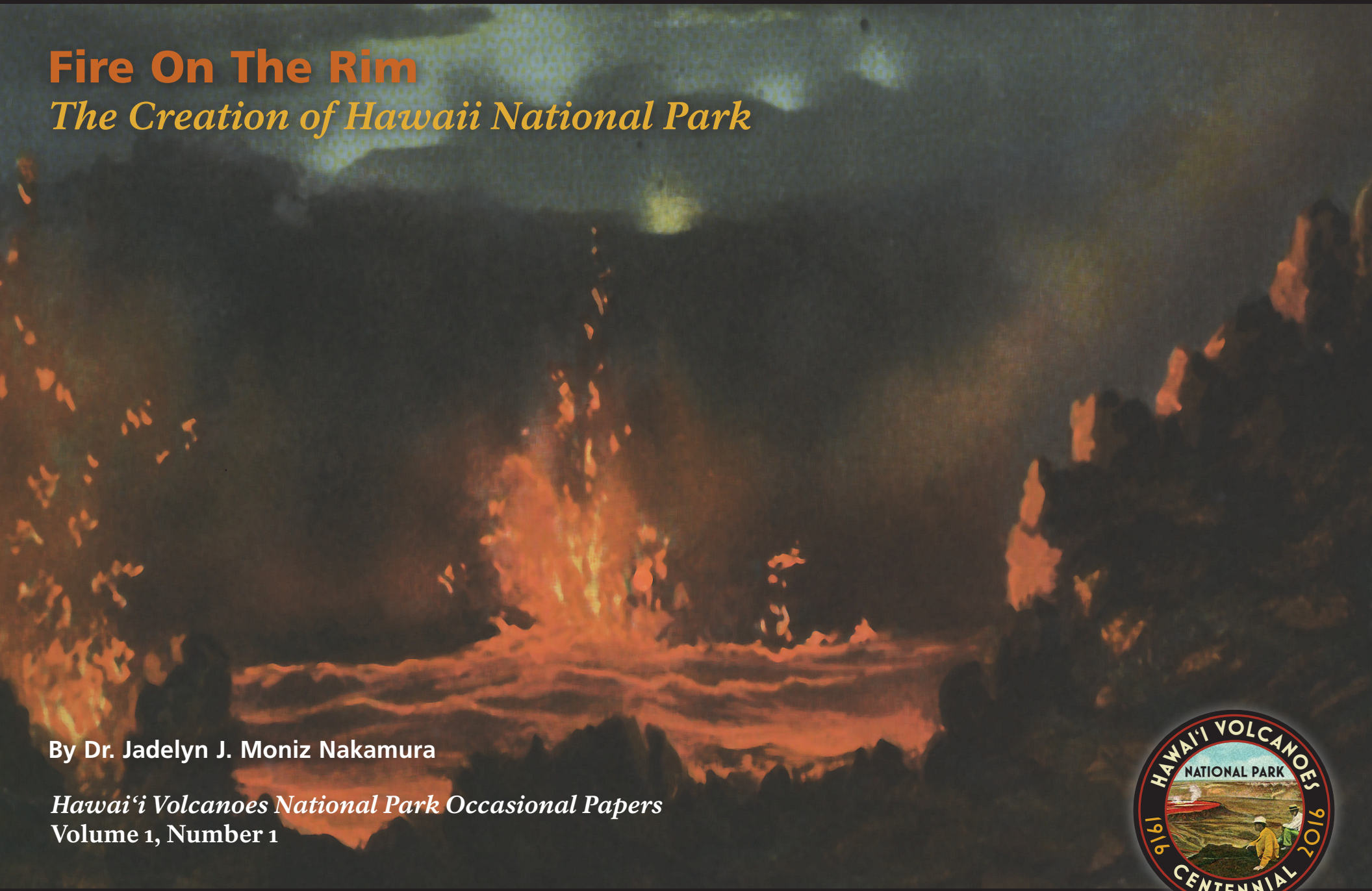
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire On The Rim

The Creation of Hawaii National Park



By Dr. Jadelyn J. Moniz Nakamura

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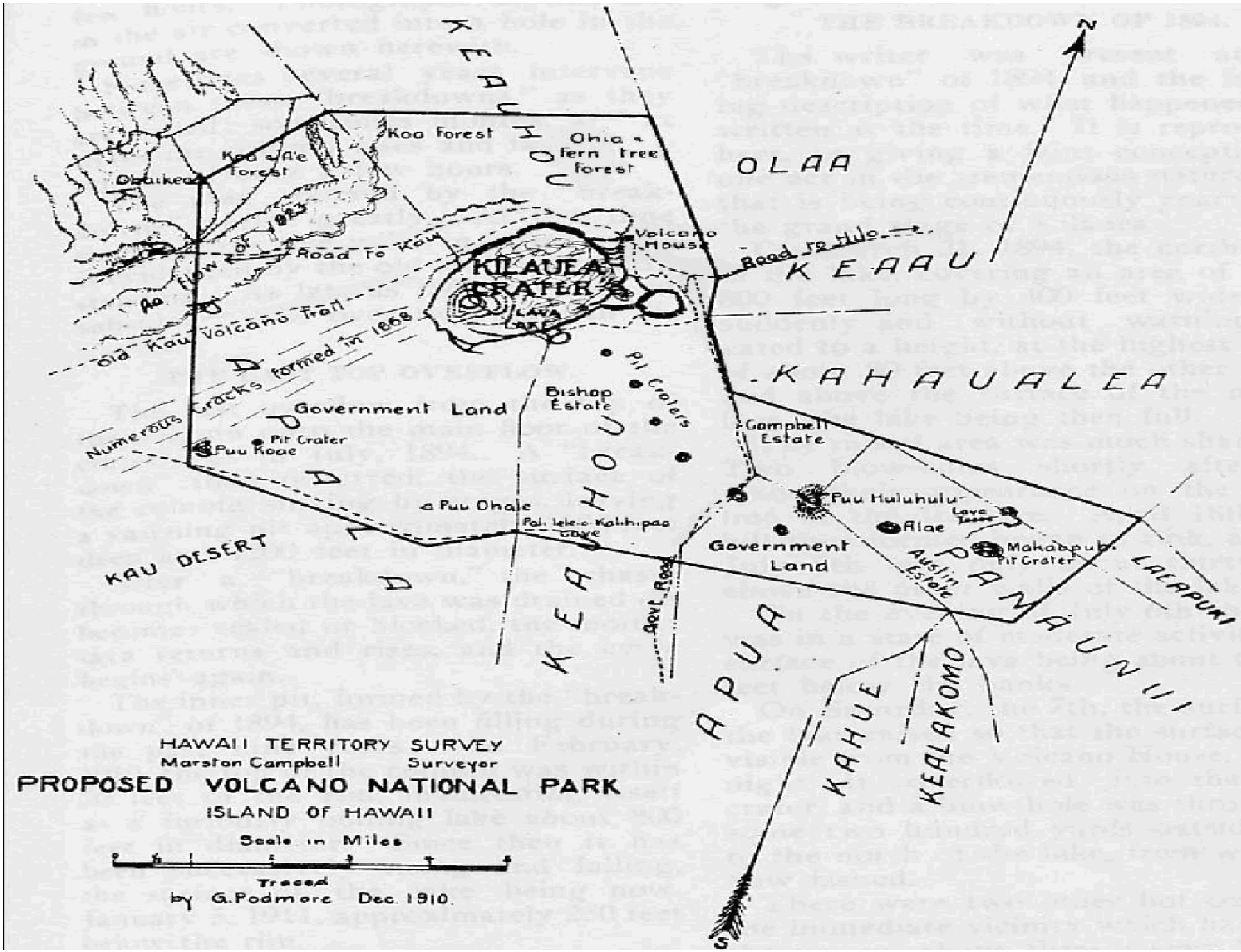
Celebrating Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's Centennial Anniversary 1916–2016



