



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
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Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Park History

Established on Aug. 1, 1916, Hawai'i Volcanoes is the 15th national park in a system that now comprises 423 areas. The park is located on the southeastern side of the island of Hawai'i. Most of the park is open to the public following the eruption and summit collapse of Kīlauea volcano in 2018, and the return of lava to the summit in December 2020.

Purpose

The mission of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is to protect, conserve, and study the volcanic landscapes and associated natural and cultural resources and processes, and to facilitate safe public access to active volcanism, diverse geographic settings, and wilderness for public education and enjoyment.

Resources

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has been designated as an International Biosphere Reserve (1980) and a World Heritage Site (1987).

Geological: Hawai'i Volcanoes extends from sea level to 13,677 feet (4,169 meters) and encompasses the summits and rift zones of two of the world's most active volcanoes, Kīlauea and Mauna Loa. Its volcanic features include calderas, pit craters, cinder cones, spatter ramparts, fumaroles, solfataras, pāhoehoe and 'a'ā flows, tree molds, black sand beaches, and thermal areas.

Biological: Seven ecological zones (coast, lowland, mid-elevation woodland, rain forest, upland forest, subalpine, and alpine) harbor unique native plant and animal communities. The park provides refuge for seven threatened species including the nēnē (Hawaiian goose) and 47 endangered species which include honu'ea (hawksbill turtle), 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), and the Ka'ū silversword.

Cultural: The Native Hawaiian connection to the land, both past and present, is found from the coast to the summits of both volcanoes. The rich archeological record connects today's Hawaiians to their ocean-faring ancestors who made landfall on this island. The history of geological exploration and the stewardship of natural landscapes are shared with visitors by driving the roads, visiting historic districts and buildings, and the use of archive and museum collections.

Statistics

Interior Regions: 8, 9, 10 & 12

Size: 335,259 acres; 94 miles of roads; 155 miles of marked trails; 123,100 acres of legislated wilderness; 121,015 acres of eligible wilderness; 7,850 acres potential wilderness

Staffing: 79 full-time permanent employees

Annual Visitation: 792,744 (2020)

Budget: \$8,017,559 (2020)

Deferred Maintenance: \$92.7 million (2018)

Economic Benefits to Communities: The most recent NPS report shows that 1,368,375 visitors in 2019 spent \$116 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,279 jobs in the local area.

Interested Agencies & Organizations	Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association Hawai'i Volcanoes Lodge Company, LLC Kīlauea Military Camp, a Joint Services Recreation Center U.S. Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center U.S. Forest Service, Biological Quarantine Facility Volcano Art Center Gallery
Congressional District	Senators: Senator Brian E. Schatz (D), Senator Mazie Hirono (D) Representatives: U.S. Representative Ed Case (D), U.S. Representative Kai Kahele (D)
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