



Public Comments Inform Hawai'i Volcanoes Planning Efforts

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Letter from the Superintendent

Aloha Friends,

Last spring, we asked you to share your ideas on the future of Hawai'i Volcanoes as we kicked off the development of our General Management Plan (GMP). Many of you attended one of our open house meetings, filled out the newsletter comment forms, and sent us letters or electronic comments.



This newsletter contains a summary of your comments, as well as information about what to expect next in the GMP process. In the coming year, park staff will incorporate the best of your ideas into the design of several preliminary alternatives that include a range of visitor experiences and resource conditions. In 2011 we will present these draft alternatives to you for review and comment.

A couple of exciting landmark events mark the coming year:

Kahuku is Open: The Kahuku Unit is now open on weekends to hike, picnic, and explore. However, it is closed the first Saturday of each month. We invite you to join a ranger on a guided walk or explore this special place on your own. In order to prevent the introduction of invasive weed seeds, coqui frogs, and ants, it is critical that you inspect and clean your boots, clothes, packs, vehicles and bikes before entering Kahuku. For

information on days and hours of operation, call the park at (808) 985-6011.

Volcano House Hotel Closes For Renovations: The historic Volcano House Hotel overlooking Kīlauea Caldera closed in early January for several months of seismic upgrades and installation of fire suppression equipment. The previous contract for concessions operations expired on December 31, 2009. The park is soliciting for a new contract and is scheduled to award the contract in 2010. Multiple parties will compete for the contract which will include operating the renovated hotel as well as providing food and retail sales, and campground operations to park visitors.

The staff, partners, and volunteers at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park remain committed to fulfilling our kuleana and responsibility to protect the park's geologic features and native ecosystems, preserve its rich cultural heritage, and provide unforgettable visitor experiences.

Mahalo for your interest in the park and for your many thoughtful and heartfelt suggestions and comments. We hope you will continue to help us with our GMP planning process and we look forward to seeing you in the park.

Mahalo nui loa,

Cindy Orlando
Superintendent



GMP Open House in Kailua-Kona, April 2009



Join a regularly scheduled ranger-led hike at Kahuku

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Sharing your mana‘o on the General Management Plan

During the public scoping process last spring, we asked you a series of questions about what you value most about the park, your thoughts about key issues, and your vision for the park’s future. The planning team distributed nearly 8,000 newsletters, hosted six public meetings on three islands, and attended a variety of community events. We also held group discussions with representatives from various resource agencies, scientists, park partners, community groups, and Native Hawaiian kūpuna. As a result of this public scoping effort, we received hundreds of suggestions from you.

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas with us. Your participation strengthens the planning process and helps ensure that the GMP will serve the values of current and future generations of park enthusiasts.

Public Scoping Summary

Although space does not allow us to print every comment, this newsletter includes a summary of the wide range and diversity of comments received, organized by the following topics:

- What people value about the park
- Preservation and protection of the park’s natural and cultural resources
- Significance of park resources to Native Hawaiian culture
- Research in the park
- Visitor experiences
- Commercial services and special park uses
- Park operations
- Boundary
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Future of the Kahuku Unit

A more detailed summary of comments may be accessed on the park web site at www.nps.gov/havo/parkmgmt/plan.htm.



GMP Open House in Nā‘ālehu, April 2009



GMP Open House at Kīlauea Visitor Center, April 2009

“For me, the Kīlauea Caldera is the equivalent of a volcanic Grand Canyon—awe inspiring!”



Kīlauea summit eruption at Halema‘uma‘u Crater

► What do people value about Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park?

In response to the newsletter question, “What do you value most about Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park?” respondents frequently mention the park's natural beauty, primarily its volcanic landscape and lush native forests as a place to see Hawai'i's native species. Public comments also frequently mention the park's mana or spiritual power; the scenic vistas; the opportunity to experience peace and quiet and the historic ambience created by the park's historic buildings.

Many emphasized the park's great cultural and religious value to Native Hawaiians and the park's importance as a place of ancestral connections. Respondents commenting on cultural values expressed gratitude that the park preserves the 'ōhi'a lehua trees, native birds, rocks and ferns—as a pristine place of old Hawai'i, where their ancestors, deities and 'aumākua live in the spirit of the land and where they feel most connected to them. Several also mentioned that a cherished value of the park is the active presence of the volcano deity, Pelehonuamea who resides at Kīlauea. Others stated they valued the park's commitment to honor Native Hawaiian access for traditional purposes and were grateful that practitioners could “share their gifts and mana'o through hula, mele, and crafts.” In general, comments frequently expressed value in the many and diverse opportunities to connect with nature in the park. Many people expressed that viewing the formation of lava and being allowed to get close to volcanic eruptions was a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity” and a valuable visitor experience that should be continued.

Many comments received were both complimentary and enthusiastic about the current interpretive programs offered at the park and were indicative of the high value placed on these programs and associated staff. Comments also expressed appreciation for being able to experience the park's beauty by walking, hiking or bicycling throughout the park. Other recreational opportunities valued by respondents include camping and picnicking,

scenic driving, viewing interpretive signs, access to viewing endangered and rare birds, dog walking, special running events, horseback riding, and participation in ranger-led programs and education-related activities.

Many people noted that they treasured the park's open undeveloped vistas, sense of wildness, and opportunities for solitude offered in many park settings. Visitors noted how much they enjoyed being able to sit and listen to the sounds of nature. The park's wilderness trails from mauka to makai were also mentioned as offering extraordinary visitor experiences.

Respondents talked about the park's role as a place of research on geologic processes and the presence of the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) as important to help educate and explain geologic processes to the public.

Many mentioned the importance of the park's Kahuku Unit as a place of protected and pristine geologic features and its role as a keystone of a park conservation vision, as home to threatened, rare and endangered species.

Respondents expressed enthusiastic support for the park's participation in partnerships and collaborative efforts as a critical tool for expanding the park's ability to achieve park goals and the park service mission. The park's partnership with the Three Mountain Alliance was mentioned many times as a valued example of important work that the park needed to continue regarding protecting watersheds, restoring native forests and increasing resiliency for Hawai'i's endemic species in the face of impacts related to climate change.



“What I value most about Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is the way I feel when I visit, which is to say I feel moved, inspired, touched by the beauty of this phenomenal and vibrant place on the planet.”



Mauna Loa summit

► Preservation and Protection of the Park's Natural and Cultural Resources

A dominant theme expressed in the public comments was that the park should be managed in a way that preserves, protects, and restores the park's natural and cultural resources. Many comments expressed a desire for the park to continue and expand their efforts in resource protection. Preserving and protecting these resources and "the 'aina itself" was viewed to be the ultimate responsibility of the park. Some comments recognized the challenge of balancing preservation with enjoyment of the park's resources for current and future generations. While some respondents encouraged restrictions on visitation in order to protect resources, others also expressed a desire to ensure that the park remain accessible to visitors.