KEAUHOU
OLAA
KEAAU
KAHAUALEA
KEAHOU
APUA
KAHUE
KEALAKOMO
LAEAPUKI
KAU DESERT
Koa Forest
Ohia & Fern tree forest
Koa & Ale forest
Obaikea
Road to Kau
Volcano House
Road to Hilo
KILAUEA CRATER
LAVA LAKE
Old Kau Volcano Trail
Numerous Cracks formed in 1868
Pit Craters
Bishop Estate
Government Land
Pit Crater
Puu Koae
Campbell Estate
Puu Huluhulu
Puu Ohale
Pali lele-o Kalihipaa Cave
Alae
Lava Tubes
Makaopuhi
Pit Crater
Austin Estate
Government Land
Govt. Road
N
S
HAWAII TERRITORY SURVEY
Marston Campbell Surveyor
PROPOSED VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK
ISLAND OF HAWAII
Scale in Miles
Traced
by G. Podmore Dec. 1910.

Hawaii National Park

On August 1, 1916 the United States Congress adopted a bill to establish a National Park in the Territory of Hawai'i. The newly formed Hawaii National Park included the following land areas on Hawai'i Island: 1) the Kīlauea Section (35,865 acres); 2) the Mauna Loa Section (17,920 acres); and 3) a strip of land to connect the two aforementioned sections. Hawaii National Park also included Haleakalā on the Island of Maui which became a National Park in its own right on August 21, 1961. All of the lands that were held in private or municipal ownership within the park boundary were not affected by the Act.[1]

In the years to follow, additional pieces of property were acquired on Hawai'i Island. Today, the park comprises 333,000 acres of Hawai'i Island.

Establishment of the National Park Service

The establishment of a national park in 1916 in what was then the Territory of Hawai'i stemmed from a growing trend in America towards an increase in tourism to scenic and health-enhancing areas.[2] Between 1872 (establishment of Yellowstone National Park) and 1916, (establishment of the National Park Service) the priority within the new federal parks was for their use and enjoyment through recreational tourism. Thus, across the United States, the creation of parks was undertaken to enhance the development of resorts near favored health spots or scenic areas. Hawai'i did not escape the influence of this national movement; the trend in Hawai'i, and specifically in the Volcano area, was to focus development around the scenic beauty of the area and the volcanic activity.

Photo Inside Cover: Copy of 1910 map depicting proposed Kīlauea National Park boundary.

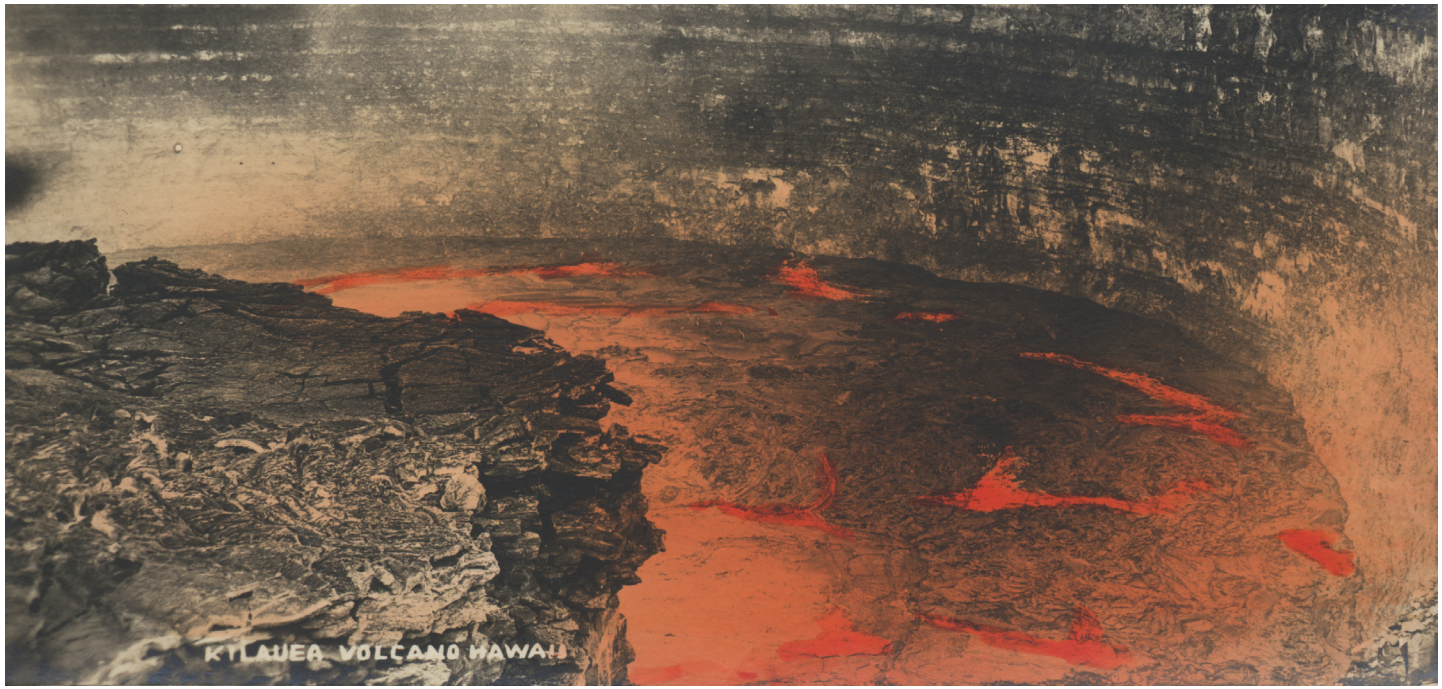


Photo Right: Kīlauea Volcano prior to 1924. Postcard image courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

