



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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## Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

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### All Aglow at Halema'uma'u



*A camera's telephoto lens captures the detail of crater wall illuminated by vent glow. Photo by G. Brad Lewis*

By day, a volcanic plume drifts high over Halema'uma'u crater. It is wispy and translucent; at times tinted by pink ash and grey bits of spatter.

At dusk, rangers, scientists, and visitors gather at the scene's best vantage—the overlook at Jaggar Museum.

As the sun sets behind Mauna Loa, darkness reveals what daylight conceals. An intense orange glow tells of molten lava circulating in a narrow vent about 300 feet below the crater floor.

Word is out. This week, the glow from the vent is the brightest since October 2008. USGS scientists credit the good views to the wispiness of the plume and the relative shallowness of molten lava.

Perched high on the rim of Kilauea caldera, the overlook at Jaggar Museum provides a look into Halema'uma'u and observation of the ongoing eruption. The overlook is open 24 hours a day. Starting Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, rangers will be on duty and the museum will stay open until 8:00 pm.

Evenings at the volcano's 4,000 foot summit are cool. Visitors should be prepared for cold wet weather and bring flashlights. Binoculars and a camera with a telephoto lens helps focus in on the activity 1.2 miles away.

Because of significant volcanic hazards—elevated sulfur dioxide levels and explosive eruptions—all trails leading to Halema'uma'u crater are closed including those from Byron Ledge, 'Iliahi (Sandalwood) Trail, and Ka'u Desert Trail.

In addition, the closure of airspace over Halema'uma'u remains in effect. In March 2008, FAA closed airspace within a three nautical mile radius at and below 4,000 feet above ground level due to the ash hazard.

"The brightness and beauty remind us that the forces of Pele are ever-changing," said Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando. "Come join us for yet another glimpse at our own wonder of the world."

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