Native Ecosystems

Protecting and restoring native species and ecosystems, free from the presence of exotic invasive species, was viewed by many as integral to maintaining the significance of the park. The threat posed by invasive species to native ecosystems was repeatedly mentioned as a key issue facing the park. Respondents wholeheartedly encouraged the park to continue to aggressively target non-native species. Many of those addressing concerns about invasive species mention removal of morella faya, kahili ginger, ungulates such as mouflon sheep, pigs, goats, cattle, and exotic grasses as key culprits.



Researcher pollinating Mauna Loa silversword

Comments also suggested specific strategies for controlling the spread or introduction of invasive species. Several stressed that the park should focus on fencing as a priority to protect native ecosystems from further degradation from non-native ungulates. Another commenter urged the park to consider using grazing management as a tool for reforestation. Many expressed appreciation that the park continued to do so much with few resources and felt that funding and staff time for invasive eradication was critical to protect native ecosystems into the future.

Several commenters suggested that the park should continue to work on replacing its missing habitats. Suggestions include restoring a coastal lowland forest with native species including a coastal edge to support a native seabird rookery, restoring fragmented sub-alpine and alpine ecosystems native to the upper slopes of Mauna Loa to adapt to climate change and expanding



Release of endangered Hawksbill turtle hatchlings

the park's Special Ecological Areas to include restoration of degraded dry 'ōhi'a woodlands.

Some respondents gave specific suggestions for increasing the resiliency of native ecosystems in the face of climate change and emphasized the critical role of partnering with others

for managing resources. Numerous comments encouraged the park to modify or restrict human activities as necessary to protect natural resources. These included limiting numbers of visitors and air tours, restricting dogs in certain areas and providing visitor education.

Several commenters supported the park's ecosystem approach to restoration. Some comments encouraged efforts to focus on natural boundaries for the park influenced by ecosystems, rather than political boundaries. Mention was made of the potential for restoration in adjacent areas managed by the State of Hawaii and coastal zone areas as critical buffers to protect and expand the viability of park ecosystems.

"It's good to have an ecosystem approach to protection; not just looking at single species."

Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

Many noted the valuable role the park plays in preserving and protecting cultural resources and that the park should be "a place that just thrives with knowledge of the Hawaiian culture."

Many respondents emphasized the need to increase the park's educational offerings related to cultural information, suggesting numerous new topics and sites for interpretation. Many of those who commented on the cultural significance of the park emphasized the need to increase education and interpretive opportunities relating to Native Hawaiian cultural significance and cultural history. Mention was repeatedly made of the void in Native Hawaiian cultural information presented to the public created by the loss of the park's Waha'ula Visitor Center. Strong support was expressed for a building or place dedicated to interpreting Native Hawaiian stories and as a



Park Curator cleaning park map

site for cultural demonstrations and display of the park's archival collection of Native Hawaiian artifacts. One respondent requested that a broader Hawaiian cultural history be interpreted to include pre-Pelehonuamea history. Several urged the park to use the traditional Hawaiian language, Hawaiian place names, and chants on maps and educational materials.

Commenters also mentioned a desire to see or have access to the park's fine art paintings, historic documents and other items of important cultural research contained in the park's library museum collection and archives. Several mentioned the need for a new location for the park library and collections. An increase in collection staffing was suggested.

"I want to see native birds, lehua trees, more people and happy face spiders.

Whatever we see today is what we really want to see in 20 years. Koa trees, Kamehameha butterflies.

We want the national park to remain the same FOREVER!"

Here's what we heard from you . . .

"I value the petroglyphs . . . because it is our link to Hawaiian culture."



Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs

A matter of special concern to the public was the need to identify and properly care for Native Hawaiian archeological sites. The petroglyphs at the Pu'u Loa archeological site were mentioned as being of cultural importance and a sacred place of ancestral connections for Native Hawaiians. One respondent urged the park to complete archeological surveys in coastal areas. Several people encouraged the park to partner with the Kalapana community to survey and interpret archeological sites in the area known as the Kalapana extension. Several respondents posed questions

about the park's future plans for the archeological resources at the historic Kealakomo settlement.

One historian gave detailed comments on protecting the park's historic buildings and structures, suggesting partnerships and increased research on architectural features and sites related to the Civilian Conservation Corps, WWII Japanese internment and imprisonment of Italian and German POWs,

and structures related to Mission 66. Several respondents urged the park to increase public use of the historic 'Āinahou Ranch buildings and cultural landscape for educational programs, meetings and retreats.

The park was also encouraged to restore the Kalapana trail, as one of the park's most culturally important trails. Another historic trail suggested for restoration was the historic fishing trail at Na'ulu. Several respondents urged the park to create a trail connection to the Ala Kahakai Historic Trail.

Several people urged the park to restore historic cultural landscapes by replanting trees such as coconut, hala, milo, lama, and loulu.



Coastal house site

"It is both a cultural and geological site, enabling us to understand how our islands were formed and the traditions that illuminate that understanding."

► Significance of Park Resources to Native Hawaiian Culture

Those who commented on the park's cultural values emphasized that the presence of Native Hawaiian ancestors, deities and 'amākua is what makes Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park a very special place.



Traditional Hawaiian hula

Several comments expressed the view that there is no separation between nature and culture and park management should seek to integrate them. Several respondents mentioned that protecting the park's natural resources was important to native Hawaiians who view the native landscape as an integral component of Native Hawaiian traditions and practices, and serves as an example of mālama 'aina, a key Native Hawaiian teaching.

The topic of Native Hawaiian access for traditional activities and uses such as plant collection and

fishing was addressed by some respondents. One respondent strongly felt that a hula platform or monument to Pelehonamea should be built closer to the rim of Halema'uma'u, so that visitors and others could pay homage in a proper way. Another suggested that cultural demonstrations at the current hula platform should be moved to an area that is quieter and less congested so that practitioners could have better focus.

To address the gathering of plants for medical and spiritual purposes, one person suggested some sort of certification process to replace the current rules. This certification would emphasize no selling of plant material and a provision for determining a person's need dependent upon that person's medical condition. A few respondents stated that traditional collecting activities should remain focused on Kīlauea and not allowed on Mauna Loa at Kahuku. A few people also stated that tourism access to areas used for traditional cultural practices should be controlled.

Among those who commented on Kalapana fishing access, one person emphasized that Hawaiians should continue to have the right to fish but that others should not be allowed along the coast. Another person also stated that Native Hawaiians should not be able to guide others in for fishing. It should be strictly for Kalapana Native Hawaiian use.



Investiture of Hawaiian royalty

"I think of the park as a grand temple that houses my ancestors and deities that look after me."

Here's what we heard from you . . .

“We value that it's part of our ancestors culture and it's great that we have it because it connects to our kūpuna and how they lived. Their heritage is left there and you are saving it for generations to come.”



Kapa demonstration at Kīlauea Cultural Festival

Several respondents raised questions about whether the park would be managed in a manner that shows respect for Native Hawaiian beliefs and traditions. One person strongly felt that Native Hawaiians should have more freedom throughout the park.

