/Chain of Craters Road will be open to all residents AND visitors and that it be paved.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 157

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94110
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear National Park Service,

It is very important to me and my partner, [REDACTED] that the Chain of Craters road is open to all residents and visitors without blocking the rights to any US citizen who wishes to enter the lower Puna district. As homeowners in Hawaiian Beaches, we recently moved to California and still own our home which we visit quite often. While we have California identification, I do not want to have to wade through checkpoints where my intentions are questioned when visiting what we refer to as our "home" in Hawaiian Beaches. We are active homeowners, pay taxes in Hawaii, and are still very active in our neighborhood. We do not want to feel as if we are unwelcome where we live. The access of Chain of Craters needs to be made smooth, paved, and open to all persons who wish to use it. Please do not restrict access, either through checking identification, or keeping it as a cinder road, only to "slow down" and discourage passage. It's most unfortunate that the Chain of Craters road has to be opened, but it is Puna's last effort to remain a viable town, neighborhood, and destination! Keep it open, Pave the road, Remember we're all in it together! Thanks [REDACTED].

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 158

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello,

Mahalo, for taking the time to read my comments.

I really just want to encourage the Chain of Craters road, opening up to locals and visitors, and being paved.

I have lived on Island now for 4 years and the natural beauty, raw and un developed is what drew me. I often have guests, with my latest having just left. a photographer from Italy. He went on to Maui, and said, the natural beauty on the Big Island, is unsurpassed. Opening this road, will give the adventuresome type, that come to this island a better taste of what they are looking for, and give locals , like me, better access to my area, particularly if the lava crosses 130.

I know it is a large expense, but I feel we need to invest in our future, and what better way, than showing off the raw side of our Island, and the Chain of Craters road , would do just that.

Mahalo again [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 159

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/19/2014 Date Received: 11/19/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please consider the many thousand of us in Puna with need to work in Hilo and other areas to maintain our investments and homes. We need a decent, paved road for access to our community, homes and businesses. As a resident, I will be respectful of Volcano National Park, and am glad to live near such a wonderful resource. Together, we can manage residential need and tourism. Mahalo for your consideration!

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 160

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This road needs to be open to the public.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 161

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: civilian
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:


Correspondence Text

Please make Highway 130, Chain of Craters road accessible to the general public and not just "residents" of Puna.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 162

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Holtwood, PA 17532
USA
E-mail: 

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please open the road to ALL and PAVE it! It will be good for the park and good for the island of Hawaii, especially the Puna district.

I am unclear as to why it should not be restored to how it was before the lava closed it years ago. Put a ranger station there and collect the entrance fee. Simple as that.

I know for a fact that we would visit the park MUCH more often if the road were open and paved.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 163

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Chain of Craters Road needs to be made open to all residents and visitors. If passes are issued to just commuters others will suffer. If ID must be shown and roadblocks set up to check ID massive delays will occur making an already lengthy trip even longer. Chain of Craters road also needs to be paved for better and faster access. This road may become our ONLY road in and out of Puna and it must be improved and upgraded to handle the maximum amount of traffic in the most efficient way.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 164

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Keaau, HI 96749
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

After reading through the document, overall I found the issues valid and the concerns raised appropriate for the conservation role of the National Park Service.

The system for allowing local-only use of the CoC emergency access road is not well defined and is probably the most contentious issue for the lower Puna Community.

With a local-only policy, there are State and County Parks that would not be accessible to Hawaii residents and visitors should CoC be the only access route. How are these interests balanced against the NPS concerns?

Businesses appear to be the most at-risk by the arrangement due to the lack of public access. A temporary guest pass system may work for family visitors and businesses with few, less frequent and preplanned visitors (rentals, tours, etc) but this would not be feasible for the restaurants, markets, and other operations that depend on numerous guests without prearranged visits.

Are there methods that can help alleviate these impacts? A tally system for outside visitors? A toll for non-local traffic? Passes that can be validated by local businesses in lower Puna for a reduced cost? Other options?

Without a reasonable system of balancing the NPS concerns with the negative impacts for the lower Puna Community, a demand for free unlimited access seems probable and justified.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 165

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Do NOT pave Chain of Craters road, or at least provide a cost comparison of paving vs. maintaining gravel. It seems implausible for it to cost more than \$200,000 to maintain the road over the next couple of years. Paving would cost how many millions? Would love to know the likelihood of lava coming down the pali and covering the road in the next 5 years. Actually it seems like it the chance is pretty low as the lava has piled up around the south side of Puuoo for the last 20 some odd years. Maybe it will flow north for 20 years??

At any rate, I just don't think it's a good idea for people to rely on this road for daily travel between Puna and Hilo. This should be considered primarily an evacuation route, and possibly a once a week road. Who could even afford the trip more than twice a month? That would cost the average person \$25.. and a van or pickup driver about \$50 bucks.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 166

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Pahoa Properties LLC
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a current resident on Pohoiki Rd and past resident of Royal Gardens I would like to comment on the Chain of Craters Rd. I do support the decals as a way to streamline ingress and egress through the National Park. I appreciate that it will in deed impact the park system. I also think the upcoming rate increases for the National Park system are reasonable.

As someone who used to drive this road to get access to Hilo when we were cut off previously, I have to say that in order for PUBLIC SAFETY that the road needs to be PAVED. Foresight is better than hindsight. Better to pave the road now than let the road deteriorate over a short period of time and then not only repair it but pave it as well. Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 167

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
hilo, HI 96720
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

1st of all, mahalo for the beginning of opening up the chain of craters road. However, we need this road to open to public as well. For those of us, who would like to visit our kupunas may not be able to if the government does not allow this. We need kokua to the hawaiian people so that we can continue our family gatherings down in kalapana as well as opihikao.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 168

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My husband and I live in Hawaiian Beaches. As far as we can tell, if the lava continues down to the sea, we will end up south of the flow. It will be extremely inconvenient to get to Hilo via Chain of Craters but we are grateful that any route will be available. I have two comments:

1. I support the idea of residents having decals. I know there are others in Puna who argue against that idea, citing concerns that businesses will go under if customers are required to pay the park fee unless they live in Puna. I want there to be some control over who comes in, if for no other reason than to discourage looters. I think that at least some of the people who complain about the idea of decals simply do not want to share their personal information with anyone because they are engage in illegal activities.

2. My husband and I are both disabled veterans in our 60's. We have a nice home in Puna and do not want to leave. As we age, though, it will become more difficult to drive into town, especially since neither of us can drive safely in the dark. I hope that the road will be lighted at night and that there will be some form of public transportation available.

Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 169

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Marsdan Tropicals
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please open and pave chain of craters road in case of an emergency like the current lava flow. I live in Kaohe Homesteads and my children go to school in Hilo and Kea'au. How could I possibly get them there on an unpaved road. Would take hours compared to a paved road if that is our only option. Pray to Pele. Thank you

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 170

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/20/2014 Date Received: 11/20/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for agreeing to rebuild the chain of craters road. As a lower Puna resident who will be "blocked off", I appreciate that you recognize the dire need of an access road out of Lower Puna.

I believe the new road should be open to anyone, visitors and locals alike as soon as the road is completed.

As long as Hwy 130 is open (and Pele is being nice about that so far) -

It would be a wonderful tourist loop through the park and back on Hwy 130 (before it is closed). You could make it a one way loop to avoid greater chance of invasive species transport. (If Hwy 130 is closed, then of course two way traffic would be required.)