Photo Top: Trail leading through native rainforest at Hawaii National Park. Image Courtesy of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

In 1916, the United States Congress established the National Park Service. The Service was formed to "promote and regulate the use of the national parks… which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."[3] Prior to the creation of the Service, several large tracts of land across the United States had already been set aside for special use and protection.[4] Yellowstone, for example, was established in 1872 as the nation's first "national park," yet it was managed for 44 years before the agency which was to manage all national parks was even created. Yellowstone thus established a precedent for preserving large land areas for "non-consumptive use" where "unrestricted free enterprise and exploitation of natural resources (was) prohibited."[5]

Although Congress was slow to set aside more areas as national parks, by the turn of the century, Congress developed three large parks (Sequoia, Yosemite and Mount Rainier) and the small General Grant National Park. These parks joined Yellowstone as part of the national recreation areas set aside for use by America's growing population.[6] With the creation of these parks, Congress acknowledged that the nation's populace enjoyed visiting these areas; they were growing as tourist attractions, and were an important part of the expansion of the West.[7] This recognition had wide ranging consequences for existing and future National Parks which began to make accommodations for tourists including the "design, construction, and long-range maintenance of park roads, trails, buildings, and other facilities."[8] Between 1872 and 1916 "management of the parks for public use and enjoyment was the overriding concern."[9] By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the need to protect wilderness areas became more popular. It was recognized that special attention needed to be paid to the natural wonders that existed across the United States. Congress, however, had not yet defined "national parks as being solely large natural areas."[10] This lack of clarity would pit two groups against one another – those who saw parks as places for public recreation and tourism, and those who saw the natural resources as essential for logging, mining and other commercial activities.

Following the establishment of the Park Service, a growing conservation community voiced concern that parks be left "unimpaired." This idea was not quickly or clearly spelled out in the beginning of the Service's existence. Thus, resources were either ignored, left alone (especially wildlife), or manipulated to levels deemed appropriate. Despite the manipulation and intrusion that occurred early on in the parks system, "the national park idea embraced the concept of nurturing and protecting nature" while at the same time being viewed as "scenic pleasure grounds."[11]

In 1906, at the urging of archeologists, Congress began to also pay attention to historical and archeological sites. During this same year, Mesa Verde was established to preserve "impressive archaeological features" and the Antiquities Act was passed. The Antiquities Act made it possible to create national monuments, which were to include "areas of importance in history, prehistory, or science", and it made it illegal to take "antiquities" from federal lands.[12]

Interest in Kīlauea Grows

In the background of this national movement was the increasing popularity of the Kīlauea area on Hawai'i Island. Although Hawai'i was not yet a state (it became a territory in 1898 and a state in 1959), it was a popular destination for adventurers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and tourists. The earliest Euro-American interest in the Kīlauea region came from naturalists, adventurers and scientists seeking to understand and explain the geologically active area. Later visitors were primarily tourists interested in seeing the spectacular volcanic activity and enjoying the natural steam baths.

The first Europeans recorded to have traveled near to the area now known as Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park were a group of explorers who arrived with Captain George Vancouver in 1794 on the ship *Discovery*. While moored off of Hawai'i Island, Archibald Menzies (Naturalist on board the *Discovery*) ascended Hualalai and then Mauna Loa to the crater Mokuoweoweo. Descriptions of Mauna Loa and the adjacent lands are provided in Menzies' (1920) journal. From his vantage point, Menzies described the erupting Kīlauea Volcano, off to their east. He stated that the air was

"...very thick, which at times proved very tormenting to our eyes."[13]

William Ellis. Missionary, Explorer

The next written account of Kīlauea does not appear until nearly 29 years after Menzies' visit, when the Reverend William Ellis and his missionary companions walked through the districts of Ka'u and Puna. Ellis (1963) gives detailed accounts of the geology, fauna, flora, and cultural history of the area in the journal he kept.

Image Right: Colored postcard depicting early 20th century eruption at Kīlauea. Postcard courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

"… ascended its lofty and majestic mountains, entered its dark caverns, crossed its deep ravines, and traversed its immense fields of rugged lava … stood with wonder on the edge of its ancient craters, walked tremblingly along the brink of its smoking chasms, gazed with admiration on its raging fires, and witnessed, with no ordinary feelings of awe, the varied and sublime phenomena of volcanic action, in all its imposing magnificence and terrific grandeur."

—William Ellis, 1823

William Ellis was a missionary with the London Mission Society. The London Mission Society established missions throughout much of the South Pacific in efforts to "Christianize" the native people. The group first began its missionary work in the South Pacific in 1796, when they established mission settlements in the Marquesas, the Friendly Isles (Tonga) and the Society Islands (which includes Tahiti).[14]

In 1822 a group from the London home office visited its missions in the Society Islands. Reverend Ellis had been living and working as a missionary on the island of Huahine for six years. Because of his years of experience working with Pacific Islanders, he knew the culture and the language. The group persuaded Ellis to leave the Society Islands and go to Hawai'i, where they hoped to extend their work and observations.

In 1822 Ellis, accompanied by two representatives from the London Mission Society, and two Tahitian chiefs and their wives, arrived in Hawai'i. His visit to Hawai'i was projected to last only a few weeks.[15] The group remained on the island of O'ahu for four months, much longer than first proposed. They found that living in Hawai'i was quite comfortable. They were able to learn and speak the Hawaiian language fairly easily because of their knowledge of Tahitian. The Hawaiians who worked with Ellis were impressed with his group, especially their mastery of the language. They were invited to stay in the islands permanently.[16] Missionaries were not new to Hawai'i, by the time Ellis arrived here the American Board of Foreign Missions had already established permanent stations on the islands of O'ahu and Kaua'i.[17]

Reverend Ellis returned to Huahine at the end of 1822 to pack up his belongings and prepare his family for the move. He arrived back in Hawai'i in February 1823.[18] In April of that same year, Ellis and his group received funds to expand their operations beyond O'ahu and throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Before any mission stations could be established, however, the locations for the buildings had to be chosen. Thus, two missionaries were sent to Maui and a group of four missionaries (Ellis, Asa Thurston, Charles Stewart, and Artemas Bishop) and a preacher (Joseph Goodrich) were dispatched to survey all of Hawai'i Island.[19]

The Island of Hawai'i was chosen for complete survey because the London Mission Society wished to establish permanent missionary settlements on what was the "largest, most important and populous island of the group."[20] On July 14, 1823 Ellis reached Kailua, Kona. The next day he met his group and they began their tour around the island. The entire journey took two months, during which they visited many areas across Hawai'i Island.[21] In Ellis' words they:

"… ascended its lofty and majestic mountains, entered its dark caverns, crossed its deep ravines, and traversed its immense fields of rugged lava … stood with wonder on the edge of its ancient craters, walked tremblingly along the brink of its smoking chasms, gazed with admiration on its raging fires, and witnessed, with no ordinary feelings of awe, the varied and sublime phenomena of volcanic action, in all its imposing magnificence and terrific grandeur."[22]

Ellis was one of the first Europeans to witness and record an eruption at Kīlauea. He was, however, not the last. In the decades after his tour, other European and American visitors recorded adventures of their trips to Kīlauea in journals, letters, newspaper articles, and logs.

