



# Trip Planner

2012 Edition

## Discover a dynamic and ever-changing landscape

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK encompasses 323,431 acres (130,888 hectares) of dynamic, ever-changing environments including alpine, rain forest, desert, active volcanism, and rugged coastline. Explore the harsh, hot, and windy environment of the coast or experience higher elevations on Mauna Loa, where plants and animals struggle to survive in temperatures as low as 10° F (-12° C).

### What To Do With Your Day

First stop at the visitor center for current information on trails, roads, interpretive programs, weather, or to watch the park orientation movie.

### If You Have 1 to 2 Hours

Explore the summit of Kīlauea volcano via Crater Rim Drive. This road passes lush tropical rain forest, views of the currently active summit caldera, and provides access to well-marked scenic stops and short walks. Visit the Jaggar Museum for exhibits on the geology of Hawaiian volcanoes. *(Note: the south section of Crater Rim Drive is closed due to high levels of volcanic gases. See map on page 7.)*

### If You Have 2 to 4 Hours

In addition to Crater Rim Drive, explore the East Rift Zone and coastal area of the park via the Chain of Craters Road. This road descends 3,700 feet (1,128 m) in 18 miles (29 km) and ends where a 2003 lava flow crossed the road. Lava flow activity is always changing. Check at the Kīlauea Visitor Center for the most current information. No food, water, or fuel is available along the Chain of Craters Road.

### If You Want to Get Out of the Car and Hike

The true character of the park is best discovered on foot. With over 150 miles (240 km) of trails in the park, exploration by walking and hiking can be a fascinating and enjoyable experience. **For walking and hiking options, see page 6.**



Hawaiian rain forest



End of Chain of Craters Road

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### Contact Information

**Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**  
PO Box 52  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718  
[www.nps.gov/havo](http://www.nps.gov/havo)



# General Information

## Weather and Climate

Weather at Kīlauea's summit (4,000 ft / 1,219 m elevation) varies daily and may be rainy and chilly any time of the year. Temperatures may be 12 to 15 degrees cooler than at sea level. The coastal plain at the end of Chain of Craters Road, where lava crossed the road in 2003, is often hot, dry, and windy with the possibility of passing showers.

## Average Temperatures and Precipitation

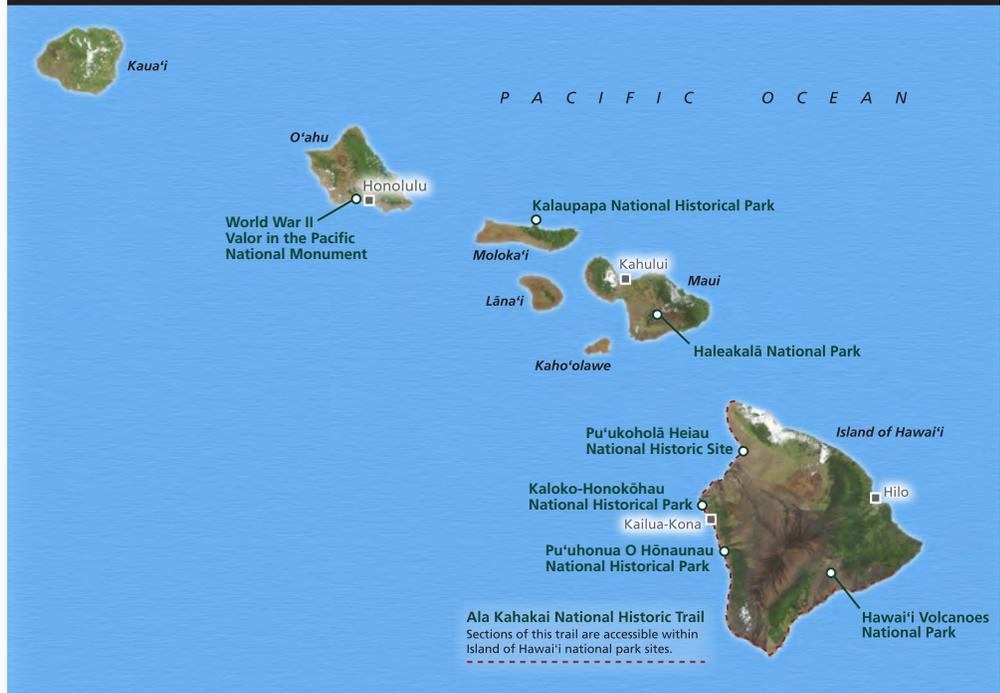
Kīlauea Visitor Center (4,000 ft / 1,219 m)

