



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

P.O. Box 52
Hawai'i National Park
Hawai'i 96718

Mardie Lane, Park Ranger
808.985.6018

Hawai'i Volcanoes NEWS RELEASE

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Park Proposes 10 mph Speed Reduction on Highway-11

The park has sent a letter to the Department of Transportation, State Highways Division, proposing a reduction in the speed limit from 55mph to 45mph on Highway-11 from the park's Puna boundary to the Mauna Loa Road intersection.

According to Superintendent Cindy Orlando, "One of the objectives that the National Park Service shares with the State Highways Division is to maintain safe roadways for our visitors, staff, and residents."

The 3.5 mile section of highway includes the park's main entrance, and the entrance to Kilauea Military Camp and the Volcano Golf Course and Subdivision. There has been an increase in traffic over the years due to the growing population in the surrounding communities and number of commuters traveling through the area. The park is also experiencing higher visitation with more buses, vans, and rental cars using this section of highway.

The reduction would be consistent with the 45mph speed limit posted on the adjacent stretch of Highway-11 from the 31 to 37 mile markers.

"We would prefer that the entire stretch of Highway-11 from the park's Puna to Ka'u boundaries be 45mph as there are trailheads, campgrounds, and planned interpretive waysides located all along the way," said Orlando. "A speed reduction in the remaining 3.5 miles of highway near the Ka'u boundary would also increase protection for the families of endangered nene (Hawaiian goose) that live in the area."

The park also supports a reduction in speed from 55mph to 45mph on a section of Highway-11 immediately outside the park from its Puna boundary to Wright Road. More and more residents and tourists enter and leave Volcano through the roads which intersect with the highway and there continues to be an increase in vehicle, bike, and foot traffic between the park and Volcano community.

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