A Popular Volcano

Between 1823 and 1850 historic records from Hawai'i are filled with references to Kīlauea written by missionaries, scientists, and American sailors who visited the volcano. These visitors were primarily interested in one of two things: 1) bringing Christianity to the Hawaiians living in the area; or 2) satisfying a curiosity and interest in volcanology and natural history. Other visitors during this period included royalty (Chiefess Kapiolani), as well as residents from other islands.[23] The visitors who traveled through Kīlauea in the following years left behind a record of the land, its people and volcanoes. Many wrote about the lava flows and craters. They often described the hot steam baths they enjoyed. The steam was a by-product of the natural heat produced from the underground lava rising through cracks in the earth's surface.

A distinct change in the kind of visitor to Kīlauea is noted in the late 1840s. Prior to 1845 people visited the area primarily for scientific or exploration purposes. After 1845, there is a sharp increase in casual and pleasure visits especially by Americans. The rise of visitors to Hawai'i from the United States who were interested in exploration and travel coincides with a period of reconnaissance and expansion in America between 1835 and 1850. This expansion was made possible in part by a transportation revolution that was occurring across the United States. New canals, railroads and better wagon trails facilitated travel by the American public. It was also a time when the US Government charged the Army to explore the West and gather information on natural resources. Kīlauea was very active during this time, thus, Hawai'i, and in particular Kīlauea, was a curiosity and natural draw to Americans during this period.

Photo Right: The Ka'u Desert. Image courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

Photo Top Left: 1866 Volcano House. Postcard image courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

Photo Top Right: 1877 Volcano House. Photo taken circa 1889. Photo courtesy of Bernice P. Bishop Museum, CP114,277.

Photo Bottom: Volcano House front garden, 1891-1905. Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum, negative no. CN99887. Note that a portion of the original 1877 Volcano House is depicted in this photograph (structure on right side of print).

Over time, as the popularity and interest in Kīlauea increased, it too experienced a transformation of its infrastructure. The ability to access the Volcano was facilitated by the opening of new sea ports of entry, the improvement of trails and the establishment of new lodging areas. As the infrastructure grew, so did the interest in the scientific study of the volcano as well as general tourism.

Early "Boat Days"

Kīlauea Volcano was an attraction very early on in the historical period of the Hawaiian Islands. Prior to 1877, most people reached the volcano after sailing into the town of Hilo and then riding on horseback over a very rugged trail for 30 miles through forest and barren lava fields. At that time only a very primitive hotel at the edge of the crater was there to greet them. Because of the popularity of the area a more modern hotel was built in 1877 and by the mid-1880's two steamship companies began providing two additional routes to the Volcano. Wilder's Steamship Company sailed its Steamer *Kinau* from Honolulu to a port at Keauhou, on Hawai'i Island. For fifty dollars the *Kinau* took visitors on an ocean cruise stopping first at Kawaihae, then sailing along the Kohala and Hamakua coasts to Hilo and finally docking at the small port of Keauhou, directly south of Kīlauea. From there a fifteen mile trip through what is now part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park took place on horseback, carriage or brake to the crater.[24]

The *W.G. Hall*, a ship sailing for the Inter-Island Company took visitors from Honolulu down along the Kona and Ka'u coasts and docked at Punalu'u. Like Keauhou, Punalu'u was a key point for commercial trade and tourism. Punalu'u is located on the south end of Hawai'i Island. The port at Punalu'u was primarily used as a point to ship out sugar grown and produced at the nearby Ka'u sugar plantations. Also at Punalu'u was a small hotel built by Peter Lee, a businessman in Hawai'i. The hotel was a popular destination for those making the long journey to Kīlauea. Many visitors to the Volcano stayed at Punalu'u before traveling by a plantation railroad to Pahala and from there traveled the remaining 20 miles to the Volcano on a road via carriage or brake.[25]

Although visitation counts were not kept, records such as the Volcano House registry as well as testimonial and articles written in local newspapers, and popular magazines show that Kīlauea was a very popular area. Scientists, researchers, politicians, businessmen, artists, and the general public were all willing to take the long, arduous, expensive trip to the brink of the Caldera in hopes of viewing a once in a lifetime event - an active eruption. All of these changes helped shape the character of the Kīlauea area and altered the use of the lands currently under the management of the National Park Service. It is this popularity of Kīlauea that eventually spurred citizens familiar with Kīlauea to lobby Congress in the early 1900s for the establishment of a National Park in Hawai'i.

Lorrin A. Thurston

Perhaps one of the greatest proponents of a National Park at Kīlauea was American businessman Lorrin A. Thurston. Lorrin A. Thurston (1858 – 1931) was the son of Asa Goodale Tyerman Thurston and Sarah Andrews Thurston. He was the grandson of Asa (1787 – 1868) and Lucy Goodale Thurston (1795 – 1876), missionaries and leaders of the First Company selected by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission (ABCFM) to work in Hawai'i.[26] L.A. Thurston had a unique historical tie to Kīlauea, as his grandfather Asa Thurston was with William Ellis through traveling Kīlauea in 1823.

L.A. Thurston was raised by his mother after his father died when he was only a year old. He rose to become an active and leading member of society and government in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Hawai'i. Thurston was trained as a lawyer at Columbia University and was admitted to the bar in Honolulu in 1878. He practiced law in Hawai'i and quickly entered politics. In 1886 he was elected to the House of Representatives and in 1892 to the House of Nobles. In 1887 he was named Minister of the Interior where he wielded a great amount of power.[27] His position as Interior Minister involved him in many aspects of the development of the islands. Under his leadership, he guided numerous projects that would open the Hawaiian Islands to the world. He was greatly involved in the building of sugar plantations, railroads, and in 1900 became publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser a daily paper that reached out to the citizens of Hawai'i and would eventually play a large role in the promotion of Thurston's many interests.[28] Thurston was also a key figure in the development of Kīlauea Volcano, its infrastructure and its eventual establishment into a National Park.