	High °F   °C	Low °F   °C	Precip. inches   cm
Jan	65   18	49   9	11   28
Feb	71   22	45   7	8   20
Mar	69   21	49   9	8   20
April	66   19	49   9	12   31
May	69   21	52   11	6   15
June	70   21	53   12	5   13
July	71   22	56   13	6   15
Aug	73   23	56   13	7   18
Sept	68   20	53   12	7   18
Oct	72   22	56   13	14   37
Nov	69   21	56   13	12   31
Dec	73   23	46   8	11   28

## Entrance Fees

Entrance to the park is \$10 per private vehicle; \$5 per pedestrian or bicyclist. Admission is for seven days. A \$25 Hawai'i Tri-Park Pass provides access for one year for use at Hawai'i Volcanoes, Haleakalā (located on Maui), and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Parks. The \$80 interagency pass provides entrance into all National Park Service areas. U.S. citizens 62 or older can obtain a lifetime Senior Pass for \$10 allowing free entrance to the parks. A free lifetime pass is available for U.S. citizens who have a permanent disability, regardless of age. Fees collected support projects in the park.

## Hawaiian Islands National Parks



## The Park is Open

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is open 24-hours per day, year round, including holidays. However, some areas of the park may be temporarily closed due to volcanic activity or poor air quality.

## Road Closure

Crater Rim Drive between Jaggar Museum and the Chain of Craters Road junction is currently closed due to volcanic activity in Halema'uma'u Crater.

## Where Can I See Lava?

Lava sometimes flows near the eastern boundary of the park and might be visible by driving to the end of Chain of Craters Road or Highway 130.

Lava viewing conditions are extremely variable. You may only see glow in the distance. For updated lava viewing conditions, call the park at 808-985-6011 or the Hawai'i County Kalapana Lava Viewing Hotline at 808-961-8093.

## How to See the Park

### BY VEHICLE

There are four primary roads that provide spectacular views of the park—Crater Rim Drive, Chain of Craters Road, Hilina Pali Road, and Mauna Loa Road. These roads are paved. The Hilina Pali Road and the upper portions of Mauna Loa Road are narrow. Drive defensively on all roads and watch for pedestrians and nēnē (Hawaiian goose).

### BY BICYCLE

Bicycles are allowed on all roads open to automobile traffic and on some trails. A Bike Guide is available at the Kīlauea Visitor Center or online at [www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm). In Hawai'i, bicycles are subject to the same rules as automobiles. No bicycles are available for rent in the park.

### ON FOOT

One of the best ways to experience the park is on foot. Numerous trails wind through rain forests, deserts, and lava flows. **See page 6 for hiking options.**

# General Information

## Getting to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

The park is located on Hawai'i Island. From Hilo: 30 miles (48 km) southwest on Highway 11 (45 minute drive); from Kailua-Kona: 96 miles (154 km) southeast on Highway 11 (2 to 2- 1/2 hour drive), or 125 miles (201 km) through Waimea and Hilo via Highways 19 and 11 (2- 1/2 to 3 hours).