Some responses mentioned support for the park's informal kūpuna consultation process. A few people suggested that the park

kūpuna group might be expanded to include Native Hawaiians from other areas—even other islands. Another commenter voiced the belief that many people have ideas and feelings when it comes to honoring Pelehonuamea and perpetuating the culture of Hawaii and that the park needs to be open to all views on the park's spiritual value, not just those of Native Hawaiians. One respondent expressed fear that a strict interpretation of Native Hawaiian cultural significance might require dismantling of buildings such as Jaggar Museum at Uwēkahuna or restrictions on routine park operations. This same commenter urged that Native Hawaiian significance be balanced with the park's designation as a national park for connecting all types of visitors to nature.

Many respondents echoed the concern that most off-island visitors do not realize the spiritual value of the park to Native Hawaiian people. Several offered that all park visitors receive information about the significance of the park for Native Hawaiians, including “protocol and cultural significance of the park and special sites,” so that all visitors would understand the sacredness of these lands and treat its resources with the proper respectful behavior.

An overriding theme to all Native Hawaiian cultural comments was that the protection and interpretation of the park's Native Hawaiian values and stories was important for Native Hawaiians for future generations. Several comments

by young Native Hawaiian students emphasized that all children need to know about Native Hawaiian culture.

While most comments on culture geographically referenced the park as a whole, several sites were repeatedly mentioned in the comments as being of great value to native Hawaiians. These include Kīlauea eruption sites, Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs, Kalapana Trail, Kealacomowaena, Steam Vents, Piko, Wao Kahakai, and the site of old Kalapana. Several also suggested that the park should connect to the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail as a means to promote Native Hawaiian ancestral connections and families to park lands.

Importance of Research in the Park

Support for the park's role in furthering research and advancing science is also mentioned in numerous comments. One respondent expressed that research by National Park Service (NPS) staff, as well as other agencies, allowed the park to stay on the leading edge of discoveries and promoted understanding of the delicate balance of park ecosystems. Many of those who commented about research specifically stated that there should be more participation by the public in scientific observation activities as well as more sharing of current research findings with the public. Since access throughout the park is needed to ensure future monitoring activities, one scientist urged that management zoning for the GMP should include a provision for future monitoring and study in all zones.



U.S. Geological Survey scientist samples volcanic gases

Other specific comments related to research included the importance to continue baseline inventories, the need for additional research housing, and development of a preservation field school for cultural resources.

► Visitor Experiences (Activities, Programs, and Facilities)

Park Facilities Related to Visitor Experience

In discussing the future of park facilities that support the visitor experience, many respondents urged that the park should remain the same, minimize development, and maintain the “historic flavor of the existing infrastructure.” Comments advocated that the park maintain, improve or upgrade existing infrastructure from bathrooms and campsites to railings at overlooks before adding new development. Comments suggested that any expansion needs should be accomplished by adaptive re-use of current park buildings and infrastructure. At the same time, respondents encouraged the park to create new facilities when needed. The most frequently mentioned facilities needed included new interpretive exhibits, trails, restrooms, campgrounds and picnic areas. Many encouraged the park to consider earth-friendly and sustainable materials, as well as solar and other climate friendly technology, for any facility projects.

Education and Interpretation

Numerous comments were complimentary and enthusiastic about the current interpretive and educational programming offered, emphasizing the important educational role of the park. Many respondents encouraged the park to broaden the park's current level of interpretive ranger-led programs and on-site interpretive media such as brochures and waysides. Comments encouraged the park to expose visitors to more of the park activities and stories and provide access to key objects associated with park stories. The After Dark in the Park program was frequently mentioned and highlighted as a popular program.

In general, people expressed satisfaction with Kīlauea Visitor Center, but a few suggestions were made for updating or improving displays and photographs in the park and in the Jaggar Museum. Many people suggested increasing

“The visitor to the Park is an important present and future resource. By providing a good experience in terms of programs and activities, the Park will be simultaneously developing future stewards who can engage in protection and preservation activities as volunteers and contributors . . .”

Here's what we heard from you . . .



Ranger-led hike near Mauna Ulu to view lava trees

wayside exhibits in the park and listed a diversity of preferred topics. New interpretive trail ideas included short interpretive trails at Kīpukakī and on upper Mauna Loa road at the wilderness trailhead, an interpretive trail in the rainforest, an interpretive trail to interpret coastal resources, and more cultural interpretive trails.

The most frequently mentioned new education-related facility needs expressed by

respondents was the desire for a building or place dedicated to interpreting Native Hawaiian stories, a new cultural demonstration area, and a facility for displaying the park's cultural collection of archeological artifacts, fine art paintings, and other historic items. Those who mentioned increasing interpretation on Native Hawaiian culture expressed the hope that future visitors would learn about the park's significance to Native Hawaiians so that they would understand the importance of the park and treat it with respect.

Respondents also expressed a desire for the park to increase involvement of youth in the park. One person viewed the park as an "open classroom" and saw opportunities to make the park relevant to today's youth.



Viewing wayside exhibit along the Sulphur Banks Trail

Respondents urged that the park serve visitors by expanding community outreach efforts, training park concession employees, and increasing partnerships to local communities and schools, as well as off-island audiences. Several mentioned that the park should think about connecting with new generations of visitors. One respondent urged that the role of national parks was to deepen the experience of park visitors by creating ways for them to immerse themselves in nature and have transformational experiences. Another envisioned a future park that extended outreach to ensure that people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and interest had an opportunity to have a National Park experience.

The public offered numerous ideas and suggestions about interpretation, education, and outreach programs such as updating geology exhibits to offer more contemporary and interactive displays, considering a joint visitor center in Hilo with other agencies and organizations, extending the roof at Jaggar Museum to create a covered lanai to shelter visitors from rain, creating a new

visitor center outside the park and many more suggestions. Some expressed a desire to be able to view the work the park is doing related to reforestation and rare species recovery

Access to Lava



Hikers and surface flows along Kīlauea's East Rift

Public comments emphasized that viewing the formation of lava and volcanic eruptions is a valuable visitor experience which should be continued. Many expressed their appreciation for being allowed to get close to eruption sites and flow areas. Comments discussed the possible dangers associated with viewing active lava

and urged that the public be educated but still allowed to get close. Several people mentioned that seeing special volcanic features at the park provided an important visitor experience as well as providing scientific evidence on the role of volcanoes.

"No other place in the world can you drive in and drive right up to a crater; even with liability concerns it is good to have public access."

Hiking and Biking

Park trails were a common topic in the public comments received. A number of people articulated a desire for a more extensive trail network system. Respondents also expressed a desire to see new trail designs that incorporate a loop hiking experience. However, several cautioned that the park should only build what it can afford to maintain and should focus on maintenance of existing trails. A few people urged the park to support a trail proposal by The Nature Conservancy that would link park trails with adjacent state and private landowners through an upper elevation trail system encircling Mauna Loa.

Many respondents urged the park to improve bicycling in the park emphasizing the need for better road and trail planning that incorporates safe cycling to all of the prominent points of interest in the park.

