



Hawai'i Volcanoes NEWS RELEASE

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A Tri-Park Pass, the Gift that Gives All Year

Looking for that special something this holiday season? Why not give yourself or someone you care about a gift that gives all year—a Hawai'i Tri-Park Pass.

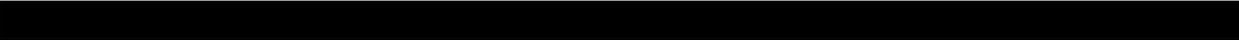
The \$20 pass allows entrance to three of our nation's most popular national parks for a year from the date of first use. It affords the pass holder(s) and their passengers free entry to Hawai'i Volcanoes, Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau, and Haleakala national parks.

A proposed fee increase of \$5 for the Hawai'i Tri-Park Pass is set to go into effect on January 1, 2006. Comments on the proposed increase that will raise the annual fee to \$25 are welcome and can be mailed to Superintendent, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, P.O. Box 52, Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718 or emailed to HAVO_Superintendent@nps.gov.

Under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, parks are allowed to keep up to 80 percent of the recreation fees collected. The program calls for using entrance fees collected by the parks to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

At Hawai'i Volcanoes, visitors reap the rewards of a diversified investment of their entrance fees in projects that enhance visitor health and safety, access, and enjoyment. Here are just a few examples:

- The new 1-mile, fully accessible Sulphur Bank Trail invites visitors of all capabilities to explore the park's thermally-active areas of steam vents and solfataras. A paved path meanders through steaming meadow and `ohi`a forest. At Sulphur Banks, the trail transitions into a 5-foot wide raised boardwalk that extends 1000-feet, protecting natural geothermal processes and allowing visitors to peer into steam vents and be at eye-level with sulfur crystals.
- At Kulanaokuaiki Campground, campers hitch their tent to a star canopy. This delightful little site in a secluded `ohi`a woodland offers big views of Mauna Loa and easy access to desert wilderness. The fully accessible facility features a restroom, picnic tables, and paved paths to individual campsites.
- Back from the brink of extinction, the Mauna Loa silversword once again flourishes in the park's subalpine. Park staff hand pollinated and collected seeds from the few remaining wild plants, grew the young plants in a greenhouse, and transplanted the seedlings to fenced enclosures that keep out hungry herbivores.
- On Mauna Loa Road, crews smoothed nature's "road bumps" after koa tree roots infiltrated the pavement of this 13-mile scenic drive causing some stretches of the road to raise more than



half a foot. They excavated the roadbed, installed a plastic root barrier, and repaved the surface.

- Unisex vault toilets are now conveniently located at Mauna Ulu, Kilauea Overlook, Kipukapuauulu, Kulanaokuaiki and the end of Chain of Craters Road. They are not only fully accessible but also earthquake and hurricane resistant.
- The Waldron's Ledge Overlook has reopened after a 6.7 earthquake in 1983 rocked the overlook and concerns about visitor safety forced its closure. Park staff stabilized the paved walkways, replaced deteriorated steel railings with recycled plastic pipes, and repaired the historic stone walls.

Give a gift that will keep on giving all year long. To acquire a Hawai`i Tri-Park Pass, inquire at the entrance station to Hawai`i Volcanoes, Pu`uhonua o Honaunau, or Haleakala national parks, or call Hawai`i Volcanoes fee office at 985-6151 for more information.