### BY AIRLINE

Hilo and Kona airports are served by inter-island carriers: Hawaiian, Island

Air, go! Mokulele, and Pacific Wings. In addition, international and mainland carriers also provide service to Kona International Airport. *The recently merged United/Continental Airlines now offers daily flights from Los Angeles to Hilo, the nearest large city to the park.*

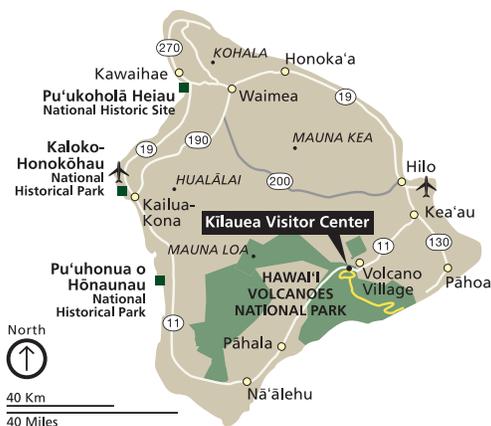
Air Canada, American, Delta, Hawaiian, Japan, Northwest, U.S. Airways/America West, and United Airlines offer direct flights to Kona (100+ miles / 2- 1/2 to 3 hour drive to the park).

### BY RENTAL CAR

Rental cars may be reserved at both Hilo and Kona airports.

### OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

At various locations on the island, the public bus (Hele On Bus, 808-961-8744), commercial tour buses, taxis, motorcycles, and bicycles are available. *No rental vehicles or bicycles may be obtained in the park.*



## Accessibility

### FACILITIES

The Kīlauea Visitor Center, Jaggar Museum, Volcano House hotel, and Volcano Art Center are wheelchair accessible.

### VIEW POINTS

Pullouts along Crater Rim Drive and Chain of Craters Road afford panoramic views of the park.

### PATHWAYS

Accessible pathways include Waldron Ledge (Earthquake Trail), Pauahi Crater, Muliwai a Pele, Kealakomo Overlook, and Sulphur Banks from Steam Vents.

### CAMPGROUNDS

Nāmakanipaio Campground has restrooms with water and moderately accessible campsites.

Kulanao'kuai'ki Campground has two accessible campsites, an accessible toilet, but no water.

### RESTROOMS

Kīlauea Visitor Center, Kīlauea Overlook, Jaggar Museum, Thurston Lava Tube, Nāmakanipaio Campground, Kīpukapuauolu picnic area, Mauna Ulu, Kulanao'kuai'ki Campground, and the turnaround at the end of Chain of Craters Road all have restrooms or wheelchair accessible toilets.

### WHEELCHAIRS

Wheelchairs are available for use at the Kīlauea Visitor Center, Jaggar Museum, and at the ranger station at the end of Chain of Craters Road.

## VISITOR ALERT

**High amounts of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas are present in areas of the park. These gases are a danger to everyone,** particularly persons with heart or respiratory problems and infants, young children, and pregnant women.

**Volcanic gas** looks like smog. Keep windows closed when it is visible.

**If air irritates,** smells bad, or you have difficulty breathing--leave the area.

**Portions or all of the park may be closed** at times of high sulfur dioxide levels.

**Kīlauea Visitor Center** offers updates on air quality in a clean-air environment during operating hours.

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service rangers and volunteers present a wide variety of interpretive programs through the year. All programs are free and open to the public. **See page 6 for program options.**



# Visitor Centers and Other Services

## Visitor Centers



### KĪLAUEA VISITOR CENTER

Open daily from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm

- Accessible restrooms, water, and phone are available.
- Rangers are available throughout the day to help you plan a safe and memorable visit to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.
- The Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association sells books, posters, and other educational material. Proceeds benefit park interpretive programs.
- Park rangers and volunteers lead guided walks throughout the park each day. The free programs are posted each day by 9:00 am.
- Movies are shown every hour from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

### THOMAS A. JAGGAR MUSEUM

Open daily from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm  
(*may be open later hours during increased volcanic activity*)

- Perched on the edge of Kilauea Caldera, the observation deck offers the best view of the eruptive activity at Halema'uma'u Crater.
- Accessible restrooms, water, and phone are available.
- The museum presents scientific exhibits about volcanism and the work conducted at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.



View of Halema'uma'u Crater vent from Jaggar Museum

## Food

### VOLCANO HOUSE

Closed for renovations.

### VOLCANO VILLAGE AREA

A variety of restaurants are located nearby in Volcano Village. Please search online for available options or visit [www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/wheretoeat.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/wheretoeat.htm).