Thurston's Business Ventures

Lorrin A. Thurston first visited Kīlauea in 1879 at the age of 21 with Louis von Tempsky.[29] Thurston wrote that "we hired horses in Hilo and rode to the volcano, from about eight o'clock in the morning to five in the afternoon." Ten years later Thurston's first mark upon the Volcano landscape appears. In 1889, using his position as Minister of the Interior, he oversaw the construction of an improved carriage road from Hilo to Volcano. The road was completed in 1894 allowing four-horse stages to transport visitors from Hilo to Volcano in seven hours. This feat would greatly increase the number of people able to view the volcano at Kīlauea.

After he left his government position Thurston became much more involved in Kīlauea and the business ventures that were possible at this great attraction. His first project was to organize the Kīlauea Volcano House Company in 1891. He purchased some leases of the Volcano House from Samuel G. Wilder, head of Wilder's Steamship Co. and a new lease was also purchased from the owner – the Bishop Estate.[30] The Volcano House Company, made up of several investors, also acquired the hotel at Punalu'u. The company remodeled the Volcano House and made additions so that "it was much more commodious and attractive."[31] Having interest in the only accommodations available in the Volcano area at that time, insured that Thurston (a shrewd businessman) would directly benefit from all visitations to Kīlauea. Next, in cooperation with the O'ahu Railway and Land Company, the Volcano

Photo Bottom: Colored postcard depicting 1921 Halemaumau eruption. Postcard courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

House Company engaged in a world-wide advertising campaign.[32] As part of their advertising strategy the two companies also organized the Hawaiian Bureau of Information in 1892, an early predecessor to the Hawai'i Visitor's Bureau. The goals were similar – to promote tourist travel to the islands. To further encourage tourist travel, Thurston organized the Cyclorama Company which hired an artist to produce a "Cyclorama of Kīlauea" that was exhibited at the Chicago Fair in 1893 and the San Francisco Midwinter Fair in 1894-95.[33] In addition to tourism Thurston also promoted science by helping to foster the Kīlauea Observatory.[34] His greatest influence in the volcano area, however, was likely in the political arena.

Call for Kīlauea National Park

It is no surprise that the popularity of Kīlauea soon led to a call for the preservation of the area, and the insurance that the lands would be open to all who wanted to visit. Many felt that only the Federal Government could provide the protection of this unique landscape. The first written promotion for involvement of the Federal Government in the development of a National Park at Kīlauea came in 1903. William R. Castle, a lawyer and financier from Honolulu wrote in the Volcano House Register:

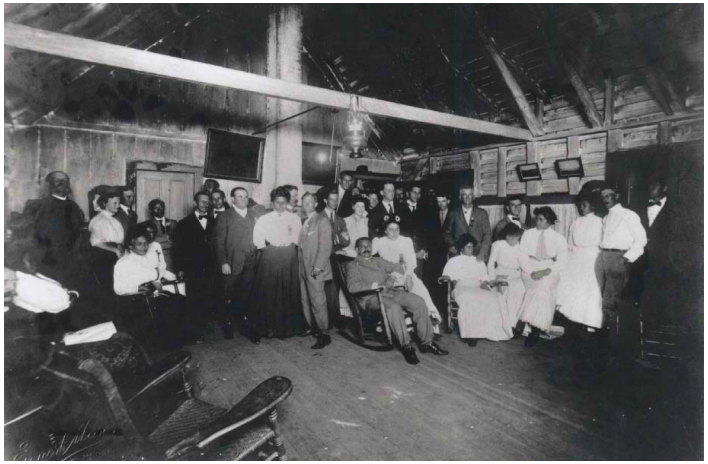


Photo Right: Congressional party on a visit to Kīlauea in 1909. HAS AH#18857A.

"The time has come when the United States Government might well reserve the whole region from Mokuaweoweo (the summit crater on Mauna Loa) to the sea in Puna."[35]

Three years later, in 1906, a group of female correspondents and magazine writers were touring Hawai'i as part of the Portland Daily Journal. The Weekly Hilo Tribune, reporting on their visit the next week (March 6, 1906) quoted Edyth Tozier Weatherred, an Oregon news writer and chaperone for that trip, as having "expressed the opinion that the Volcano should be made a national park."[36] In 1906 Albert B. Lobenstein, a civil engineer completed a topographical map of the summit of Kīlauea.[37] Following the completion of his map, while in Washington D.C., Lobenstein proposed that the summits of Kīlauea and Mauna Loa be made into a National Park.

Thurston's Role

While the initial calls for federal management and creation of a national park came from public personalities who visited the park and were impressed by it, the consistent push and promotion for the park came primarily from Lorrin A. Thurston. Between 1907 and 1909 members of Congress and other federal officials (including Secretary of the Interior James R. Garfield) visited Hawai'i and were escorted around Kīlauea by Thurston who was pushing for the creation of a National Park.[38] Thurston was uniquely positioned to lobby Congress. His business activities related to the volcano took him away from Hawai'i to the United States and led him to Washington DC, where he engaged in political activities as ambassador to Washington for the Republic of Hawaii between 1891 and 1893.[39]

In 1911 Thurston started a public campaign to promote the proposed Kīlauea National Park with the publication of an article in the March *Mid-Pacific Magazine* identifying the numerous reasons why Kīlauea National Park should be created. A bill was introduced in Congress to acquire Kīlauea, and in particular the active lava lake in Halema'uma'u.[40] Mauna Loa was also

"I thoroughly believe in that national park in Hawaii. If I get a chance, I will gladly help out."

—T. Roosevelt

"I am heartily with you in the effort you are making to have Congress set aside 90 square miles on the Island of Hawaii as a national park, including the worlds' greatest active volcanoes. In this matter, I shall do al lin my power."

—John Muir

"If Kīlauea Park bill is introduced in this Congress, you may be sure that it will have my best attention."

—H. Cabot Lodge

included as part of the proposal for a new park, but it was considered a secondary piece.[41]

Support for a national park in Hawai'i also came from local government officials. Walter R. Frear, then Governor of Hawai'i, endorsed the idea of a National Park in 1910 and wrote an official letter to the Secretary of Interior proposing the park that same year.[42] He ordered Thurston, Surveyor Thomas Cook, W. H. Shipman, Walter M. Giffard and Carl S. Carlsmith to complete a survey of the proposed lands in 1919. Following the survey, the Governor proposed that 35,868 acres of the summit of Kīlauea and 17,920 acres of Mauna Loa summit be included in the proposed park boundary. Territorial Representative John H. Coney presented the proposal to the Legislature which endorsed the project and unanimously accepted it in 1911 at a cost not to exceed $50,000.[43] Bishop Estate, while not opposed to the concept of the development of a National Park, did object to 1000 acres included in the proposed boundary. This land was owned by the estate and leased to C. Brewer and Company for cattle ranching.

