



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

June 28, 2007

Chain of Craters Road Reopens Friday

Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando announced today that Chain of Craters Road will reopen mid-morning on Friday, June 29, 2007. Hilina Pali Road and Kulanaokuaiki Campground will also reopen.

"Eruptive activity is now at a near all time low relative to the last 25 years. Based on communications with scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, we feel confident that roads and coastal trails can be safely reopened," said Orlando.

However, the following closures remain in effect due to recent volcanic and wildfire activity and visitors are reminded to heed the instruction of rangers and obey all Closed Area signs:

- Kilauea's east rift is closed, including Napau Trail and Campsite, and Naulu Trail.
- The parking lot at Mauna Ulu is closed as firefighters continue to carry out fire suppression activities there that include helicopter operations.
- The park's eastern boundary near Kalapana is closed.
- Pu'u 'O'o is closed. The cinder and spatter cone is extremely unstable and its cataclysmic collapse continues.

Chain of Craters Road was closed on Father's Day, June 17th after a lava intrusion, accompanied by an earthquake swarm and ground expansion, resulted in a new lava outbreak two days later on the upper east rift of Kilauea. The lava that oozed out of a 275 yard long fissure in a remote and inaccessible part of the park is still and cooling.

The road's reopening allows visitors to once again experience the 18-mile scenic drive that descends 3700 feet from Kilauea's summit to the sea. Pullouts provide impressive views of the volcano's tempestuous past and vistas of the island's southern coastline.

The road meanders past several pit craters, crosses pahoehoe and 'a'a lava fields, and ends at a 2003 lava flow. From road's end, there are short walks to Holei Sea Arch and the 2003 lava flow. Because the eruption of Pu'u 'O'o is in a pause, no lava is flowing on the surface or into the sea—there are no steam plumes along the coast or red glow after dark. Rangers are on site at the end of the road during the day, and there are picnic tables and accessible restrooms.

In addition, the trail to the petroglyphs at Pu'u Loa will reopen, as will the park's coastal trails. These trails, accessible from Pu'u Loa, Mau Loa o Mauna Ulu, and Hilina Pali Overlook parking areas, include the Puna Coast Trail, Keauhou Trail, Ka'aha Trail, and Hilina Pali Trail. Hikers must register and obtain a free backcountry permit at the Kilauea Visitor Center before heading out.

The usual hazards associated with a volcanic environment still exist. There are sulfurous fumes, steaming vents, steep cliffs, and deep earthcracks overgrown with vegetation. For safety's sake, stay on marked trails.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

[REDACTED]

“Kilauea is perhaps the world’s most active volcano,” added Orlando. “We appreciate the momentary calm, but know better than to be lulled into complacency.”

Kilauea will erupt again and another significant magma intrusion, earthquake swarm, or lava outbreak could force future evacuations and closures. Park staff remains vigilant and ready to respond.

To learn more about what’s going on with the volcano go to <http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/lava2.htm>