## Other Services

### VOLCANO VILLAGE AREA

The following services are available two miles towards Hilo, off Highway 11:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Gasoline         | ■ Hardware         |
| ■ Groceries        | ■ Laundromat       |
| ■ Camping Supplies | ■ Post Office      |
| ■ ATM              | ■ Internet Service |

## Church Services

Located in the Kilauea Military Camp Chapel on Crater Rim Drive. Every Sunday: Protestant at 9:00 am and Catholic at 11:00 am. For more information call 808-967-8333.

## Medical Services

For 24-hour emergency care **dial 911**.

## Volcano Art Gallery

Open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The gallery features and sells art and fine crafts by some of the most talented artists in Hawai'i. Located next to the Kilauea Visitor Center.



# Lodging and Camping

## Lodging

### VOLCANO HOUSE

The Volcano House hotel is closed for renovations. It will reopen in late 2012.

### VOLCANO VILLAGE

There are a number of lodging options, including bed and breakfasts, located just outside the park boundary in Volcano Village. Please search online for available options.

### KĪLAUEA MILITARY CAMP

This is a recreational facility for active duty military, retired military, reservists, Department of Defense civilians, families, and sponsored groups. Call 808-967-8333 for more information.

## Campgrounds Outside the Park

### COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS

808-961-8311

[www.hawaii-county.com/parks/camping](http://www.hawaii-county.com/parks/camping)

### STATE CAMPGROUNDS

808-974-6200

[www.hawaiistateparks.org/parks/hawaii](http://www.hawaiistateparks.org/parks/hawaii)

## Campgrounds Inside the Park



Nāmakanipaio Campground

Camping is free of charge. Entrance fees to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park apply and may be paid at the entrance station. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis with no reservations, no permits, and no check-in. Stays are limited to seven consecutive days per month, not to exceed 30 days per year.

### NĀMAKANIPAIO CAMPGROUND

Located on Highway 11 at 4,000 feet (1,213 m) in elevation. It is a large, open grassy area with tall eucalyptus and koa trees. This campground has restrooms and water. Fires are allowed in

designated fire grates only. Wood may be purchased in Volcano Village. There is a large pavilion with picnic tables and fireplaces that is shared by all campers. Dogs are allowed, but must be on a leash at all times.

Weather may be cool and damp year-round. Daytime temperature ranges in the 60's to 70's° F (16 to 26° C) with night-time temperatures in the high 30's to low 50's (3 to 11° C).

### KULANAOKUAIKI CAMPGROUND

Located off Hilina Pali Road at 3,200 feet (975 m). There are eight walk-in campsites with picnic tables—two are wheelchair accessible. There is an accessible vault toilet; however, no water is available and campfires are not permitted. Use fueled camping stoves only. This campground is subject to closure when the area is dry and during times of high fire risk. No dogs or pets are allowed.



Camping at Halapē



Backpacking on Mauna Loa

## Backcountry Camping

The park offers over 150 miles (241 km) of trails ranging in elevation from sea level to 13,667 feet (4,169 m). With over half of the park designated as wilderness, there are numerous opportunities for solitude and to experience life on active volcanoes.

### ALL OVERNIGHT BACKCOUNTRY HIKERS MUST REGISTER

Obtain a free permit at the Backcountry Office. Permits are issued on a first-come basis, no earlier than the day before your hike. When you return from your trip, stop at the Backcountry Office or call 808-985-6178 to check out.

### SERVICES ARE LIMITED AT TRAILHEADS

There is no water at trailheads and public transportation is unavailable. There are 911 phones (for emergency use only) located at Hilina Pali Overlook and Pu'u Loa and Ka'ū Desert Trailheads.

For more information, download the park's *Backcountry Guide* at [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/brochures.htm).

For park brochures and maps,  
visit our website at

[www.nps.gov/havo/  
planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm)

# Hiking and Ranger Programs

## Day Hiking



Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs Trail

### SULPHUR BANKS

See where volcanic gases seep from the ground, depositing sulphur crystals and other minerals on rocks along this paved trail and boardwalk. Walk from Kīlauea Visitor Center (.4 mile / .6 km one way) or take the wheelchair accessible trail from Steam Vents parking area (.5 mile / .8 km one way).