If it were opened as part of a 1-way loop, it would reduce traffic in the park as anyone who starts down Chain of Craters road must continue on to return via Hwy 130.

The loop would also be a boost to Pahoa businesses, as tourists would be regularly travelling through.

In the event that Hwy 130 is closed, then the loop idea is out - but if the park controls access to only locals and their service providers, that kills the Pahoa businesses that rely on tourism (even local Hilo tourists). And it isolates the residents from their friends and families who live on the other side of the flow.

Share the aloha, be a good neighbor. We love the park, but too many must move from lower Puna if Chain of Craters road becomes a 'road block' for tourism and guests. We all took a risk living so near the volcano, but almost anywhere on this island is at risk. Should we all move to Kohala so that the burdens of aloha are minimized?

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 171

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/21/2014 Date Received: 11/21/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha National Park Service ~

I am Lower Puna resident who will need to use the Chain of Craters Road to get to and from Hilo if the lava flows over highway Route 130. Should Route 130 become unusable, life in lower Puna will become adversely affected.

In order to ease this already heavy burden, I am requesting that you pave this road so that it is usable by all vehicles. In addition, I request that you come up with a way in which the residents, our guests, and tourists, are able to use the roadway at no extra cost.

Our fragile economy here in Lower Puna needs the tourism, and this tourism brings tax dollars to Hawaii. This area is like no other in all of Hawaii, and it is truly a gift to be able to experience the wild nature and beauty offered here. Tourists/vacationers come here and see something so unique to all of Hawaii. It is a blessing that they take this experience back to where they came from.

The process of monitoring each car that comes through the park will be an ineffective use of your resources.

Perhaps you create a "through traffic" route. Or set up a volunteer committee to figure out the best way to monitor traffic so that everyone wins.

Respectfully Yours,
Lower Puna Resident

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 172

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pāhoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/22/2014 Date Received: 11/22/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This is an extremely important project for not only the residents of Puna, but for Hawai'i island and the State as a whole. Much agriculture production is south of the flow, as well as many residents and tourist destinations. These contribute to the local and federal economy through taxes as well as specifically to the park by directing tourism there from local establishments. It is economically necessary to provide for the efficient transport of people produce and goods in and out of Puna, as well as allowing people to as conveniently as possible access food, gasoline, medical care, schools, etc under non evacuation conditions, as well as to provide an alternate evacuation route.

Should the Chain of Craters road become the only means in and out of lower Puna for vehicular traffic, it will need to be paved so as not to incur unnecessary repair expense, so as to avoid causing unnecessary damage and expense for vehicles using the road, to provide reasonably quick vehicular access, and to allow for passage of emergency vehicles should a vehicle stall, especially during rush hour.

Failure to provide a safe and efficient way in and out of Puna is not only foolhardy in the perspective of the long term consequences to the tax base of the region, but would be negligent in the proper care for of the people and the community.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 173

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/22/2014 Date Received: 11/22/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I live in lower Puna, and have been here for 11 years. Should the lava cover all the other roads, I will need to use Chain of Craters Rd. to get to Hilo and the rest of the island.

I am writing for two reasons ~ 1) to request that you pave this road so that it is usable for all vehicles. And 2) to request that you make it so that residents, our guests, and people who want to contribute money to the local economy here are able to use it for free and without hassle.

Personally I do not rely on money from a vacation rental or other types of tourism for income. However, there are few jobs or businesses down here, and a lot of people in the community DO rely on this type of income. I really want to see them be able to continue making income in this way.

I know there are intelligent, creative people who work for the Park Service, and I feel confident that we can all get our needs met.

Thank you for all you do.

Aloha,
[REDACTED]

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 174

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/23/2014 Date Received: 11/23/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

After the lava crosses highway 130, I understand that Chain of Craters Road will be open to all residents. But in order for our community to continue thriving it has to be open to visitors and tourist as well. Otherwise, the only money flowing into our area will be from residence only. Many residence who work on the other side of the flow have move or will move. Business will close and jobs will be lost. I also thing that CoC Rd. needs to be paved once the lave hits the ocean. Thank you for you time and consideration.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 175

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/23/2014 Date Received: 11/23/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

we need our road to be fully opened to everyone!! This is our island and we will need to sustain ourselves, we have businesses to run, so everyone and anyone should be able to come! We are just temporary here, Pele owns this island, not us. Aloha

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 176

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/24/2014 Date Received: 11/24/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If Chain of Craters Road become the only access route to Lower Puna, I believe that it should be open to all traffic. Lower Puna will likely lose a lot of residents who need to live closer to Hilo and other centers of jobs and education. The region will suffer economic decline and decay if there is not a regular access road for tourists and other visitors to Lower Puna. The town of Pahoa, vacation rentals, and other destinations for visitors need a stream of income to keep businesses open and provide employment for those who remain in Lower Puna. The National Park draws many visitors every day and it should be made known to those visitors that they may continue their journey through the National Park and Chain of Craters Road to the beautiful, mostly unspoiled Lower Puna coast. If such low impact tourism developed, it would be beneficial to the region otherwise isolated by the lava flow.

It seems to me that the National Park could set up a temporary paid entry point a few hundred yards beyond the current entrance point. Most park visitors will choose to pay and proceed straight ahead to the Visitors Center and other attractions. A left turn, providing free access leading past Thurston Lava Tube to the coast road would probably not result in much loss of income to the park. Few tourists would choose to save \$10 and see only a small part of the park's attractions.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 177

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have been hearing mention that the only people that will be allowed to use the CC road would be residents of the area. If this is true I would like to remind the fact that there are international laws which allow the right to movement inside states (nations). Restricting travel for residents and non residents should not be allowed.

Living in the affected area should not mean that our travel should be restricted.

Other than that, pavement would be nice.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 178

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
Nanawale, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/05/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern,

It is not acceptable for there to be no public access to lower Puna. To allow residents only will limit business opportunities as well as isolating the population from family and friends.
The rest of the island will no longer have access to surf and beaches.

Reducing access not acceptable, lower Puna deserves to thrive, even in adversity. If you must. make the public pay to access the park. This would increase park revenue and to help maintain infrastructure.

Please reconsider this policy,

[REDACTED]
Nanawale, HI

Sent from my iPhone

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 179

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
Pahoa, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for your current work on CoC Road in HVNP. I urge you to consider paving the road as 9,000 of us will be using it as our only ingress/egress access to Puna. A gravel road is not going to sustain that volume of traffic for any length of time. The elevation gain is about 4,000 feet so tires will spin, rocks will be thrown damaging vehicles, and it will soon become a washboard, rutted surface.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

[REDACTED]

Pahoa, HI

Sent from my iPhone

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 180

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The emergency access route will not be open to the public or park visitors. Residents of lower Puna will receive a free window decal that will allow them access through the park.

Are you going to consider the local businesses in the area cut off?
Will they be cut off economically? By needless park restrictions?

We rent vacation homes in the area Kapoho and buy from locals there.
What about them?

We are from Alaska. Does that mean we will be kept out of a favorite place to visit there on the big island? We pay taxes and foot the bill.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 181

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
Kehena, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

National Park Service and other interested parties,

Aloha and I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. I have fond memories of driving on this road years ago and how sad I was when it ceased.

There are thousands of people in my situation where highway 130 will be cut off and it is forecast that Railroad will be a long difficult and crowded detour. I live close to Kalapana and would mostly choose to drive a little longer and avoid the traffic jams if I am able to drive Chain of Craters. Others in my same situation would make the same choice. This would also reduce the congestion on Railroad and Beach roads.