Comments varied on the extent of bicycling and how the park should manage this activity. Many of the bicycling respondents encouraged separation of use by bicyclists and hikers. One person emphasized that the park should not allow bikes in the park at all because the park is sacred. A number of respondents felt that the park should allow bicycles on primitive roads or abandoned trails. Several advocated for new single-track backcountry bicycle trails. A few people noted the potential for a bike path from Nāmakanipaio Campground to Jaggar Museum and connecting over to Mauna Loa Road. To encourage sustainability, local residents emphasized the need for safer bicycle paths between the park and neighboring communities for commuting employees, residents, and visitors. Several encouraged the park to partner with biking groups in order to accomplish needed trail maintenance.

Many commenters provided specific suggestions for individual trail design and locations.

"I especially value the quiet and serenity of hiking on front country and backcountry hiking trails . . ."

Here's what we heard from you . . .



Campers at Kulanaokuaiki Campground

Camping, Picnicking, and Restrooms

To increase a range of experiences, many people mentioned the desire for improved camping opportunities. One commenter noted that park campgrounds require either hiking several miles or car camping environments. Requests for overnight camping improvements ranged from a backcountry cabin system connected by trails to more centrally located campsites, including bike-in sites and concession operated tent cabins. In general, comments suggested that campgrounds should be secure and “family-friendly” environments.

A few respondents suggested the park add picnic tables at several locations including Pu‘u Pua‘i, Mauna Ulu, Kīlauea Visitor Center, and Kīlauea Iki Trailhead.

Many comments emphasized the need for maintaining or improving existing restrooms as well as providing additional restrooms. Comments suggested adding restrooms at key trailheads and along heavily-used front country trails such as Kīlauea Iki. Comments also highlighted inadequate restrooms at Jaggar Museum and Thurston Lava Tube. Respondents expressed concern about litter and development of social trails attributed to a lack of facilities.

Soundscapes

Commenters stated the desire for “the sounds of more native species” while others simply desired “pristine natural quiet.” One person urged that air tours be available in the park, or nearby; others emphasized that air tours should be banned to protect natural sounds and allow for solitude, tranquility, serenity and quiet.

.....
“Natural sounds are powerful experiences—encourage people to engage in that experience . . .”
.....

Dogs

A few people encouraged the park to be more dog-friendly, allowing leashed dogs on trails. Others thought the park should do a better job of enforcing the current “no dogs on trail” policy and perhaps ban dogs altogether due to potential threats to the Hawaiian goose (nēnē).

Accessibility

Respondents stated that the park needed to ensure that people with disabilities are able to experience the park outdoors, through accessible trails and facilities. One person emphasized that accessibility was not just parking, but a whole host of cognitive needs, such as language and interactive exhibits that needed to be considered for a successful visitor experience.

Wilderness

Several comments expressed that the park’s wilderness from mauka to makai offered an extraordinary visitor experience. One person felt that the park should protect the park’s visitor opportunities for solitude and “feeling of wildness, even if it means limiting the numbers of visitors”. Several stated that the park should have a greater emphasis on wilderness values and that the park should consider any suitable areas, such as the upper areas of Mauna Loa and any other places possible, to designate significant portions of



Hikers in Ka‘ū wilderness

the park as wilderness. One person cautioned that the park should be careful with wilderness designations as it can make critical protection and restoration activities, such as fencing, more difficult and expensive. Many respondents felt that the visitor experience in wilderness should be enhanced by providing better water sources, cleaner cabins and shelter conditions, compost toilets, and construction of at least one new shelter on Mauna Loa to offer a shorter traveling distance between camps. Several scientists noted that there will be a continued need to have instrumentation in wilderness for monitoring.

Crowding and Congestion

Crowding and vehicle congestion along Crater Rim Drive was frequently identified as a key issue facing the park. Numerous comments urged the park to reduce concentrations of people, cars, and buses at Thurston Lava Tube (Nāhuku), Kīlauea Visitor Center, and Jaggar Museum. Respondents also urged the park to resolve parking congestion at the eruption site to keep visitors from walking long distances to their cars.



Traffic congestion at Thurston Lava Tube (Nāhuku)

.....
“I would like to go to the park and experience beauty in a peaceful environment, not feel like I am trying to get through crowds at the mall at Christmas time.”
.....

► Transportation, Roads, and Parking

Park roads were a topic of interest to many respondents. A consistently stated perspective was that the park should create safer road conditions primarily to accommodate bicyclists. Road conditions were discussed in detail by one person who cited several locations where bicyclists were forced to leave the road or travel in vehicle lanes due to the current pattern of road use. A number



Bicyclist near Steam Vents

of people asked that the park designate bike lanes to separate bicycles from cars or create separate bike paths altogether, in order to create safer park roadways. The Mauna Loa Road and Crater Rim Drive were often identified

as needing designated bike paths and were felt to be too narrow for bicyclists, cars, buses, and pedestrians at the same time.

A couple of people suggested that park roads such as Hilina Pali and Mauna Loa Road be closed to vehicles on certain days of the week, allowing travel only by bicycles and pedestrians. One person suggested installation of speed bumps between the Kilauea Visitor Center and Jaggar Museum to slow cars.

Several expressed the desire to maintain a loop trip around the caldera on Crater Rim Drive. A few people urged that Crater Rim Drive not be widened and that travel on Crater Rim Drive should be changed to one-way traffic. Some employees at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory expressed concern about Crater Rim Drive becoming one-way only and wanted to ensure maximum options for road uses.

Several respondents emphasized that road development should be minimized. One person urged that Chain of Craters Road to Kalapana should be re-opened. Another suggested that the park needed a new fire road near ʻĀinahou that could also be used by the public.

Parking was also discussed by the public with many noting the parking problems at Thurston Lava Tube (Nāhuku), Kilauea Iki, and the Kilauea Visitor Center due to congestion along Crater Rim Drive. Several suggested that parking for buses and cars would be better positioned outside the park. Others thought that private vehicle access should be restricted to parking in large lots and travel by shuttle. Some urged that construction of any large parking areas

“I would like to see a place where cars are minimized, shuttle buses used and bicycles encouraged . . .”

should be sited where only minimal clearing of native vegetation is required. A number of people urged the park to alleviate traffic and parking congestion at the eruption site and ensure visitors are not hiking an extra two miles to their cars. Employee parking at various locations throughout the park was noted as being inadequate for the next 20 years. Trailhead parking and road pull-outs to accommodate horse trailers were also advocated by a few respondents.

Several respondents urged the park to create alternative park entrances off Highway 11 into the park, even if just for staff use, to help alleviate congestion and offer evacuation routes. A few people thought the park should have more significant signs at the main entrance to the park, visible from both directions so that visitors have a better sense of arrival and know when to turn.