Fearing the opposition would halt the attempts at development of a park, Thurston engaged in a publicity campaign using his newspaper the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*. An article by Thurston urging the retention of the 1000 acres came under the headline "National Park Bill is in Danger. Land Wanted as Pasture for Steers" on April 10, 1911.[44] In the *Advertiser* the next day, he got some very influential friends including Theodore Roosevelt, his Columbia University classmate, and wilderness advocate John Muir to support his project.

He (Thurston) felt the protected Kīlauea area should not be just the crater and surrounding lava but fern and koa forests as well. Despite all his pressure, Thurston was unable to keep the 1,000 acres of Bishop Estate land within the proposed boundary. The Territorial Legislature, however, did pass the resolution for a park unanimously on April 26, 1911.[45] A bill proposing the new park was then drafted by Frear and sent to Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole, Hawai'i's Delegate to Congress for consideration. When Thurston learned that the bill lacked the proper boundary description of the lands proposed, he quickly contacted the Governor. Frear then requested that the Chief of the U.S. Geological Survey topographical party, Claude H. Birdseye drop other work he was doing in the Territory and complete a survey of the proposed national park lands. The survey was completed on May 16, 1912 and quickly forwarded to Washington.[46]

Final Push for A National Park

Between 1912 and 1915 not much official action occurred in Congress. The Governor of Hawai'i, Walter Frear, continued to remind the Secretary of Interior each year of the desire of the people for a national park. In 1912 another leading promoter of Kīlauea, Dr. Thomas Jaggar, became involved in the political promotion for a national park in Hawai'i.

Thomas Jaggar

Dr. Thomas Jaggar, a highly respected geologist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) became a key figure in the creation of Hawaii National Park. Between 1823 (when William Ellis first recorded for history the eruptive activity at Kīlauea) and 1894, "activity at Kīlauea was essentially continuous." And again, from 1907 to 1924 Kīlauea was "almost continuously active".[47] The safety and ease of reaching an active volcano such as Kīlauea made the advantage of establishing a permanent place for scientific study in Hawai'i appealing. As researchers from MIT became interested in establishing an observatory at Kīlauea, they also lent their support for securing the lands under the control of the federal government. By doing so, they would secure rights to access the site.

Officials from MIT originally approached Thurston to fund the development of an observatory at Kīlauea in 1909. While Thurston was unable to secure the kind of monetary support that MIT was looking for, Thurston became a "prime mover in the establishment of a scientific observatory" on the edge of Kīlauea crater and

Photo Top: Thomas Jaggar. Photo courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

was largely responsible for Jaggar becoming its first director.[48] As part of his campaign, in 1911 Thurston formed the Hawaiian Volcano Research Association (HVRA) which continued to further the cause of both a national park and an observatory.

Others in the community also felt that Kīlauea was an important place to preserve and study geology. In 1909, trustees from the Estate of Edward and Caroline Whitney provided funding to begin research in Hawai'i.[49] The first researchers (Dr. E.S. Shepherd and F.A. Perret) arrived in Hawai'i in 1911. As part of their project, and on the advice of Thomas Jaggar, they began to submit weekly reports to the newspapers in Honolulu on the activities at Kīlauea. These publications kept the public interested in the Hawaiian volcanoes and built support for the eventual National Park.[50] On January 17, 1912, Dr. Thomas Jaggar himself left MIT to assume the direction of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) with funding support from MIT and the HVRA.

The Stars Align

In 1913 Frear left office and Lucius E. Pinkham took over the Governor's office. Thurston decided to give Pinkham a year in office before he once again began his campaign for Hawaii National Park with the new governor (at this time Haleakalā was not yet being considered). In the fall of that same year Thurston traveled to Washington to drum up congressional support. He got an endorsement from the new Secretary of Interior, Franklin K. Lane and congressman Julius Kahn of California. It took further prompting from editorials in the Hilo Tribune before Governor Pinkham finally became an advocate of the park in 1915.[51] In 1914 Stephen T. Mather took up a challenge from the new Secretary of Interior Lane and arrived in Washington to run the National Park Service. Until Mather's arrival, Congress had been apathetic towards the National Park Service, but in a short time he made them very park conscious.[52] The following year (1915) a total of 124 congressmen came to Hawai'i. Included in that group was the Speaker of the House. Thurston, seizing on the great political opportunity to sell the idea of the park, accompanied them to Kīlauea and personally toured them around. Thurston made several speeches on the significance of Kīlauea, as did Jaggar who took the opportunity to mention for the first time the inclusion into the proposed boundary of the park of Haleakalā Crater on the island of Maui.[53] James A. Martine, Senator from New Jersey, pledged his support and the Hilo Tribune in an article on May 18, 1915 reported on the "warm responses of support from the influential sources." The article went on to state that "Hawaii has a right to expect that Congress will act in the matter in the near future."[54]

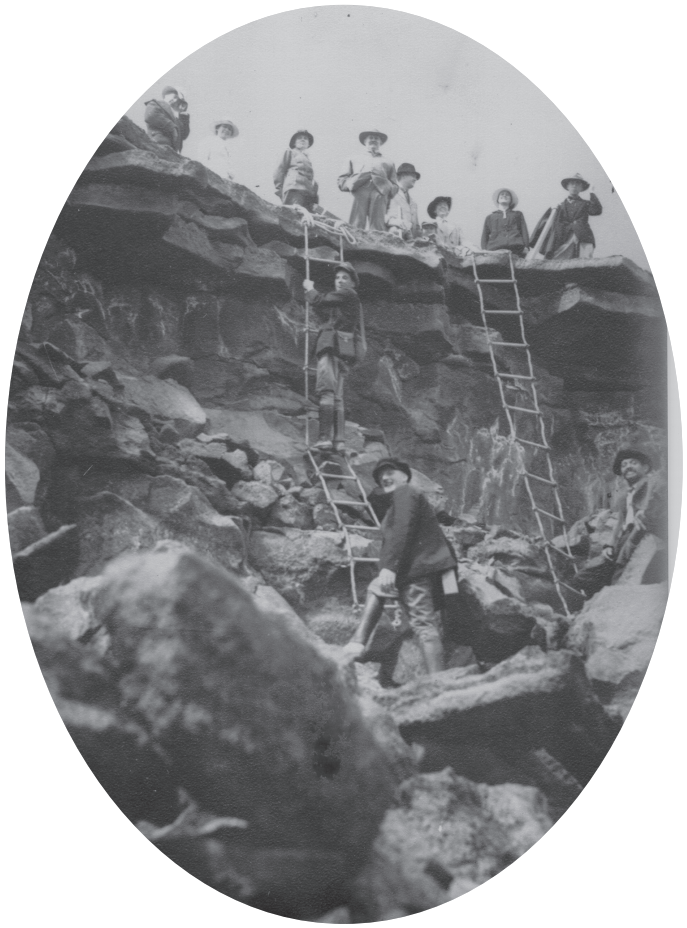
Dual Goals Pursued

By December 1915, with Jaggar now having worked in Hawai'i for three years, the HVRA and MIT sent him to Washington DC to appeal to Congress to take over HVO as a government institution. In addition, the governor of Hawai'i and the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce asked him to once again push for the establishment of a national park.[55] While in DC Jaggar saw that the bill to create a national park in Hawai'i was pending before the House Committee for Public Lands. Jaggar found out that the committee, however, took issue with the amount of money requested for the purchase of private lands. He also learned that all of the congressmen who had visited Kīlauea in the summer thought that the existing parks were a burden on the federal treasury and that development of parks was a local issue.[56]