I spoke with Darryl Oliveira (Civil Defense) some months ago about this project and he assured me that Chain of Craters was to be paved. Now I understand that is not so clear. I lived in Kau with unpaved roads for years and they deteriorate very quickly with rain and especially traffic. I implore you to pave this road before it opens and before it would have to be regraded again when it becomes clear it will have to be paved to handle the traffic. Ultimately it will save a lot of money to do it right the first time.

Your consideration of these thoughts are greatly appreciated ...

[REDACTED]
Kehena, Hi

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 182

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I live in Kapoho, which will be part of the cut off section of the Big island, in state of Hawaii. Your plan to restrict access to the ONLY road in and out of the area is not only ridiculous, it is unconstitutional. The use of a Sticker to gain access to a whole community sounds very much like the middle ages, are all Puna residences now second class citizens? We like to surf but we are not serfs. YOU say that we cannot run a business here, or have friends or family or tourists visit the whole area? Are YOU going to feed us, pay our rent or mortgages, fill our cars with gas? What did we do to deserve this kind of segregation? And who are YOU to decide this for all of us in Puna? With all of the problems the Puna district has had in the past year, why would YOU come out and say such things. Shame on YOU for putting more stress on a already stressful situation.

I want to see a full retraction of that idea, and maybe an apology is in order also.

Mahalo for your time,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 183

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Would like to say that I think the Chain of Craters road should be paved. With the amount of traffic a gravel road will not stay in good shape for long. It will be difficult to re-surface or pave the road once it is being used by a large volume of people. Mahala, [REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 184

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am a resident of Pahoehoe. I live in the area called Kapoho. I ask that the Chain of Craters Road be paved and call boxes installed should someone need help. Also areas for cars to pull over if necessary.
Thank you.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 185

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello,

it seems to me that it would be a lot more cost effective to get the chain of crater's road paved from the get go than to wait until the gravel top proves inadequate, the traffic is already using the road and a crew has to go in there again.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 186

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha NPS,

I am a long time resident of Lower Puna, living near "The Old Red Road for the past 16 years. My daughter is supposed to graduate from UH in May. I am very concerned about whether or not this will become a reality should we not have a good route in and out Chain of Craters. The difference between 8 miles of gravel and 8 miles of blacktop will be significant in terms of time as well as wear and tear on her car.

I sincerely hope you will try to find funds (perhaps through Obama funding for the natural disaster that is unfolding) to pay for blacktopping what will undoubtedly become our only route out. Trying to get to the rest of the island through Volcano National Park is going to be a long, slow arduous trip even if it is blacktopped. As a gravel road, it will a true hardship on so many of us ... students, people who have jobs to get to, and also for anyone with a medical emergency who needs to get to the hospital. Please keep this in mind as you make your decisions.

Thanks so much for listening,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 187

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This land is unstable. Residents need to move to a stable area. When I purchased 5 acres in Kapoho I was advised in the sales contract that the current owner could not guarantee that the land was stable.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314
Correspondence: 188

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I would like to see CC road paved. This would be of benefit to all of Puna.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 189

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
Pahoa, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I advise that the road be paved as there would be a lot of traffic on it and gravel just won't hold up. I know this as I lived on a gravel road in rural Illinois.

[REDACTED]

resident of Pahoa, HI

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 190

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,
I own a home in lower Puna. I would like to suggest/request that federal funds be utilized to pave the Chain of Crater Kalapana Road. If that road gets regular use gravel top will prove inadequate. Better to do it before it gets regular use. Trying to pave while people need to use the road will be much more difficult and expensive.
Thank you.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 191

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear National Park Service,

I would like to strongly recommend that short term renters as well as long term residents be able to access the Chain of Craters road in the event that highway 130 and Railroad Avenue are blocked by the lava flow. My home in lower Puna is a rental. I have to depend on rental income for my retirement. I currently have a 9 month renter in the house. Usually, I have renters who stay from 3 days to a month at a time. If they are not able to access lower Puna, not only will the business in the town of Paho die, but my retirement income will greatly decrease.

Most of my renters do visit the Park from lower Puna. So, it is not as if barring them would reduce the flow of vehicles from lower Puna to the Park. If you are considering the possible impact on access to the transportation of invasive species, it really is will not be different from the present. I don't mind you charging the fee for users of the Park, but denying access would put a lot of people in financial difficulty and would not actually serve to promote any interest the National Park legitimately has.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 192

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I think the rebuilt portion of Chain oh Craters Road should be paved and treated exactly as it was when first built. I understand letting residents of lower Puna use the road without a fee. However, I see no purpose in banning others from using this road. It could eventually be the only way for vendors to deliver supplies to lower Puna. How else would we get our mail, propane, and the hundreds of other items we will need to live in the area? Many livelihoods would depend in this road as there are many vacation rentals in the area. Without public access of this road Pahoa will surely become a ghost town.

If this road is open to the public, lower Puna has the chance to be a vacation mecca. It is possible that people seeking a quiet out of the way vacation would flock to the area increasing National Park revenues as well as boosting the local economy. Pahoa would be a much desired location for these tourists to pick up supplies and a meal.

[REDACTED]
Lower Puna Resident

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 193

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I am writing as a resident of Puna and Puna business owner.

The plans I am seeing to restrict access along the re-worked Chain of Craters road are antithetical to the cohesiveness of the communities of the island. It is unclear from what I have read whether residents will only be allowed to have family visit, or if they may also receive friends. It is seemingly clear that without an invitation, no one will be allowed to use the emergency access who is not a resident or an authorized person.

This is I believe a huge mistake.

Business cannot begin to thrive in such an environment. As the lava progresses, lower Puna will become a ghost town. It is as if it is being amputated from the rest of the island. It is bad enough that it will be an island within an island, but to make it an island where no one is allowed is terrible. This has elements of pre-war Germany going on.

We as residents of this island need more focus on dealing with the lava and less focus on dealing with the people. We have lived with the lava as long as we have lived on the island. We do not require herding and a plethora of new rules. We require access.

I do recognize that the park is land set aside for the enjoyment of the public. It is too bad that the lava has made it necessary to allow traffic through the park that is not park-destination traffic. Essentially the people who will be using the road will be residents. Visitors to the island will be choosing to drive such a lengthy and roundabout route to visit lower Puna, as long as there are other roads available. Once Chain of Craters is the only route, it is

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

truly unconscionable to deny access to a whole segment of the island to all but those who reside there.

Thank you for asking for opinions. I hope that this request is made in good faith and that our opinions will be taken into real consideration, and the plans in place will be subject to revision.

Mahalo,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 194

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/06/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

So the National Park is going to watch lower Puna die and tell all others they can't go visit the places they spend every weekend. There was a paved road once pave it and keep Pahoa alive. Thus area you are going to tell me I can no longer visit in the reson move here.If your afraid of losing money I would pay to use it.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 195

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

PLEASE don't restrict the use of CoC Road once the lava cuts off Highway 130.
There are many many people that will need access, even if they are not "official" residents.
I, for example, own land in Hawaiian Shores. I was preparing to build when the June 27 flow started.
I visit the Big Island every few months to visit my land and make plans, and also just to be in the community I love so much.
Now I will be forbidden to visit my own property?
This seems immensely unfair and un-American.

Also, most of Puna survives because of tourists. What happens when you forbid all tourists? The whole area is going to be destroyed, not by the LAVA, but by the GOVERNMENT. Again, this is un-American.