Pedestrians, buses, and cars along Crater Rim Drive

The topic of bus tours was raised by some respondents. Some felt that large tour buses introduced a hurried and noisy element into the park setting. Many respondents emphasized that park roads are too narrow to accommodate the current size of buses, along with private vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Several people thought that smaller, more energy efficient shuttle buses would be more appropriate. Many people stressed that tour buses should be required to turn off their engines while idling. The idea of separate parking for commercial buses was also suggested by respondents.

Alternative Transportation

A significant number of respondents envisioned that the park would develop a “climate-friendly” shuttle system for visitor use in the future in order to reduce vehicle use and alleviate parking congestion. Most people seemed to be describing a “hop on, hop off” shuttle bus that would travel on a routine schedule, stopping at key destinations and leaving from a hub or central location. Several thought that the shuttle should be staffed by interpretive rangers.

Some comments suggested that private vehicles should have restricted access with certain areas open only to those traveling by shuttle. A few people thought that private cars should not be allowed in the park at all, with travel only by guided shuttles. Others thought that some private cars should be allowed to give visitors freedom to hike and explore less traveled areas.

Opinions varied as to the best type of shuttle technology, but a majority emphasized that the park should explore all climate-friendly options, mentioning solar, bio-diesel, electric, and even horse carriage. Other transportation related ideas included using Cooper Center in Volcano Village as a “park and ride” to connect island-wide mass transit with the park, and a trolley, rail or tram system.



Koa canopy overhangs Crater Rim Drive near Kilauea Military Camp

“Would like the park to use less fossil fuels—look at solar, geothermal, wind . . .”

Here's what we heard from you . . .

“Volcano Lodge would be brought back to its traditional elegance with true aloha expressed and felt from entrance to departure. Each visitor would be greeted. Ka Lua Pele would be seen immediately when entering the hotel. Shops would be off to the side as if an after thought and would have products made by native and local artisans. Meals would be geared towards locally grown products and produce. Environmentally sound and sustainable would be the goal of the entire operation.”

► Commercial Services and Special Park Uses

In describing a future vision, the public voiced a strong interest in not over-commercializing the park. There was concern expressed about “commercial pressures that diminish park values.” However, comments also indicated a desire for a more diverse range of food, lodging, and retail services to be available within the park. Many people expressed that the current types of services available to visitors did not do justice to the beauty and elegance of the park setting.

Many respondents felt that concessions serving the public should offer more educational programs and integrate Hawaiiana into the services provided. One person urged that the concessions be required to have standards of interpretation for employee training and incentives for businesses and operators who engage in the park mission. A few people expressed the fear that concessions management by large corporations would create an ambience not necessarily in keeping with the historic setting of the park.

Numerous comments emphasized future opportunities to improve the greatly under-utilized potential of the Volcano House Hotel. Many people felt that the environment was not family friendly and that a snack bar/buffet did not do justice to the power of the outdoor setting, encouraging an environment that catered to feeding of large crowds who visited primarily by tour bus. Remodeling ideas were suggested in order to provide better views of the crater, as well as expansion of the range of food services provided.

A number of respondents felt that increased visitor services or expansion needs could be accomplished by better adaptation or utilization of the existing park buildings and infrastructure. Comments generally indicated the park should maximize the potential to make better use of and increase existing square footage or infrastructure that is open for public use and accessible



Historic Volcano House Hotel

to a wide array of visitors. The public had varied opinions as to which organization or concession entity should be located where, yet there was an overall sentiment to analyze the future uses of all park buildings. For example, some respondents felt that the Kīlauea Military Camp should be opened to the general public, not just military personnel, as a means to provide a mid-level range of commercial lodging, food, and retail services to visitors.

The public suggested various ideas or support for concessions, or special activities and uses important for the visitor experience. Suggestions included offering a coffee house or coffee bar, developing a culinary institute, guided lava boat tours, horseback tours in backcountry, and many more ideas.

► Park Operations



Maintenance crews paving accessible trail to Sulphur Banks

Over the course of the scoping period the public commented on various park operational issues such as visitor and staff safety, entrance fees, funding, maintenance, sustainability, enforcement and communication with park constituents.

Many comments noted that on-going volcanic activity and air quality issues will likely be a presence in the park over the life of the GMP, requiring continued flexibility on the part of park management. The topic of visitor safety, while gaining access to lava viewing, was also a popular subject with many stressing the importance of the park's role in ensuring that visitors are informed and remain safe while viewing lava. One person felt that the park should address visitor and staff safety when entering and leaving buildings, cars and buses when there were hazardous air quality conditions.

There were many comments urging park staff to be responsive regarding road and trail closures due to air quality by monitoring closely and re-opening when safe. One person suggested this would be similar to a routine snow closure with rangers monitoring road or trail conditions and opening quickly when conditions allow. Some felt that Crater Rim Drive could be opened and closed daily with some controlled use. One person suggested that visitor access could be allowed on the closed stretch of Crater Rim Drive aboard guided shuttles to ensure visitor safety, yet allow access. Several felt that park evacuation plans should be made public so that people are aware of where

Here's what we heard from you . . .

“More recycling and self-sustaining; park should lead in these efforts . . .”

they should go. Some complimented the park regarding how quickly the extra staff were added at Jaggar Museum after the eruption at Halema'uma'u.

The public commented about entrance fees, with several urging the park to adopt fee-free days or annual passes for kama'āina (local) in order to build a local constituency and reach out to lower income families. A few protests were made about paying fees when tax dollars already support the NPS. One person protested paying fees when there is a public presentation or public meeting at the park. A number of respondents urged the NPS to increase fees for entrance and camping permits and to use the revenue for maintenance or for a search and rescue fund. One person thought that there should be little or no fees for those entering on a bicycle or on foot to reward those visitors who have a lower carbon footprint. Another thought that the park entrance should be free after 4 pm to allow locals and visitors to watch the sunset.

The topic of creating a new permit system for guides to take visitors to view lava was also mentioned. One person suggested that the NPS should consider lava viewing in the same category as rafting the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park or climbing Mount McKinley in Denali National Park and develop some sort of permit system for rugged or remote lava viewing, in order to allow controlled access to areas that are now closed to visitors.



Park ranger and visitors observing nēnē

The public commented often about the need for increased funds for maintenance. Many comments were made about the need for front and backcountry trail and cabin maintenance and the need to better manage the rubbish on Mauna Loa summit and at remote backcountry cabins. Many suggested increased information on backcountry etiquette such as “pack it in, pack it out” and “leave no trace” to educate hikers. A number of people also emphasized the need for increased enforcement in backcountry areas noting

problems such as hikers without permits, hikers with dogs off-leash, illegal campfires, and rubbish left behind. Several people urged the park to continue to use horses for backcountry maintenance as a viable option in the future when fuel costs may be restrictive. Comments were also made about the need to maintain park fences over time to keep ungulates out of the park.

The topic of communication infrastructure was raised by respondents. The scientists at HVO emphasized that communication infrastructure is essential to their operations now and in the future. Several respondents urged that the park should have wireless internet access available over the entire park. Others felt that there should be better cell phone coverage and a tower with emergency 911 phone coverage down Chain of Craters Road. One person noted that this could create more safety and rescue events but overall would be a benefit to park visitors. Another thought that the park should post the information number regarding lava flow updates so people can call on their cell phones while en route to the park.