Jaggar notified Thurston that the bill for the national park was in trouble. Scheduled to leave DC, Jaggar was asked to stay on and fight for the bill. The HVRA cabled him money to do so. Jaggar then asked Thurston to come up with a specific price on the lands needed to be purchased. Even after receiving this information, however, it was not enough. Friendly congressmen advised Jaggar to do four things for the Hawaii National Park bill.

First, they suggested he "remove the private landholdings from the current acquisition," second, they advised that he "include these private lands in the language of the bill as possible additions in the future," third they recommended that he "ask for no immedi-

Photo Right: A party of visitors climbing the walls of Halema'uma'u by ladder in 1917. Photograph courtesy of United States Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Print No. 170107-HA.



ate funding to create the park," and finally they advised he "add in any other land areas of interest" because it would be easiest to add it now then include land in the future. On the final piece of advice, Jaggar added the summit of Haleakalā (Haleakalā Section) on Maui Island and a strip of land connecting the Mauna Loa and Kīlauea Sections. The original bill was withdrawn and re-written to model the Rocky Mountain National Park bill which had passed Congress in 1915.[57]

Before the hearings were held on the bill, Jaggar did some last minute public relations campaigning through lectures he gave on Kīlauea and Mauna Loa for the public and Congress. Jaggar also threw some private parties spending his own money.[58] Jaggar, Delegate Kalanianaole, and Sidney Gallou of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce testified on February 3, 1916. Both Jaggar and Gallou stressed that the public lands were sufficient at this time to form the national park. Despite their testimony, the congressional committee added two stipulations to the bill.

The first was that "no appropriations would be passed until all private lands within the park had ceded necessary easements and rights of ways to make the park accessible," and second that "any annual appropriations would not exceed $10,000." The bill to create Hawaii National Park, with these two provisions included, was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 1, 1916.

Developing Hawaii National Park Infrastructure and Facilities

The two stipulations added by Congress to the Hawaii National Park bill had a huge impact on the early development of the new park. For the first five years of its existence the park received little funding—none of which was utilized for the development of infrastructure and park facilities. Yet, despite the lack of funding, the Kīlauea section of Hawaii National Park was able to be open and serve visitors who came to view the active volcano. This ability was due in large part to private individuals and groups who saw the potential of the area for promoting tourism to the Islands for recreation, relaxation, and scientific growth. Together their efforts helped develop an area that was to become one of the jewels of the National Park Service. Perhaps no one's vision was more pursued and realized than that of Lorrin A. Thurston, who worked endlessly to convince others in the community and government to assist him in realizing his visions. Together, these public and private figures greatly contributed to the development of infrastructure around and within the park. As a result, the earliest roads, and administrative and public buildings were built by outside forces – not as a result of government funding.

Photo Right: The "World's Weirdest Walk." Visitors on a trail to Kīlauea at Halemaʻumaʻu. Photograph courtesy of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Pre-Park Development

Even before Hawaii National Park was officially established by Congress in 1916, development of roads and buildings to facilitate visitor access and enjoyment of the area had already begun. Not having any established federal presence yet at Kīlauea, and with the Territory fairly new and removed from activities on remote portions of Hawaiʻi Island, Thurston turned to a fairly cheap workforce - prison labor to complete the construction projects. In 1911 Thurston was able to organize a group of local prisoners to build a road from the existing Volcano House (for which he held the lease) to Halemaʻumaʻu. The road went by Kīlauea Iki. Camped at a place later known as the "Old Summer Camp" the prisoners also built a trail along what is now Chain of Craters Road to Devils Throat. The trail was originally called "Cocketts Trail" after the construction supervisor. The same group of prisoners also improved the trail from the Volcano House across the floor of Kīlauea to Halemaʻumaʻu. Called the "World's Weirdest Walk" the trail was first recorded on a map by Frank S. Dodge in 1888.[59]

Four years after these trails and roads were constructed, Thurston turned his attention to linking the two craters (Mauna Loa and Kīlauea). Thurston developed the idea of building a trail between the two. He approached the county, the Hilo Board of Trade, and others about the project. One county supervisor was so excited that he promised one months salary towards the project and by the end of the year a trail up to the 10,035 foot elevation point called Puʻuʻulaʻula, or Red Hill, was completed. In addition to the trail a shelter was also constructed using plans that Thurston drew up himself. From Red Hill to the summit of Mauna Loa a trail alignment was laid out by Thurston and an engineer provided by the Territorial government. In 1915 Thurston convinced the Army to build the last portion of the trail with a company of African-American men from the 25th Infantry Division known as the Buffalo Soldiers.[60]

Thurston's long-term dream was to replace the trail connecting Kīlauea and Mauna Loa with a road. He began promotion of this idea in 1916 and was supported by the Director of the Park Service, Stephen T. Mather in 1919. However, Thurston's dream was not fulfilled in his lifetime and it wasn't until 1949 that a road was built to Mauna Loa summit but from the east side of the mountain, outside of the park.[61]

The experience of working with the Army did not end with the construction of the Mauna Loa Trail, and Thurston's energy did not seem to wane. He continued to promote the Kīlauea area to the public and the military who he thought could benefit from, and would be a benefit to Kīlauea. In 1916, Thurston, recognizing the long tradition of soldiers and sailors who had visited the area, proposed the establishment of a military camp at Kīlauea. Thurston promoted his idea and was able to raise $24,000 through public subscription for the construction of buildings and other improvements. A board of four trustees, including Thurston, obtained a lease of 50 acres from the Bishop Estate. By the fall of 1916 the first group of soldiers arrived at Kīlauea Military Camp (KMC).[62] Soon after its opening, however, World War I broke out on April 6, 1917 and the camp commander was removed.[63] The following years saw little to no use of KMC by the military and the board of trustees struggled to keep it going. Other groups such as the Boy Scouts and local teachers utilized the site for Scout gatherings and summer camp for students and teachers.