PLEASE PLEASE don't kill off this wonderful and magical community by denying access. We need HELP, not hindrance.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 196

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Captain Cook, HI 96704
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha Cindy,

I do not agree with the marshal law you are infringing on lower Puna. Businesses will go down due to the NPS take over of Hawaiian Kingdom lands. Since the U.S. and Department of Interior have no Treaty of Annexation between the U.S. and the Hawaiian Kingdom holding Hawaiian Nationals and practitioners from Puna is pillaging. Under the Geneva Convention on Human Rights, it is a war crime to keep us from our ancestral lands of lower Puna.

In recent meetings the DOI came to Hawaii islands to ask Hawaiian Nationals if they should make rules for us, making way for Federal Recognition, 97% of us said, "you have no Treaty of Annexation and no jurisdiction." We do not ever consent to the DOI making rules over our sacred grounds.

As a Hawaiian Cultural Specialist of kanaka 'oiwi Hawai'i, I protest any rules, questioning, or permits to enter into our sacred grounds. I go there all the time to make offerings. I refuse to be questioned. My great grandmother was born in Kalapana and raised there. She was in the Hui O Pele which gives her and her descendants the right to gather in our sacred grounds in perpetuity without being harassed by rangers or the ranger police. It is none of their business where we are going or what we are doing in the park. Ceremony is sacred and not for us to go blurting it out to people who are occupying our lands.

I respect you and know this is your job but you have no right to make "any" rules for us. 97% kanaka 'oiwi are against Federal Recognition so the answer to the DOI is a resounding, "no." We do not appreciate a bankrupt government telling us what to do on our own lands.

I reserve my right to go to Uncle Robert's Farmers Market to support the economy of lower Puna. If highway 130 is
Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

shut off, I reserve the right to use the Chain of Craters Road. We are thinking of reviving the certificates for Hui O Pele not that we need to show any paperwork but to assert our rights to use the sacred lands of Volcano, Holei, and Kalapana.

I do respect you but I do not respect the DOI for the pillaging of our people and culture with disrespect in forcing Federal Recognition on Hawaiian Nationals.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Captain Cook, HI 96704

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 197

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha Danielle:

When considering who will be able to use the Chain of Craters Road to lower Puna if all other access is cut off, it's Imperative that you allow the following guest's and clients to have access.

There are three vacation rental management companies who manage quite a few vacation rentals In the area that will be affected by the cutoff. In Beach Lots and Kapoho Vacationland there are approximately 100 vacation rentals. In all of lower Puna, the number is much larger.

If access Is not given to vacation rental guests, many people will be affected, from house cleaners, to maintenance crews, to property managers and many more. This have a very large and negative Impact to our area.

Most of these vacation rental homes have mainland owners and they rely on the income from the rentals to make their house payments and maintain their homes. A loss of vacation rental business will GREATLY affect them.

Real estate is still active in lower Puna, as lenders and insurance companies are still making loans and issuing Insurance In areas that are not close to the potential lava flow. If prospective clients don't have access to lower Puna and are unable to use the Chain of Crater Road to view and purchase these properties, many real estate agents and homeowners selling their properties will also be greatly affected. These clients also need to be given access to lower Puna.

And, if vacation rental guests are not allowed in the area, Pahoia restaurants and other businesses

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

serving this area will suffer a big decline in business. Many Pahoia restaurants depend on people coming from the Hilo side of the flow, especially from Hawaiian Paradise Park. With a loss of these clients, Pahoia business will definitely need business from vacationers for their survival.

Mahalo for listening to the concerns of lower Puna, as our financial survival depends on your decisions.



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 198

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/07/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Sits:

Please consider paving of the Chain of Craters Road now. It is more cost-effective to do it from the beginning, not waiting until the unpaved road has problems and people are already traveling on it.

This may be the only access road in and out of lower Puna. Please allow us to travel at a reasonable rate of speed because we already have to travel much greater distances. For me, I will have to travel 50 miles rather than 30 to get to Hilo. It would be very helpful to be able to do this in a reasonable speed so that it will not take 2 hours whenever I go to Hilo, which is generally 2-3 times weekly. Cars will have to travel too slowly on a gravel road and this will make the trip so much longer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 199

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/08/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern,
Limited access to Puna, during a time of crisis, will result in your gates being stormed by an angry public. Our food supplies, goods and services, and Vacation renters would all be cut off. And if that should happen, it will not be a pretty scene for either the residents of Puna, or the Volcano Park, and will be a public relations disaster. Please reconsider full access to Puna through Chain of Craters Road if lava eventually cuts off Highway 130 and Rail Road Ave.
Both the Park, and the district of Puna stand to lose big time other wise.

Thank you for your attention,

[REDACTED]

Pahoa, HI 96778

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 200

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/09/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

I've been told that you are considering paving the chain of craters road.

I want to say that I think this is a great idea and should be done before the road is open. A gravel road will likely prove inadequate with the amount of traffic that will be on it as the only access road to lower puna. To pave it when it is the only access road will be a nightmare for a road that is already a bottleneck. If you paved it now before the road was open, it would help so many problems that could come up in the future. Lets take advantage of some of these federal disaster funds in a way that will help everyone in lower puna immeasurably!

Thanks for your consideration.

Aloha,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 201

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Aloha,

The current descriptions of this project utilizes the term "emergency access".

This is not acceptable since it implies use is only in the event of an emergency. This is far short of what the Park can deliver.

According to case law:

Easement by necessity may exist over federal government land, and may exist in favor of state government; but when servient property passes into private ownership, easement disappears because necessity disappears, since state may obtain substitute easement by eminent domain. *Moore v. Walsh*, 45 Cal. Rptr. 2d 389 (Cal. App. 1995)

Without an easement to the State of Hawaii, residents are unable to reach their properties without the same degree of insurable and legal access.

The actions of the volcano are unpredictable and repetitive. It is not feasible for Park officials to be declaring an emergency is or is not occurring every other month.

A permanent easement to the State of Hawaii is possible, more beneficial to property owners, and more practical.

[REDACTED]

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067



PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 202

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Due to the length of travel time and distance this is a commute of last resort - don't make it difficult by excessive permission slips. Earthen passes over cooled lava on 130 would be a simpler answer for all of us. Let's work toward a way to get over lava on 130 - use more engineering brain power.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314 Correspondence: 203

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

When emergency access road is complete it would be nice to open to foot and bicycle traffic.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 204

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Pahoa, HI 96778
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/12/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

A mass transit system from Puna to Volcano should be put in place; i.e. Regular bus trips in order to reduce the number of vehicles utilizing the Chain of Craters/Kalapana Road with a secure location in volcano to leave personal vehicles so that upon arrival in volcano personal vehicles can be used to go to Hilo/Keaau etc. from a central end-route location.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 205

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/10/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I urge all those who love our special Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to please comment with your thoughts about the impact the new evacuation route will have. Deadline to comment is Dec. 5.

If it happens, thousands of cars per day are now going to be commuting through our beautiful national park from Lower Puna, pretty much without restriction. I can envision speeding, traffic and worse impacting the park every day, thousands and thousands more cars than they are used to handling. I can envision funds being diverted from conservation to managing this traffic mess- something that was not the park's jurisdiction in the first place. Remember, this national park was chartered to conserve and protect lands and wildlife, not administer to evacuees. Chain of Craters was never meant to be the only road out of a place that was developed under the active vent. The road being cut right now was recently itself (2013) covered with lava flows! Is this a smart use of our tax dollars?