The public also urged the NPS to communicate with the best available information. Many noted that the park is doing a great job. Several suggested the park could improve communication by linking out with visitors through



Packing out rubbish from park wilderness

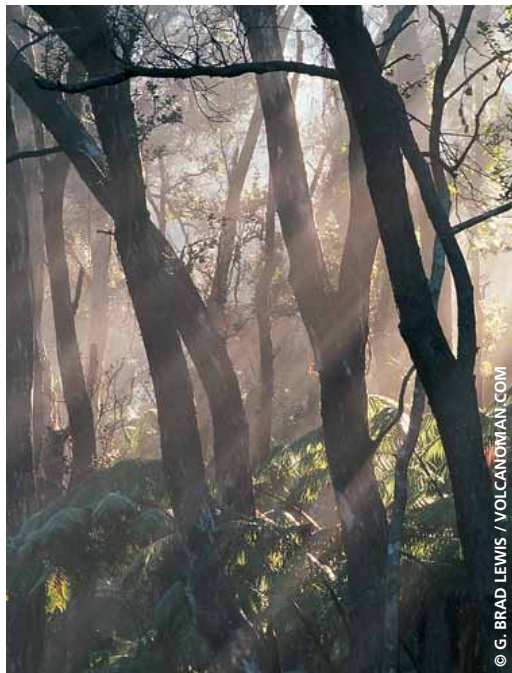
You Tube or My Space and Twitter and better utilize opportunities to communicate with park partners and community organizations.

A number of people expressed concern about the long term availability of funding for staffing, visitor contacts, building maintenance and preservation, and restoration of resources. Many concerns were expressed about the need for future funding to remove invasive species. Several people cautioned that the park should take care not to build more, if they could not care for what already exists. Several expressed appreciation for how much the park does with so little monetary support due to the high caliber of staff and volunteers. One person noted the “aloha spirit” of park staff. Another expressed how much they valued the engaged, informed, and caring staff and volunteers. Several expressed that the park should hire only those who love and know the park well, not just job seekers. Others thought that the park should hire locals first. One respondent urged the park to hire more enforcement staff for coastal areas.



Employees repairing fence to protect native forests

► Boundary



Sunlight filtering through forest

The topic of whether the current size and boundary of the park is adequate for the future was of particular interest to a number of respondents. Several urged that the park should be as large as possible and should consider the addition of any new lands, if they were to become available. Specific parcels consistently suggested for potential acquisition included Hualālai Volcano, the Great Crack along the western Ka'ū boundary, and state lands, known as Tract 22, adjoining the eastern park boundary near Thurston Lava Tube. Other areas suggested include the Ka'ū Forest Reserve as a key parcel to strengthen

the park's conservation vision for restoring native forests and to protect and expand habitat for forest birds and future introduction of the Hawaiian Crow ('Alala). Several urged the NPS to consider acquiring state lands at Kapāpala

Forest Reserve to act as a land bridge to connect Kahuku to the east with the rest of the park, as well as widening the neck of park land along the Mauna Loa Road to better prepare for potential upslope migration of vegetation and species in response to climate change.

Several people encouraged the park to consider the needs of the ecosystem first and let that determine the location of designated park boundaries, as opposed to any legal lines that currently exist. The idea of "thinking beyond boundaries" was mentioned several times by the public as an important philosophy for the park to adopt in preparing a future plan. Within that context, several urged that the park make an effort to acquire state conservation areas that are mauka and contiguous to park boundaries as critical habitat for rare and endangered species.

A state easement was also suggested across Kapāpala Ranch to allow trail access from both Kahuku and Mauna Loa Road to connect to the 'Āinapo Trail. Other respondents urged the NPS to create a national seashore along the Ka'ū coastline extending the western border of the park. One person pointed out that the formation of Pu'u 'Ō'ō on the eastern park edge has created a park boundary line that travels right through the center of the crater and that the park should negotiate with the state to include the entire circumference of Pu'u 'Ō'ō as part of the park. One person suggested the park buy land at the site of old Kalapana and restore the old buildings destroyed by lava.

"... Enhance communication with community organizations to tackle issues vital to both ..."

► Partnerships and Collaborations

Comments supported and encouraged partnerships and collaborative efforts as a critical tool for expanding the park's ability to achieve park goals and the park service mission. Mention was made both of continuing existing partnerships and developing new partnerships and collaborative efforts in a wide array of program areas, from resource preservation to facilitating visitor access to the park. The subject of increasing community engagement was also addressed by



Park partner removing kahili ginger

members of the public. Numerous supportive comments were given regarding the park's participation in the Three Mountain Alliance, as a model of collaboration and a successful example of a larger, regional strategy for natural resources management. Many emphasized that the park needed to continue to nurture a collaborative approach to conservation issues.

Many stated that local communities and the park needed to work together in the future. Several respondents expressed that enhancing communication with community organizations was an important means to tackle issues that are vital to both, such as removing non-native species, protecting shoreline and coastal areas, transportation, biosphere reserve buffer zones, world heritage site issues, gateway communities, and shared resources. Several respondents felt that the NPS should be the leader and initiate conversations

with local communities regarding these issues as a means to provide the vision for surrounding communities, who have little exposure to the types of projects that might be possible. Several offered that community connections with neighbors and local populations would build a foundation of future park stewards. The public recommended numerous suggestions for how partnerships could help the NPS in its work. One person emphasized that the park should not engage in any "space industry" type partnerships as they were an affront to Native Hawaiian culture.



Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park assist in maintaining cultural landscape at historic 'Āinahou Ranch House

"... Geographically, Kahuku is the keystone of a conservation vision."

► Future of the Kahuku Unit

Resource Protection in Kahuku

Many public comments regarding the future of Kahuku urged that the park's main priority should be the restoration and protection of its native ecosystems.

Numerous comments mentioned the need to increase fencing of park boundaries to protect key natural areas from the impacts of non-native ungulates. Many comments encouraged the park to restore the ranching pastures to natural conditions with everything below treeline restored to native forests. A few respondents urged that the park preserve and interpret a small section of the pastures as an historic cultural landscape. One rancher with past cattle management experience at Kahuku cautioned that "preservation for preservation's sake without society's participation contributes to a disconnect" and suggested using cattle grazing as a management tool for forest restoration and a way to do something different. Several people mentioned their satisfaction that the park had assumed the care and stewardship of Kahuku's great natural and cultural resources. Several noted the need to protect Kahuku's archaeological sites by locating trails and visitor areas away from cultural sites.

Other comments on resource protection, research, and management at Kahuku included preventing desecration of Hawaiian sacred sites, providing a research field station where researchers could stay and work, protecting bird habitat in mauka areas, and many other ideas.



