



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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E Malama i keia 'Aina, Care for this Land **Park Embarks on *Leave No Trace* Campaign**

On Saturday, April 21st park staff, kupuna, and members of Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park plan to kick off the park's *Leave No Trace* campaign.

They will be joined by volunteers from Expedia and the Hawaii Island visitor industry working through the World Heritage Alliance, a joint initiative between the United Nations Foundation and Expedia, Inc. to promote sustainable tourism and preservation and awareness of World Heritage sites.



The group will gather together to spend time removing debris left by visitors along the rims of Kilauea's caldera and craters.

The park has experienced an alarming increase in items being left on the summit of Kilauea Volcano. More and more visitors are leaving food, plants, flowers, bottles, money, incense, candles, crystals, etc. The activity is illegal. In accordance with park regulations, visitors are not permitted to leave any items on the landscape.

The situation is especially bad at Halema'uma'u Crater where an ongoing commitment of staff time is required to remove the 45 pounds of material left there each week.

Food left by visitors attracts nene, the endangered Hawaiian Goose. It causes the geese to look for handouts in parking lots and by roadsides where they are run over by cars. Raw rice and beans, fruit, meat, and other food can sicken and kill nene. Feeding wildlife is prohibited within national parks.

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The practice is unhealthy and unsightly. The accumulation of rotting food and foliage attracts rats, flies, ants and roaches. Cans, coins, plastic wrap, and cardboard boxes spoil the beauty of the land and experience of the visitor. Disposing of items in other than refuse receptacles is prohibited.

Burning incense sticks and Hell bank notes is also illegal as lighting fires outside of designated areas is prohibited.

Many Native Hawaiians believe that Kilauea's summit area is *wahi kapu*—sacred land. “How appropriate that we honor their long-held tradition of stewardship and offer as our greatest gift, the preservation of this land at its most pristine,” said Superintendent Cindy Orlando.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park was established on August 1, 1916 to conserve volcanic features, endemic Hawaiian ecosystems, Hawaiian cultural and archeological remains and inherent scenic values.

The *Leave no Trace* campaign will educate visitors and tour operators about the importance of protecting the park's natural beauty and preserving the culture of Hawai'i's indigenous people.

The park will distribute informational handouts and bookmarks, install signs and waysides where litter is most abundant, and set-up temporary exhibits on *Leave No Trace* at Kilauea Visitor Center and Jaggar Museum.

“We look to our partners and local communities to assist us in communicating the value of resource protection and cultural sensitivity. With public support, we are confident that we can stop the proliferation of litter. Island wide, we are all in this together,” said Orlando.