There must be other options, such as bridges, or ferries that would make more sense than turning our beautiful park into a commuters' speedway.

I totally sympathize with the residents being boxed in and I know I am taking a controversial position. But I am a huge fan of HVNP and expect the park officials to protect the federal lands it was chartered to protect. I want to know if we can spend resources on the myriad other ideas for commuting back and forth through the affected area... which has not even had lava breach its main roadways yet!


If it happens, protections for the park MUST BE enforced!

Correspondences - Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Section of Chain of Craters Kalapana Road -
PEPC ID: 55067

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 206

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization: Sierra Club - Moku Loa Group  Official Rep.
Organization Type: L - Non-Governmental
Address: N/A
N/A, HI N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 10/13/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Sierra Club has some concerns about the "Chain of Craters Escape Road" proposed for Lower Puna residents. We know there is a possibility that construction vehicles, (and later, commuters) might be vectors introducing invasive species into the Park and Volcano Village, at a greater rate than already is coming into the Park via the Volcano Hwy.

We hope that the scoping session and environmental assessment process includes a full discussion and effective mitigation measures.

The Club would like to be kept apprised of this process.

Mahalo,

[REDACTED]

Moku Loa Group, Sierra Club

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 207

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 09/14/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

There is no option to road over old Chain of Craters Road, it is a sacred natural wonder, protected world biosphere reserve, logistically inappropriate, unethical, and no attempt to do so shall be allowed.

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 208

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Captain Cook, HI 96704
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 09/23/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello Ms. Orlando,

I am not understanding why funds are being spent to rebuild Chain of Craters Road so that displaced Lower Puna residents can use it for commuting from the lava flow area. This doesn't make sense for our precious park. Coqui frogs hitchhiking from Puna? You bet! Increased traffic and speeding in the park? Check. Nene geese getting run over by a steady stream of cars? It will happen. At this juncture, there is no telling what the future holds for Lower Puna, but the area could well become a ghost town within several years as more lava flows inundate the entire region such as what happened in Kalapana. It seems outrageous to spend this kind of money to rebuild CofC Road so that Puna holdouts who chose to stay and live south of the flow can get in and out of an area that could well be doomed regardless. A National Park should not serve as a commuter route for residents. What about conservation of this important national landmark???

PEPC Project ID: 55067, DocumentID: 62314

Correspondence: 209

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: [REDACTED]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Marfa, TX 79843
USA
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 09/16/2014
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): Yes Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

A potentially more serious issue is coming HAVO's way. According Mayor Keoni's talk with the Puna folks on the 11th, He stated that when the lava reaches the ocean and completely cuts off the folks in lower Puna they will be working with the National Park to open the Chain of Craters road. This options has been on the table for years, however never needed to come to the planning stage. That is my worry, that no one in the park will move proactively on this, get some folks from Denver Service Center (or Tom Fake out of retirement) over and map out a route that protects any remaining cultural features, maintains a scenic view scape (no miles of straight line road, but blend with the topography) and is no wider than necessary. There area other considerations also that the Denver engineers may note. This is not just an emergency bypass, it is potentially the new and permanent chain of craters road. When Harry Kim first hit me with this concept, I was not excited about permanently re-opening the road due to lack of planning for long term public use of the area which would include protection, interpretation, fee management and facility management. I thought more about it being an emergency road much like the Escape Road, that when not needed would be closed to vehicle traffic and used as a hiker, biker path. Of course as we know, the flows will probably return to the older flow field after it does it's work in lower Puna, so

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Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Chain of Craters Kalapana Road

Attachment B – Frequently Asked Questions – Interim from Comments through 11/24/14

1. Will visitors/tourists be able to use Chain of Craters Kalapana Road when it is open?

Response:

Yes. The proposed action in the Environmental Review and Decision document stated, “[t]he emergency access route would be used for access by emergency vehicles, transportation of commercial goods to sustain the community, and egress and ingress of residents in the communities in the Lower Puna region that are anticipated to be cut off by the closure of existing routes, Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue. This emergency access route is not designed to handle large volumes of traffic; therefore it would not be open to general public use, only ‘local’ traffic.”

However, based upon public comment received on the proposed action, it is apparent that visitors to the region are part of what is ‘required to sustain the community during the emergency’ (as described in the Environmental Review and Decision document). NPS received comments from the public that the community would not be sustained if only ‘local’ traffic and vehicles providing essential services were allowed to use the road and that there is a need to allow individuals to visit that would not fall under the definition of local traffic. Local traffic was not specifically defined in the Environmental Review and Decision, but was intended to include friends, family, and invitees of residents. Lower Puna region was not specifically defined, but was intended to include from the Hawaiian Beaches subdivision south and southwest to Royal Gardens (adjacent to the park boundary). Dr. Mark Kimura, a University of Hawaii-Hilo researcher in economic geography, said there are about 257 businesses providing almost 1,200 jobs in Puna that would be cut off or affected by the lava flow. This includes six hotels and lodging areas, several educational institutions and libraries, and six health services facilities.

Because of these concerns, NPS has decided to expand the definition of local traffic to include visitors to the region who will use the road in addition to residents and vehicles providing essential services (commercial goods, emergency vehicles, etc.). The park does not intend to encourage the park visitors specifically to drive down the emergency access route, but will not prohibit people from using the road to access the Lower Puna region.

The impacts of allowing visitors to the region to use the road in addition to local traffic and vehicles providing essential services fall within the impacts disclosed in the Environmental Review and Decision document. No additional adverse impacts will occur as a result of this change because it is expected that there will be less local traffic than originally estimated and any increase in other traffic would not result in levels greater than the original estimate in the Environmental Review and Decision document. The NPS will monitor use of the road and will restrict access to only local traffic and vehicles providing essential services or apply other mitigation measures if resource or safety concerns warrant.

The emergency access route will open only after Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue are closed and the emergency access route will be closed to vehicular traffic when another long-term viable access route is available. There may be checkpoints on either end of the gravel route within the park, particularly when the road first opens. These checkpoints would be locations where residents could obtain information on free decals, park staff could answer questions, and any other information could be exchanged.

2. How will residents obtain the decal necessary to access the Lower Puna region via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road?

Response:

NPS has developed an application form (similar to other park decals issued) that will be provided to residents. An on-line application method is being investigated. As part of the application, residents will need to show proof of residency (a utility bill, rental agreement, or something similar). Once the application has been reviewed and approved, the resident will be given a free sticker decal to place on their vehicle so that they may pass through the NPS entrance station off Highway 11 as quickly as possible.

NPS plans to begin distribution of the applications and decals prior to Chain of Craters Kalapana Road opening, so that everyone can be prepared in advance. NPS will continue to reach out to the communities in the Lower Puna region and provide updates on the decal process, as well as park information as the time gets closer to when the road will open.

The free decal is for access through the park only to the Lower Puna region via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road. For those individuals wanting to recreate in the park, payment of the entrance fee is still required and is valid for seven days. Individuals with recreational passes (annual, senior, etc.) would continue to show their pass at the entrance station for recreational purposes, but can get a resident decal (if applicable) to expedite entry into the park when they are only traveling through the park and not recreating within the park.

3. How will non-residents obtain the documentation necessary to access the Lower Puna region via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road?

Response:

Visitors to the region: People who do not reside in the Lower Puna region, or residents that do not want to obtain the free decal but want to travel through the park to access the Lower Puna region will need to obtain a non-recreation day pass, at no cost, from the park entrance station upon stating the need and purpose (access to Lower Puna region) for the non-recreation pass. As previously stated, anyone wanting to use the park for recreational purposes will still be required to pay the entrance fee.