### THURSTON LAVA TUBE (NĀHUKU)

Walk through lush rain forest to explore a 550-year old lava tube (.5 mile / .8 km loop trail). Restrooms and water are available.

## Trail Guides

Four trails in the park offer interpretive guides: Kīlauea Iki, Mauna Ulu, Halema'uma'u, and Kīpukapuauulu. Purchase a printed trail guide at the park's bookstores or download from the park's website at [www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm).



### DEVASTATION TRAIL

Stroll on a paved path where an 'ōhi'a forest was devastated by Kīlauea Iki's 1959 eruption. See plants returning to this stark landscape (.5 mile / .8 km one way).

### KĪLAUEA IKI

Descend 400-foot (122 m) through native rain forest into a crater and hike across a frozen lava lake still steaming from the 1959 eruption. Park at Kīlauea Iki Overlook to begin with a spectacular view (4 miles / 6.4 km loop trail).

### PU'U HULUHULU CINDER CONE

Hike over 1969–1974 lava flows to a viewing area atop a 210-foot (64 m) cinder cone. Weather permitting, see Kīlauea's East Rift, Pu'u 'Ō'ō, and Mauna Ulu. Trail begins at Mauna Ulu parking lot (3 miles / 4.8 km round-trip hike).

### PU'U LOA PETROGLYPHS

A traditional Hawaiian trail leads to images artfully etched in stone. Petroglyphs are fragile so watch your step. Trail begins at Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs pullout (1.5 miles / 2.4 km round-trip).



## Especially for Children

The Junior Ranger programs promotes involvement in and understanding of Hawai'i Volcanoes; ask about them at visitor centers or check [www.nps.gov/havo/forkids/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/forkids/index.htm).

Download Junior Ranger publications at [www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm).

## Join a Guided Ranger Program



The following programs are generally offered on a daily basis:

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

**9:30 AM AND 3:30 PM**

20 minute ranger talk on Hawaiian volcanology. Meet the ranger at the relief map on the lanai area outside Kīlauea Visitor Center.