Treasure trove of native plants in one of Kahuku's forested pit craters

Visitor Access to Kahuku and Desired Visitor Experiences

Throughout public scoping, numerous people mentioned a strong desire to access Kahuku in order to see the special places that caused Kahuku to become part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Many requested the ability to explore, enjoy, and appreciate Kahuku's special natural beauty on their own, not just through participation in a ranger-led hike or a special event. A majority of commenters stressed that the park needed to provide access yet control visitor use in order to protect Kahuku's native ecosystems, geologic features, and cultural resources. Some respondents advocated that certain areas be off-limits to access. A few people advocated for unlimited access 24 hours a day. One person felt that Kahuku should be day-use only, closing at sunset.

Many respondents asked that the park provide opportunities for a diversity of new visitor activities at Kahuku. Comments frequently mentioned the need for a system of hiking trails, overnight camping or lodging, picnicking



Kahuku's high elevation geologic landscape

opportunities with views and trails to accommodate bicycles, horseback riding and use of pack stock. To orient and educate visitors on the resources, there was a strong interest by the public for interpretive signs and educational exhibits. Two respondents felt that off-road recreational vehicles could be used if there was strict enforcement. Others emphasized that four-wheel drive access should be banned. One respondent suggested there be designated sections of Kahuku where recreational hunting would be allowed.

Many commenters often alluded to a difference between activities best suited to the setting in the lower pastoral portions of Kahuku and those activities allowed in the upper mauka areas, currently delineated by the green gate. Several commenters mentioned that there should be only non-motorized access in the upper area of Kahuku. The upper mauka areas were often described as "vast," "rugged," "raw," and "remote" with "extraordinary areas like nowhere else on earth." Others suggested that public access on roads be allowed for visitors to see the mauka geologic features such as the sulphur cones and to gain access to viewing rare birds.

A few people used the word wilderness to describe Kahuku's wilderness quality or wilderness values that should be protected. One person suggested that parts of Kahuku such as the upper slopes of Mauna Loa, should be officially designated as wilderness, connecting with the existing Mauna Loa Wilderness.

Visitor Facilities and Services in Kahuku

Although opinions varied as to the level of infrastructure needed to accommodate visitors, most respondents seemed to be describing a less developed or more primitive type of infrastructure for Kahuku. Mention is often made of minimal motor vehicle access, narrow roads, a network of hiking trails, small picnic areas, compost restrooms, and rustic self-registering campground facilities. Some comments stated a need to keep Kahuku "natural" or "pristine" with "no major development" in the future. Several respondents also mentioned that the infrastructure should harmonize with the natural landscape, use local materials, and be built sustainably. A smaller number of respondents envisioned an increased level of visitor facilities, paved roads, a visitor center, large capacity restrooms, drinking fountains, parking areas, wayside exhibits at all trailheads, a new hula platform for performances, and a variety of commercial services. Rehabilitation of the historic ranch house and outlying structures for interpretation, park concessions or a park field office was mentioned by various respondents.

Trails in Kahuku

New trails were the most frequently mentioned type of new development envisioned for Kahuku, with numerous comments mentioning the need for a hiking trail system. Some suggested that trails be linked to a central visitor staging area. Many people suggested providing backcountry bike paths and horse trails. Some urged that bike paths be separated from cars. Another idea

“Love to see a network of trails and camping with rustic facilities.”

mentioned was that the park should re-establish any known historic trails or Native Hawaiian trails as a great visitor experience.

Quite a number of respondents mentioned the need for some sort of high elevation trail system linking the upper slopes of Kahuku on Mauna Loa together with the existing Mauna Loa Wilderness. A hut-to-hut experience with long distance trekking opportunities was suggested. One person submitted a detailed trail proposal to link the park with state and private lands through an upper elevation trail system that would encircle Mauna Loa. Another person expressed concern about the remoteness and challenge of Mauna Loa's Southwest Rift and the lack of water for great distances, stating that people should be required to have qualifications for hiking there, similar to the climbing requirements in Denali National Park. Another person explained, “Some of the most fantastic geology is up there, but the area is extremely rugged even for experienced travelers with spots where the lava breaks through when hiking. The park might be involved in a lot of patrolling and search and rescue incidents.”

Camping in Kahuku

The desire to camp in Kahuku was often mentioned by respondents. People gave several descriptions of possible campgrounds suggesting a “family-friendly” campground with designated sites, a self-service primitive campground with only minimal restrooms and water, a cabin system connected by hiking trails, hike or bike-in campsites, at least two backcountry campsites, and a concession-run, hard-wall tent cabin experience similar to the Yosemite high camp system.

Commercial Services in Kahuku

Among those who suggested future commercial services in Kahuku, the range of comments were widely varied. Suggestions included a restaurant, a coffee house with fine art displays, a Heritage Museum, a 5-star culinary school/restaurant, overnight lodging, internet access, a shuttle system and a diversity of commercial guide services offering visitors guided opportunities for backcountry hiking, horsepacking and photography trips.

“Kahuku needs a coffee house and a small restaurant.”



Dirt road in lower Kahuku

Roads in Kahuku

A diversity of ideas were presented regarding roads in Kahuku. Some commented that the roads should be kept the same while others said they should be improved. Several thought the old roads should be removed and the land restored to its natural conditions. One person emphasized that the old roads were a cultural desecration and a scar on the landscape.

Opinions varied as to whether there should be road access to upper Kahuku. Of those favoring roads, one person said that they expected the Kahuku Unit would be united with the rest

of the park and that paved roads would be one way to do that, as well as allow people to gain access to higher elevation bird watching. Several mentioned the desire for road access to up country mauka areas to watch birds and view

geologic resources. Two commenters suggested four-wheel drive or ATVs be allowed on roads to reach higher elevation areas. Others emphasized that four-wheel drive and ATVs on roads should be banned. One person envisioned a small one-way loop for cars and bikes in the lower area of Kahuku with a paved road similar to the Hilina Pali road going farther up. The road would be chip-sealed to prevent the spread of invasives and be narrow, designed with the eye of a naturalist.

The entrance/exit to the Kahuku Unit off Highway 11 was mentioned several times as needing re-configuration due to the speed and curve of the highway in that location. One person suggested a traffic light to slow people down. Another suggested that access be provided through Ocean View Estates or at another location along the park boundary.

Education and Interpretation Opportunities in Kahuku

Respondents showed a substantial desire for increased education and interpretation opportunities at Kahuku. There was consensus on the need to orient and educate visitors about the special nature of the resources at Kahuku. Most people who commented on the need for interpretation expressed a desire to see stories told about the rare plants and birds, the restoration of forests, geologic features, and the cultural history of Kahuku. Many respondents suggested the need for outdoor wayside exhibits and signs, regularly scheduled ranger-led talks, living history programs, junior ranger and community outreach programs with schools and communities. A few suggested that Kahuku needed its own visitor center.