Commercial/Delivery Services: For vendors that are in an unmarked vehicle, they will need to obtain a non-recreation day pass to travel through the park to access the Lower Puna region. Any vendors operating a vehicle clearly marked for commercial purposes (i.e. Pepsi, Lays, etc.) will not be required to obtain a non-recreation day pass (as is the case currently).

4. What is the cost difference between creating a paved road versus a gravel road, including maintenance costs?

Response:

The project as it is currently being built (a two-lane, gravel road 7.74 miles long, of which 5.5 miles is within the park) has been estimated to cost approximately \$12 to \$15.5 million, and is currently being funded by the County of Hawai'i with the possibility of reimbursement by the Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The cost of maintaining the road will vary depending on how often and how heavily the road is used. However, NPS estimates that it will likely cost approximately \$300,000 per year for the physical road maintenance and an additional \$1.2 million per year for increased operational needs (law enforcement, interpretation, resource monitoring, maintenance, emergency services, etc.).

In order to create a paved road that meets NPS park road standards significant upgrades would be needed. The roadway bench would have to be widened further to provide additional clear zone at cut slopes, and the vertical profile smoothed out to safely accommodate the higher speeds motorists will

drive on a paved surface. Additionally, before an investment in pavement could be made, upgrades to the quality of the sub-base would be required (the sub-base being built now is not as well graded or compacted as would be required for a permanent facility). Storm drainage improvements would also likely be necessary. It is estimated that such improvements would cost an additional \$2 million per mile, or approximately \$11 million for the 5.5 miles total (of roadway within the park), on top of the current estimate of the cost to construct the gravel roadway. There is no funding currently available to pave the road and there is not time to complete this work before the use of the emergency access route is necessary. It would also be fiscally irresponsible to pave the road due to the high probability of future lava inundation. In addition, funding would be needed to complete further NEPA compliance, which would likely result in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

5. Which contractor was selected to complete the road resurfacing work and how were they selected?

Response:

Since all of the funding for the road is currently coming from the County of Hawai'i, NPS does not have this information. Anyone interested in learning about the contractor and contractor selection process should contact the County to obtain this information.

6. Will there be regulations regarding the hauling of trash, hazardous and green waste?

Response:

The County of Hawai'i operates solid waste transfer stations in Kalapana and in Pāhoa, so transport of these materials by individuals through the park should not be necessary. All hauled material must be secured and covered if transported through the park (e.g. trucks serving the transfer stations). State and federal laws will be strictly enforced (e.g. 36 CFR §2.14, §4.2, etc.).

7. Should the public be concerned about lava tubes collapsing while motorists are driving on the road?

Response:

NPS has used ground penetrating radar twice thus far to test for voids (e.g. lava tubes) under the roadway. The results have been provided to the County for consideration during construction. The small lava tubes encountered during the initial road ripping were collapsed and filled. There is a chance that unidentified lava tubes exist, but the likelihood of a collapse from an unidentified lava tube is not very high. Steam vents have been observed near the roadway, but are not anticipated to be a hazard (similar to steam vents found in other areas of the park, including near park roadways).

8. Will emergency services to Lower Puna be affected if police/fire/ambulance had to access the area via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road & Crater Rim Drive?

Response:

Emergency services for the Lower Puna region are the responsibility of the County of Hawai'i, which has developed plans for continuation of services. Please contact the County for detailed information. The park will continue to coordinate emergency response through the park with the County and the road is being constructed to allow emergency access. Traffic on the road will be required to yield to emergency vehicles, as is the case on other roads.

9. How will residents and non-residents be able to travel this route at night when the entrance station is closed? Will there be any restrictions placed on night travel?

Response:

The park is open 24/7 and at this time, access through the park at night will not be restricted. Upon opening the road for emergency access, the conditions will be monitored and adjustments to operations may be necessary. Visitors coming to the park for the first time (for recreational purposes) will need to stop at the Kīlauea Visitor Center to pay their entrance fee if the entrance station is closed, as is currently required.

10. Will Chain of Craters Kalapana Road have the same restrictions as other park roads in relation to vog/poor air quality?

Response:

Yes. NPS will continue to monitor the air quality in the park. There are currently nine air quality monitoring stations in the park, including one at Kealakomo and one near the end of the pavement on Chain of Craters Kalapana Road. Informational signs are posted in known areas of frequent vog with instructions for avoiding the vog. The park takes additional safety measures as air quality conditions warrant.

Emergency Access Route along the Lava-Covered Chain of Craters Kalapana Road

Attachment C – Summary of Mitigations from Public Comments – Interim from Comments through 11/24/14

Introduction

Many comments were submitted that included suggestions for actions that could be taken by NPS to help avoid or minimize the impacts of the project. Some of these suggestions were already included in the Environmental Review and Decision document (Section IV, page 14; and Appendix A), and thus NPS has already committed to following them.

The first section of this document includes the mitigation suggestions submitted by the public, and responses to those suggestions. The second section of this document includes a table that lists all of the mitigations that NPS has already committed to following in order to avoid or minimize impacts associated with the project.

Suggestions from Public Comments

Public Transportation

- A mass transit system from Puna to Volcano should be put in place; i.e. Regular bus trips in order to reduce the number of vehicles utilizing the Chain of Craters/Kalapana Road with a secure location in volcano to leave personal vehicles so that upon arrival in volcano personal vehicles can be used to go to Hilo/Keaau etc. from a central end-route location. (Correspondence ID 204)
- Shuttle bus round trip from Uncle Robert's up to Volcano Village, or a new Hele-On route. (Correspondence ID 117)
- Day Tourist cars could be banned from the park and NPS vans or mini buses could do hop on/hop off stops throughout the park, creating a much more pleasant park experience. (Correspondence ID 136)

Response:

NPS does not have the funding available or the staffing capacity to own or operate shuttles within the park along Chain of Craters Kalapana Road. Any public transportation outside of the park boundary is outside of NPS jurisdiction and would likely be funded and operated by the County of Hawai'i (e.g., Hele-On). Please contact the County to determine whether public transportation routes will change when other access routes (Highway 130 and Railroad Avenue) are closed due to lava.

Invasive Species

- The USDA should work with County and State agencies immediately on an intensive eradication campaign [of invasive species]. (Correspondence ID 18)
- A wash station for Lower Puna traffic entering park on Kalapana side could be made available right at the county water spigot where 137 meets 130 in Kalapana. This might help with the invasive species. It could be an optional free carwash that we are encouraged but not required to use. (Correspondence ID 122)

Response:

NPS has committed to following a variety of mitigations concerning invasive species (see Table 1, Invasive Species). Additionally, NPS will continue to educate the public about invasive species and how they can help reduce the chances of them entering the park. Fresh water is not available within a reasonable distance to the park's eastern boundary, so a wash station within or directly adjacent to the park would not be feasible. The NPS would support the County's effort to install a wash station, such as near the county water standpipe near the junction of Highways 130 and 137.