The many faces of Halemaumau.
Top Photo - Jaggars Lake, 1919; **Middle Photo** - Kīlauea Military Camp in 1923; **Bottom Photo** - Halemaʻumaʻu degassing, 2008. Photographs courtesy of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and United States Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

In 1920 the Bishop Estate deeded the land under which KMC stood to the Territory of Hawaii as part of a larger transfer of land. On June 28, 1921 the Territory of Hawaii deeded these lands to the United States government. The board of trustees including Thurston managed the camp until the end of the summer of 1921 when the Army took over management of the facility. Future lease negotiations would be made directly with the National Park Service.[64]

Easements and Rights of Ways

The number of infrastructure projects that occurred within and around Kīlauea even prior to the passage of the bill to create Hawaii National Park, clearly shows the dedication of those who believed in this special area. These supporters with the passage of the park bill behind them, began the long challenging work of obtaining the necessary private lands that were included in the designated park boundary. The first task was to secure the appropriate private land holdings needed for easements and rights of ways into the park as defined by Congress. This task would be particularly interesting considering the stipulations in the Hawaiian Organic Act which was approved on April 30, 1900 following annexation in 1898. When Hawai'i was annexed to the United States, the Republic of Hawai'i ceded 1.75 million acres of Crown and Government lands to the federal government. Crown lands were those lands that belonged to the monarchy, while the Government lands were those lands set aside by King Kamehameha III during the Mahele for the chiefs and the people of the Kingdom.[65] Although the title to these public lands had been ceded by the Republic to the United States, both the Joint Resolution of Annexation and Hawaii's Organic Act recognized that a special trust relationship existed under the federal government's proprietorship.[66]

While legal title in the land was vested in the United States, the Territory of Hawai'i had administrative control and use of the lands. All funds received from the sale of the lands was to be used for the benefit of Hawai'i's people.[67] Thus, "it could be argued that Hawai'i's ceded lands never became part of the federal public domain."[68] However, under Hawai'i's Organic Act, the President of the United States had the power to "set aside" lands for use by the United States which is in effect what Congress did with the government lands when it established Hawaii National Park in 1916. By the time Hawai'i became a state in 1959, a total of 227,972.62 acres were located in National Parks.

All of the government lands within the established boundary of Hawaii National Park came under federal control when Hawaii National Park was officially established in 1916. However, the provision requiring the acquisition of private lands to provide necessary easements and rights of ways had to be met before any funding was appropriated for the actual development of the park. The remaining lands needed for the park to be officially established would have to come from private land holders. No funding for park operations would be appropriated by Congress until this restriction was met, and little financial support was given by the federal government to meet the land requirements. In 1919 and 1920 only $750 dollars was appropriated each year by Congress to Hawaii National Park. This money was earmarked solely for advancing the land negotiations. In 1921, $1000 was appropriated but only $62.49 was actually spent.[69]

A total of 74,935 acres was set aside by Congress when it established Hawaii National Park in 1916. This land was split into three separate tracts of land: the Kīlauea Section (35,865 acres), the Mauna Loa Section (17,920 acres) and the Haleakalā Section (21,150 acres). A tract of land connecting the Kīlauea and Mauna Loa section (often referred to as the Connecting Strip) was also included. Within each of these tracts (except for the Connecting Strip which was ceded land or government land), lay private lands that needed to be acquired by the government before the park received any funding for development from the federal treasury. Private owners in the Kīlauea Section included Bishop, Austin and Campbell Estates; the Mauna Loa section private lands were held by the Bishop and Parker Estates.

Before any land could be exchanged, purchased or donated, Congressional authority needed to be given to the Governor of Hawai'i to acquire the privately owned land. Congress was required to pass this authorization because the Organic Act limited the Territory from selling or exchanging lands exceeding either 40 acres or of a value greater than $5000.00.[70] On February 27, 1920 Congress passed a bill (Public No. 150 66th Congress [H.R. 3654]) to convey this power to the Governor of Hawai'i.

The legislation stated in part:

"The governor of the Territory of Hawaii is herby authorized to acquire, at the expense of the Territory of Hawaii, by exchange or otherwise, all privately owned lands lying within the boundaries of the Hawaii National Park … and all necessary perpetual easements and rights of way, or roadways, in fee simple."[71]

The passage of this act cleared the way for the Territory to begin its task of acquiring the necessary easements and rights of ways in the designated park boundary. The Mauna Loa Section came under the control of the Territory of Hawaii when it acquired 5,962 acres of Parker Estate land for $100 and 1,964 acres of Bishop Estate land for $1.00.[72] The remaining 9,994 acres in the Mauna Loa Section was ceded land and thus was already under the control of the Territory as government lands. Obtaining land located in the Kīlauea Section proved a little more difficult. Bishop Estate leased land in this section and was actively making a profit off of it. Thus, they were reluctant to give this land up. Interior Secretary Lane visited Hawai'i in 1918 and suggested that the trustees exchange their lands in the Kīlauea Section for Territorial property outside of the park.[73] After much negotiation, the Estate agreed to a land exchange on June 4, 1920. The lands were officially transferred via Executive Order Number 83 on November 6, 1920.

Hawaii National Park Is Blessed

With the necessary easements and rights of ways obtained, the Congressional stipulations put on officially launching the park were cleared. Funding could now be appropriated to the Park, and staffing could begin. To kick off this momentous event, the Park held a dedication ceremony on July 9, 1921. Two hundred and fifty people gathered at Halema'uma'u to celebrate the official opening of the park. The Reverend Kaaiakamanu first gave a traditional chant to Pele and then gave his thanks to God. It is said that the Reverend Kaaiakamanu repeated those words first composed by a member of the group of High Chiefess Kapiolani when she defied tradition in 1824 by eating the sacred 'ohelo berries without first offering some to Pele. It was said: "Jehovah is my God. He kindled these fires. I fear not Pele."[74]

Lorrin A. Thurston gave the dedicatory address and with the powers bestowed upon him by Governor Wallace R. Farrington, Thurston transferred jurisdiction of the park to the Federal Government.[75] A.O. Burkland, an engineer with the US Geological Service who had been appointed acting Superintendent, accepted the property. In his acceptance speech Burkland said:

"I now have, in the name of the Government of the United States of America, the great pleasure of accepting the magnificent Hawaii National Park from the Territory of Hawaii."[76]

A cable sent by the Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, was read by Burkland. Fall wrote:

"I am greatly pleased that through the dedication ceremonies at Kīlauea another member will be formally admitted to the national park family, and I sincerely hope we may have the cooperation of all the people of the islands in making its chief scenic treasures contained in the national park readily available to the visitors who will come in increasing numbers."[77]

The first sizeable operating funds ($10,000) were finally distributed by the federal government to the park for

improvements. In 1922, after Burkland's appointment, $10,000 was appropriated for park operations. On the ground, operations finally began in April 1922 with the arrival of Superintendent Thomas R. Boles.[7][8]

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
PO Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718-0052
808 985-6000
www.nps.gov/havo