### SUMMIT WALK

**10:30 AM AND 1:30 PM**

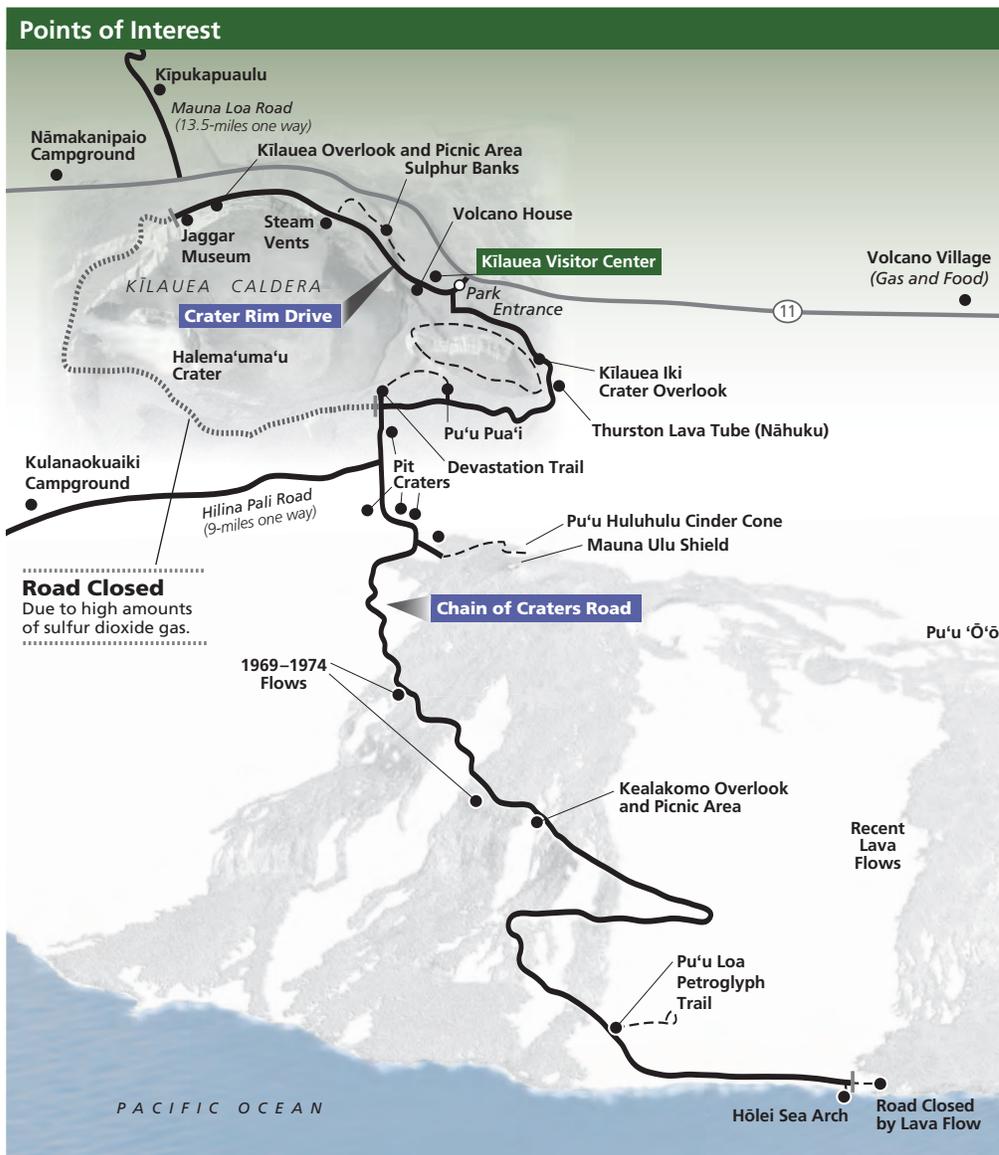
45 minutes to 1 hour ranger-led walk. This walk is wheelchair accessible with assistance and less than 1/2 mile of walking on a paved path. Topics highlighted: biology, geology, and Hawaiian culture of Kīlauea.

For other daily activities, please see the Ranger Activities bulletin board in the visitor center. The activity schedule is posted daily at 9:00 a.m.



For more information,  
visit our website at  
[www.nps.gov/havo](http://www.nps.gov/havo)

# Map



## Support Your Park

### HAWAII PACIFIC PARKS ASSOCIATION



The Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association is a National Park Service cooperating association, a nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to support the interpretive, educational, scientific and historic mission of the National Park Service.

Proceeds from the sale of educational items in our outlets in park visitor centers are returned directly to the Park Service to support interpretive programs, research projects, museum activities, free publications, cultural demonstrations, and other related activities.

A variety of products to enhance your visit to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park can be purchased online at

[www.hawaiipacificparks.org](http://www.hawaiipacificparks.org)

### FRIENDS OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK



The Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a non-profit, community-based, membership organization based on the island of Hawai'i. Our goal is to connect people to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park through education, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

To become a member of the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, visit

[www.fhvnp.org/membersindividuals.htm](http://www.fhvnp.org/membersindividuals.htm)

## After Dark in the Park

Join special speaker presentations at the Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium. These programs occur on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Visit [www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/events\\_adip.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/events_adip.htm) for upcoming programs.

Park entrance fees apply. Your \$1.00 donation supports park educational programs.

Videos of previous programs are available on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/havo/photosmultimedia/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/photosmultimedia/index.htm).



Traditional Hawaiian hula



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
PO Box 52  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718

## EXPERIENCE YOUR NATIONAL PARK



### Videopodcasts

Join park rangers and scientists to discover Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, including current volcanic activity, through these in-depth videopodcasts.

For a list of available videopodcasts go to:

[www.nps.gov/havo/  
photosmultimedia/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/havo/photosmultimedia/index.htm)

In the background, snow on Mauna Loa volcano's summit (13,677 ft / 4,169m) during winter with the steaming bluff on the edge of Kīlauea Caldera in the foreground.