Law Enforcement

- I suggest that the DEA, along with County and State counterparts, work together to curtail the flow of drugs and drug money in and out of Lower Puna. (Correspondence ID 18)
- I am in favor of having a guard shack down there so that vehicles with heavy cargo, waste or hazardous materials can be cleared before entering the park, and so that shenanigans like illegal fishing, camping, etc can be prevented. (Correspondence ID 103)

Response:

Please see Table 1, Mitigation SA-3. NPS is seeking additional funding for the increased operational needs such as hiring law enforcement prior to the opening of the road. There are no specific plans to clear heavy cargo vehicles at either entrance, as this would contribute to congestion issues. However, NPS is committed to being flexible throughout this process and if vehicles with heavy cargo, waste or hazardous materials become an issue, changes can be made to address the issues.

Traffic/Road Conditions

- Speed TABLES (not bumps) could be installed where needed to manage traffic speeds. (Correspondence ID 19)
- Clear signage from the park entrance to CoC would be important. (Correspondence ID 19)
- Perhaps park visitors could be routed off the feeder routes to CoC. (Correspondence ID 19)
- Install an express lane for resident use at the Volcano Park entrance to shorten our trip time. (Correspondence ID 25)
- The National Park will need to greatly increase its law enforcement/traffic control to deal with this influx of commuter traffic. (Correspondence ID 83)
- Maybe rest stops, pull outs or an on call emergency service based in the Park. (Correspondence ID 117)
- Solar emergency phones and water available in case of overheating up CoC Rd. (Correspondence ID 117)
- Maybe the stretch of road thru to Kalapana should have a gate like the top entrance? (Correspondence ID 117)
- The current park policy of leaving the gates open and unmanned during the night could be officially noted and Puna traffic encouraged to use the road during those hours (possibly expanding the unmanned hours) for a freer flow. (Correspondence ID 122)
- No stopping of traffic at the Kalapana side park entrance. (Correspondence ID 122)

- Regarding the intersection of Chain of Craters with Crater Rim Drive an alternative flow could be temporarily established. Traffic approaching chain of craters from the Volcano park entrance direction could be given the right of way to go left onto C of C without stopping. Traffic approaching C of C after going the long way around Crater Rim could be stopped by a temporary 'stop' sign at that intersection. (Correspondence ID 130)
- If you must limit the public entrance here could be public entry days 4 days a week. The other 3 days could then be better utilized by locals to make their shopping trips to Hilo and of course open to holiday rental guests and commercial service vehicles. (Correspondence ID 136)
- There should be at least 2 stations to enter the NPS and one should be an automated park entry system that electronically reads the park passes for lower puna residents, commercial service vehicles, visitors with pre-paid accommodation bookings in lower puna, tour buses etc. This would ease the congestion and actually cut back on staffing costs. (Correspondence ID 136)
- At the junction of Chain of Craters Road and existing Park Entrance, the visitors could then turn left to go on into the Visitor Center area of the park to continue their visit and the locals using the road as a through-way can take a right towards the exit to Hwy 11. (Correspondence ID 144)
- This should be considered primarily an evacuation route, and possibly a once a week road. (Correspondence ID 165)
- I hope that the road will be lighted at night and that there will be some form of public transportation available. (Correspondence ID 168)
- It would be a wonderful tourist loop through the park and back on Hwy 130 (before it is closed). You could make it a one way loop to avoid greater chance of invasive species transport. (If Hwy 130 is closed, then of course two way traffic would be required.) (Correspondence ID 170)
- I ask that the Chain of Craters Road be paved and call boxes installed should someone need help. Also areas for cars to pull over if necessary. (Correspondence ID 184)

Response:

Please see Table 1, Mitigation Measures for Safety and Traffic. Additionally, traffic calming devices will be installed within the park boundary on the paved section of road for approximately 1.5 miles before the gravel section begins in order to protect park resources and increase safety in that area. NPS is supportive of allowing residents "express" access through the park entrances; the park will issue free decals to residents to address this concern. Additional changes to provide for efficient entry/exit will be considered as necessary. At this time an electronic pass system is not being considered due to funding constraints and logistics.

Up to nine pull outs will be constructed along the gravel road for emergency situations. A solar-powered emergency phone currently is located at the Pu'uloa Petroglyph parking area. Additionally, NPS is working with cellular providers to determine if enhancement of cell service in this area is possible.

The park consists of public lands and will be made available to everyone who wishes to visit. The only reason the park would close is if there are extremely hazardous conditions and closing the park is necessary to protect public safety.

The Chain of Craters Kalapana Road will not be lighted at night, similar to other roads within the park. This is to protect Dark Night Skies (a natural resource protected in all National Parks).

Fees/Access

- Would you consider having the option for visitors to purchase a decal that was valid for the time that they are visiting? This fee would help subsidize the additional costs associated with maintaining the road. (Correspondence ID 30)
- I'm curious why the chain of craters kalapana road should even consider limited access to just residents? If it's funding issues, set a toll for non-residents. (Correspondence ID 66)
- To help mitigate and manage the traffic impacts, I would support the concept of a toll road. (Correspondence ID 70)
- All people who don't actually live there should pay or have park pass. (Correspondence ID 71)
- Residents of lower Puna as well as delivery trucks making deliveries to those residents should be allowed to pass through the park without paying any fees, while others are still allowed to use the road to access lower Puna when they pay the park fee. (Correspondence ID 87)
- With the NPS threatening to raise entrance fees across the board, it is not fair to those of us residents who have to pay to enter the park every time. There should be a time limit on these decals, and then they can buy a park pass like the rest of us. It's the least that Puna commuters can do to help mitigate the environmental impact that more cars, more traffic, etc will have on the park. (Correspondence ID 103)
- Instead of requiring nearly 9000 of us to have decals, why not have all paying Park visitors be given a pass to put on their dashboard or rearview mirror? (Correspondence ID 106)
- Also, the notion that the park should allow anybody and everybody free access to get to Puna is absurd. Puna commuters should pay for an annual pass after the current emergency has subsided. This will help offset the negative impacts to the park should the road become a highly utilized commuter route. (Correspondence ID 110)
- A system to identify and admit family, guests and customers of vacation rentals (short term residents) maybe matched with a resident's decal number upon request. A phone number we can reliably call to get guests admitted or an online registry process? (Correspondence ID 117)
- Puna traffic should not allowed to stop in park to use park facilities unless in possession of a valid park pass, displayed on dashboard. Ticketing of violators parked cars without a park pass. Signage advising us all of these concerns. (Correspondence ID 122)
- A temporary free 24/7 carwash station at the lower Puna side near the existing water spigot if offered to area residents would probably be widely used. (Correspondence ID 130)
- I suggest you offer a 3 day pass at Reduced and Affordable Family Rates, for those visitors staying in Lower Puna/Pahoa who will be entering and exiting the Puna area via Chain of Craters Rd, which means they would be covered by a paid pass when both entering and exiting the park and actually increase park revenues. (Correspondence ID 136)
- Stickers for residence and guest who have rented vacation homes should be allowed to pass and tourist and non-residents can pay the park fee. Or simply charge residence a \$25 year annual fee

and non-residents the day or week guest-pass but I think the fee is only warranted if it is a paved road. (Correspondence ID 140)

- I believe that the people of Puna can contribute to the park's burden by paying for a yearly park pass, which isn't too much to ask. (Correspondence ID 141)
- I understand the needs of the park charging admission, so an entrance toll gate can be built on the 'new entrance' side but build it away from the threat of another Pu'u Ō'ō eruption going south - maybe just before the hairpin curves. (Correspondence ID 144)
- A temporary guest pass system may work for family visitors and businesses with few, less frequent and preplanned visitors (rentals, tours, etc.) but this would not be feasible for the restaurants, markets, and other operations that depend on numerous guests without prearranged visits. (Correspondence ID 164)
- Are there methods that can help alleviate these impacts? A tally system for outside visitors? A toll for non-local traffic? Passes that can be validated by local businesses in lower Puna for a reduced cost? Other options? (Correspondence ID 164)
- It seems to me that the National Park could set up a temporary paid entry point a few hundred yards beyond the current entrance point. Most park visitors will choose to pay and proceed straight ahead to the Visitors Center and other attractions. A left turn, providing free access leading past Thurston Lava Tube to the coast road would probably not result in much loss of income to the park. Few tourists would choose to save \$10 and see only a small part of the park's attractions. (Correspondence ID 176)

Response:

At this time, residents, delivery vehicles, and visitors to the Lower Puna region who do not intend to recreate in the park will not be required to purchase a park pass to access the Lower Puna area via Chain of Craters Kalapana Road. However, anyone who wishes to recreate in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, for any amount of time, will need to pay the entrance fee in full or show the appropriate recreation pass at the entrance station (e.g. annual, Senior, etc.). Details on how the process of issuing decals and non-recreation passes are still being worked out; NPS will communicate directly with the residents of the Lower Puna area as the process develops.

