

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CELEBRATE "WILDERNESS" AT THE KILAUEA VOLCANO WILDERNESS RUNS

Help celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act by participating in the Kilauea Volcano Wilderness Runs on July 31, 2004 in Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park.

In 1964 Congress enacted legislation that over the past 40 years has protected more than 106 million acres in 650 areas in 44 states. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the legislation he stated reasons for its passage were to keep "An America with undisturbed mountains, plains, forests and valleys, with placid lakes and lovely shores which will not be dominated by man and his technology; where man can be alone with all the glories of nature and can renew his spirit in solitary communion with the land."

More than 120,000 acres of Wilderness are protected within Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park. These areas include the summit, northeast rift, and upland forest of Mauna Loa, the nearly impenetrable rain forest of Ola`a, the ever volcanically-active east rift of Kilauea, and the desert, pali, and coastal plain of Ka`u. Within the park's Wilderness lies the largest stretch of undeveloped coastline in Hawai`i.

In 1983, Hawai`i Volcanoes created a 26.2 mile marathon that traverses the ash dunes, fractured flows, and steep escarpments of Wilderness in the Ka`u Desert. The run is rightly referred to as "one of the world's toughest measured marathons." In addition, a 10-mile Rim Run, a 5-mile Caldera Run, and a 5-mile Caldera Walk offer non-marathoners an opportunity to navigate a route beneath towering tree ferns and over undulating pahoehoe.

Jointly sponsored by the Volcano Art Center and Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park, the Kilauea Volcano Wilderness Runs has grown into the largest trail run event in Hawai`i.

Join us for a day out in the wonders of nature, enjoying time with family and friends, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act on the park's well-marked and maintained trails.

An awards ceremony will be held at Kilauea Military Camp Theater where runners can relax and enjoy delicious refreshments while listening to Hawaiian music.

Artists from throughout Hawai`i donate beautiful works of art as prizes for the winners in the different races and age divisions. Race applications are available at numerous sporting goods stores, bike shops, and health clubs throughout Hawai`i.

Volunteers are also being sought to support the runners. Each volunteer receives a special commemorative race t-shirt designed by Big Island artist Dietrich Varez. These highly prized t-shirts have become well known throughout the islands for their distinctive style and beautifully crafted work.

For more information or to volunteer for the race, phone/fax 808-985-8725; e-mail: [race@volcanoartcenter.org](mailto:race@volcanoartcenter.org) Register on-line at [www.volcanoartcenter.org](http://www.volcanoartcenter.org)