Visitor peers into a Kahuku pit crater

A few respondents emphasized the opportunities for interpretation of the ranching or paniolo story. Among those who commented on the ranching history, opinions varied as to where and how the ranching story should be told. These opinions ranged from thoughts that the ranching story is best told in other places on the island, to suggesting it be told on-site in a visitor center or ranching heritage center or in outdoor exhibits. Several former local ranchers associated with Kahuku suggested that the ranch buildings and part of the lower pasture could be used as a working ranch to tell the story of the paniolo lifestyle. One person gave a detailed vision for a Heritage Ranch experience including a small active working ranch with skilled blacksmith, saddle/tack leatherworkers, associated barns, stables, corrals and bunkhouses. Another suggested a lodge or dude ranch type of facility offering food and lodging where visitors would mingle with a live-in working ranch family. One person suggested that a paddock of captive mouflon sheep could be used to interpret ungulate impacts on the landscape.

“Rather see money spent on resources and restoration than for facilities or high-elevation road . . .”

How will your comments be included in the GMP?

Your ideas and suggestions will help us serve you better now and after the completion of the GMP.

The GMP team and park staff will frequently refer to your comments in the coming year. The laws and policies that the NPS follows will help guide how these comments or ideas are incorporated into the GMP.

Some specific comments may be too detailed for the GMP and will be saved and used for other plans (such as a long-range interpretive plan or trail plan). Some comments may address operational issues which means that park staff can implement them when funding is available.

Finally, most of the general and broad-scale comments will be used by the planning team to develop a range of possible management visions for the future, called alternatives.

Here's What Comes Next

The NPS staff is beginning to develop different scenarios or alternatives for how the park could be managed over the next 20 years. Park staff will share

these alternatives with you in 2011, at which time you will have an opportunity to comment on them and help improve them. At that time, a Preliminary Alternatives Newsletter will be sent out for your review and comment. Following public review of these preliminary alternatives, park staff will incorporate your comments and begin to develop a complete draft management plan that incorporates these alternatives.

How to Stay Involved in Planning for Hawai'i Volcanoes Future . . .

- Learn about the GMP at www.nps.gov/havo/parkmgmt.htm
- Attend future public meetings and workshops.
- Sign up on the mailing list to receive publications about the GMP. Choose between receiving paper newsletters sent to your mailing address or e-newsletters sent to your email address.
- Send a letter to the Superintendent or e-mail any comments or questions to: havo_gmp@nps.gov
- Phone the park at (808) 985-6303 if you have questions or comments.
- Continue to visit and enjoy the park's spectacular resources, and think about what you would like to experience in the future.

Did we miss anything?

If you would like to add any thoughts or ideas to the summary of issues presented, please send to the contacts listed on the last page of the newsletter.

Note: Interested in the full record of comments?

A more detailed summary of comments can be viewed online at www.nps.gov/havo/parkmgmt/planning or by contacting the park.

Park News

Hydrogen Fuel Shuttle Testing in 2010

Look for experimental shuttle buses coming your way soon! The park will be testing the feasibility and performance of hybrid battery/hydrogen fueled shuttle buses. This two-year test program, funded by a grant from the Federal Transit Authority, is aimed at reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, and enhancing the park experience for visitors. The shuttles are anticipated to be on the road by mid-2010.

New Visitor Contact Station to Support Visitor Services and Park Operations

Visitors needing emergency medical services or registering for backcountry hikes will someday be greeted in a new building constructed on the site of the existing ranger office. Serving as home base for nearly 25 park staff, this new center will consolidate law enforcement and fire management, eruption duty rangers, and the Pacific Area Communications Center. It will also serve as a much needed command center during major park incidents—such as eruptions, elevated SO₂ levels, fires, or hurricanes. Scheduled for ground-breaking in 2010, the building design qualifies for certification as a national Green Building through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, with potential to test new alternative energy sources, including solar, photovoltaic and hydrogen as back-up energy supplies. The building is funded by the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009, the federal funding targeted at stimulating the economy.

Volunteers Wanted

Remove alien plants, talk to visitors, re-forest with endemic plants, or help out with archives. Go online at www.serve.gov. Enter "National Park" and our zip code, 96718. Search for a volunteer opportunity that fits your interests, talents, and time. For more information or to sign up for on-call volunteer opportunities, call our park's Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Williams at 808-985-6304.

Mark Your Calendars for the July 10, 2010 Kīlauea Cultural Festival

E ho'omau i ka po'ohala

You are invited to carry on the virtues, arts, and skills of the family at Hawai'i Volcanoes' 30th Annual Kīlauea Cultural Festival. The free festival offers Hawaiian crafts, music and dance. Join us for the opening at 10:00 am when the echo of the pū and a heartfelt pule remind us that the culture of Hawai'i is very much alive.



Park visitor weaving lauhala bracelet at Kīlauea Cultural Festival

Hawaiian Translation

'aumākua:	personal or family god, ancestors
hula:	dance
kuleana:	right, concern or responsibility
kūpuna:	group of grandparents, ancestors, relatives or friends
makai:	ocean or towards the ocean
mana:	spiritual power
mana'o:	thought, idea or belief
mālama'aina:	care for or protect the land
mauka:	inland or towards the mountain
mele:	song, chant or poem
pū:	large conch or shell used for a trumpet
pule:	prayer or blessing

What is a General Management Plan?

A General Management Plan (GMP) is the broadest level of planning and decision-making for the future management of national parks. These plans provide a framework for managers to use in making decisions about how best to protect resources, what levels and types of uses are appropriate, what facilities should be developed, and how people access the park. The GMP will describe the general path that the National Park Service (NPS) intends to follow in managing Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park over the next 15 to 20 years. Several possible visions for the future of the park (called alternatives) will be developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the GMP will also analyze the environmental consequences of the various alternatives in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Contact Us

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Project Website: For current project information, visit www.nps.gov/havo/parkmgmt/plan.htm



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GMP Schedule

ESTIMATED TIME FRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
2009	Conduct Public Scoping —Identify goals and issues that need to be addressed. Host public meetings with the public, partners, agencies, native Hawaiians, and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Public Scoping Newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns.
2010–2011	Develop Preliminary Alternatives —Based on public scoping results, develop a draft outline of different possible futures for the park. Provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, partners, government agencies, native Hawaiians, and other stakeholders. <i>* We are currently on this step</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read both the Public Comment Summary Newsletter and the Alternatives Newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
2012–2013	Prepare and Distribute Draft GMP/EIS —Revise alternatives based on comment from the public, partners, government agencies, native Hawaiians, and other stakeholders. Provide additional details on each alternative, analyze impacts of the alternatives, and identify a preferred course of action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns. Review Draft GMP/EIS or Draft GMP/EIS Newsletter and provide written comments.
2014	Revise Draft GMP/EIS and Prepare a Final —Revise Draft GMP/EIS based on comment from the public, partners, government agencies, native Hawaiians, and other stakeholders. Distribute and Implement the Approved GMP/EIS —Prepare and issue a Record of Decision and implement the plan as funding allows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the Final GMP/EIS. Work with the park to implement the plan.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR NATIONAL PARK

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement
Newsletter No. 2 / Results of Scoping, Winter 2010