



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pu`uhonua o Honaunau
National Historical Park

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Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau News Release

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Tsunami causes closure of West Hawai`i National Parks: Pu`uhonua o Honaunau and Kaloko Honkohau National Historical Parks continue to assess tsunami related damage.

The 8.9 earthquake that occurred off Japan on the afternoon of March 10, 2011 generated a fast moving, large tsunami which travelled rapidly eastward across the Pacific Ocean. The tsunami came ashore at Pu`uhonua o Honaunau and Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Parks on the morning of March 11, 2011, entered into the near coastal regions of the parks, over topping walls and surged inland hundreds of feet. National Park Service resource management crews assessed coastal areas of both National Parks on March 11 in the morning hours and witnessed continued surging of tsunami related waves throughout the day.

At Kaloko Honokohau the unimproved road to Kaloko Fishpond remains closed as the coastal trail and parking area at the pond have been damaged and debris cover the parking area and picnic areas. The visitor contact station along Queen Ka`ahumanu Hwy is open 8:30am – 4:00pm daily to provide visitors information about the park and safe access paths to the coastal regions.

Pu`uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park will remain closed indefinitely as resource crews assess damage to the park and begin clearing debris. At Pu`uhonua o Honaunau, the tsunami surges entered the palace grounds and shore fish ponds throughout the day, scattering marine debris and coastal vegetation throughout the park grounds. Damage to park features has yet to be determined and large debris is blocking safe access into the park.

Please assist national park staff by honoring these park closures.

Further information on Park closures will follow as they become available. For further information about the parks please call Pu`uhonua o Honaunau NHP (808) 328-2326 ext 0 and listen for closure updates, or Kaloko Honokohau (808)326-9057 during operating hours.

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