Table 1 – Mitigations from NPS Environmental Review Document and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), as noted (Section IV, page 14, and Appendix A)

Code	Mitigation
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	
CR-1	The proposed action will preserve remnant archeological sites within kīpuka outside of the old road corridor, once again provide access to coastal resources for Kalapana residents on the approved fishing list, and it will maintain the integrity of the historic road as one of two entry and egress routes within the park. If it becomes necessary for construction outside the existing alignment, then a survey will be completed and data recovery, to the extent practicable, will be undertaken.
CR-2	Deviations along the existing alignment are not expected to be significant and distances from sacred sites and landscapes are far enough away to avoid impact. In addition, the sacred sites are now buried under lava, so as long as the road cut remains near the top of the new lava (as currently planned), the buried sites below will be protected. Should the road alignment need to be significantly outside the surveyed buffer area, additional consultation will be necessary.
CR-3	The emergency access route will remain unpaved to be more consistent with the cultural landscape.
CR-4	No material will be taken from outside of the road corridor to avoid impacts to the ethnographic resources, as well as the viewshed.
CR-5	Any lava tubes predating the 1983-2014 flows that are encountered will be documented as part of the park's cave inventory program and an archeological survey and additional consultation will be completed if required (e.g. if archeological resources are observed in the lava tube).
CR-6	Additional monitoring and data recovery may be required to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to historic properties and will be determined as the proposed action proceeds.
CR-7	<p>Mitigation measures from SHPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impacts to the historic district will be minimized by placing the new road in the corridor of the former Chain of Craters Road. The scale of the roadway is such that minimal visual impacts are expected. There will be no additional access routes from this road; however it will provide shoreline access for traditional activities such as fishing. • No materials will be removed from the park area beyond the road corridor, in order to maintain the viewshed and ethnographic resources along the road. • The proposed roadbed and shoulders, as well as a buffer of 10-20 m on either side of the proposed road bed, shoulders, and pullouts will be surveyed for archeological sites [the area of potential affect; APE]. This measure will ensure that any kīpuka with intact historic properties are identified and avoided if at all possible. <p>NOTE: The archeological survey for the road and buffer was completed on 10/7/2014 and no resources were found within the survey area. Spot monitoring was also completed during the initial construction when the road bench was created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any historic lava tubes that are encountered will be documented as part of the park's

	<p>cave inventory program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction monitoring and oversight by NPS staff will occur during the length of the project. • Archeological monitoring of construction will occur at locations that do not follow the previous road alignment.
<i>Safety</i>	
SA-1	Up to nine pull-outs may also be constructed to accommodate urgent uses (e.g. vehicle break-downs).
SA-2	Regulatory signs will be installed on the park boundary and along the emergency access route (boundary sign, park rules, fishing rights and restrictions) within the current known corridor of disturbance (approximately 20-26 feet; see TIC file HAVO 41902) of the currently lava-covered Chain of Craters Kalapana Road.
SA-3	<p>The park will seek funding for additional staff and is working on expedited hiring to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.</p> <p>Increased law enforcement and other staffing (maintenance, interpretation, etc.) will be necessary to protect visitors, park resources, and ethnographic resources and rights. This includes patrolling roads, responding to emergencies, traffic control/management, resource monitoring, enforcing legislated rights (Native Hawaiian access), maintaining restrooms and other facilities along the roadways, etc.</p>
<i>Traffic</i>	
TR-1	If there is a large presence of commercial traffic, the NPS will work with the state and county to determine what is essential and to limit the commercial traffic to only the extent that is necessary.
TR-2	NPS will, to the extent practicable, support and work with state and local governments to actively pursue the construction and/or creation of other long-term viable alternative routes to the park road, including other roads and harbors, to provide access to the communities on the southeast side of Hawai'i.
<i>Endangered Species</i>	
ES-1	<p>Minimization and avoidance measures for nēnē from USFWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic calming devices will be installed to slow down traffic for the first mile of paved road beginning at the junction with the emergency route. • Additional traffic calming devices and signage will be installed along the upper portion of Chain of Craters Road in the vicinity of nēnē habitat. • Nēnē monitoring will occur prior to and during construction in the vicinity where older lava flows cross Chain of Craters Road. • Post a monitor near the breeding area to ensure no impacts occur during the construction phase. • Set speed limit at 20 mph adjacent to the coastal breeding habitat. • Install traffic calming devices adjacent to the coastal breeding habitat. • Begin to evaluate high risk areas further up Chain of Craters Road.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the following vehicle strike reduction measures and implement as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce current speed limit in key areas - Add permanent nēnē crossing signs as needed - Install traffic calming devices if applicable • Provide education/outreach on risks to nēnē (feeding, vehicle strikes) to residents of Lower Puna and park visitors. <p>NOTE: Endangered species monitoring is on-going. Mitigation measures are being researched and implemented.</p>
<i>Invasive Species</i>	
IS-1	<p>Park sanitation standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be followed during construction. The SOPs were developed to prevent introduction of highly invasive species into the park and are required for all actions in the park. All equipment and vehicles for the construction of the road must be sanitized prior to entering the park (following the SOPs). Fill, if needed, must be from an approved source and will be subject to additional inspections.</p> <p>NOTE: Equipment inspections for invasive species have been conducted as needed and will continue to occur as needed. Treatments and coordination of treatments has occurred as invasive species are found.</p>
IS-2	<p>Invasive plant (e.g. fountain grass, etc.) and animal (e.g. little fire ants, coqui frogs, etc.) treatment (based on results of monitoring) will occur post-construction and for a considerable time after the road is no longer used to ensure any invasive species are detected early when they are still treatable, and treated until they are eliminated.</p>
<i>Natural Resources – General</i>	
NR-1	<p>If night-lighting is necessary for construction or staging areas, Dark Sky Policies will be followed. The preference is no night work, but if all other access routes are cut-off prior to the completion of this aggregate roadway, then night work may be necessary.</p>
NR-2	<p>Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) for pollution prevention will be adhered to during construction. This will ensure there is not pollutant discharge related to the project.</p>
NR-3	<p>The park will seek funding for additional staff and is working on expedited hiring to have staff on board prior to the road being ready for use.</p> <p>Additional staff is necessary for increased monitoring and treatment of invasive species, increased monitoring of nēnē and other related minimization measures, and to address the increased traffic at the park entrance (at Kīlauea summit).</p>