



ISLAND OF HAWAI'I VOLCANO UPDATE

May 15, 2018, 12:00 p.m. HST

LATEST UPDATE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- There is absolutely **no reason at this time for groups nor individual travelers to change or alter their plans.**
- All of the Hawaiian Islands are unaffected by Kīlauea volcano except a remote area on the island of Hawai'i's east side. Out of the island's 4,028 square miles, only less than a 10-square-mile area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens Subdivisions in Puna is affected.
- **Air Access:** All flights into Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole - KOA (west) and Hilo International Airport - ITO (east) are operating normally.
- Accommodations and Activities:** All accommodations, activities and attractions on the island are also operating normally, with the exception of those in the area affected by the lava activity.
- **Air Quality:** Air quality on the island of Hawai'i remains largely unchanged with this situation. However, air quality near where the lava is flowing can be hazardous (SO₂-sulfur dioxide), and officials are continuing to monitor air quality.

ACCESSIBILITY IN EAST HAWAI'I

- Residents of Lower Puna between Kapoho and Kalapana have been advised to be on alert in the event of possible volcanic activity in the area.
- All beach parks in Lower Puna have been closed, including Pohoiki Boat Ramp.

VOLCANIC ASH

Plumes of steam and variable amounts of ash are rising from Kīlauea summit. According to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory/USGS, depending on wind conditions, dustings of ash may occur in the Kīlauea summit area and downwind. For a guide on volcanic ash, visit <https://bit.ly/2ljlqBV>.

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

As a precautionary measure, most of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has been closed until further notice. Only the Park's Kahuku Unit is open during its normal hours, Friday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.n. For Park updates, visit <https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/lava2.htm>.

- Kīlauea Summit: **Ash plumes and dangerous debris may be emitted from Halema'uma'u Crater** should a steam explosion resulting from the lowering of the lava lake occur. For Volcano Watch updates, visit <https://on.doi.gov/2r8G4zE>.

NEW WEB LINK TO HAWAI'I COUNTY ERUPTION MAP

<https://goo.gl/i7RbrB>

HAWAI'I COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE ERUPTION MAP

To view the interactive map (please wait for the page to load), visit: <https://goo.gl/i7RbrB>

AIRPORTS, ACCOMMODATIONS & ACTIVITIES

- All airports on the island of Hawai'i continue to operate normally.
- All accommodations, activities and attractions on the island are also operating normally, with the exception of those in the area affected by the lava activity.
- Visitors who have already booked a trip to the island of Hawai'i with accommodations or activities in/near the Puna district, should call their provider with any questions or concerns.
- Effective May 12, those who have vacation rental reservations in the Lower Puna restricted area should find alternative accommodations, until further notice.

ERUPTION LOCATION

- The volcanic activity and where lava has flowed is limited to an isolated area in Lower Puna on the island's east side.
- This is more than 100 driving miles away from the western Kohala and Kona Coasts, where the island's major visitor accommodations and resorts are located. This is the area furthest from the current activity.
- In addition, Hilo town is approximately 20 miles away and unaffected by Kīlauea volcano.
- Kīlauea is one of the most active volcanoes on Earth, and has been erupting for the past 35 years.
- The topography of the island between east and west is un conducive for a natural flow.
- Out of the island's 4,028 square miles, only less than a 10-square-mile area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens Subdivisions in the district of Puna is affected.

AIR QUALITY

Air quality on the island of Hawai'i remains unchanged with the exception of the eruption location, which can have hazardous levels of SO₂ (sulfur dioxide). Officials constantly monitor SO₂ levels across the island. VOG or volcanic haze is relatively common on an island with active volcanoes, and the level of haze is dependent on volcanic activity and wind direction/strength. To view SO₂ conditions in real-time across the state, visit <http://www.hiso2index.info/>. For statewide Air Quality, visit Air Now at <https://bit.ly/2l33ixd> (data and forecasts courtesy of the Hawai'i Department of Health – Environmental Health).

REPORTS ABOUT ACID RAIN

- News reports about acid rain during the current Kīlauea eruption have mischaracterized the severity of its potential effect on human health. In fact, acid rain is a common occurrence anytime there is rainfall on an area where volcanic haze, or VOG, is in the atmosphere, whether on the island of Hawai'i or anywhere else in the world.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Walking in acid rain, or even swimming in a lake affected by acid rain, is no more dangerous to humans than walking in normal rain or swimming in non-acidic lakes.
- Data about the composition of rain falling on the island of Hawai'i is closely monitored on a continual basis by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program's National Trends Network.
- Visit the State Department of Health's Hawai'i Interagency Vog Information Dashboard for the latest information at www.ivhnh.org/vog/.

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

As a precautionary measure, most of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has been closed until further notice. Only the Park's Kahuku Unit is open during its normal hours, Friday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For Park updates, visit <https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/lava2.htm>.

- Kīlauea Summit: **Ash plumes and dangerous debris may be emitted from Halema'uma'u Crater** should a steam explosion resulting from the lowering of the lava lake occur. For Volcano Watch updates, visit <https://on.doi.gov/2r8G4zE>.

ACCESSIBILITY IN EAST HAWAI'I

- Road closures are taking place on select areas of Highway 130, 132 and 137.
- No access is allowed at this time for residents of Lanipuna Gardens.
- Residents and visitors who do not have official business in Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens are asked to stay away from the area.
- As a precaution, residents of Lower Puna between Kapoho and Kalapana are advised to be on alert in the event of possible volcanic activity in the area.
- Temporary flight restrictions are in place for most of Lower Puna. Drones will be confiscated in this area.
- Those who have rented accommodations or made tour reservations in the general area should check with those respective companies for the latest updates.
- Unless otherwise noted, area businesses are open and accessible. Motorists are advised to drive with caution and be prepared for increased traffic.
- Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of State Parks has closed Lava Tree State Monument and Mackenzie State Recreation Area until further notice.
- All beach parks in Lower Puna have been closed, including the Pohoiki Boat Ramp.
- The County of Hawai'i has closed the Kalapana Viewing Area until further notice.

VOLCANOES IN HAWAI'I

Eruptions of Hawaiian volcanoes are typically nonexplosive or weakly explosive. Hawaiian eruptions, which is a term used by volcanologists worldwide to characterize similar eruptive style at other volcanoes, are usually gentle due to its highly fluid lava composition which tends to flow freely both beneath the surface and upon eruption. For more information about Hawaiian eruptions, visit <https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/hawaii/page26.html>.

Travelers planning a trip to the island of Hawai'i who have questions can contact the Hawai'i Tourism United States Call Center at 1-800-GO-HAWAII (1-800-464-2924). For other updates, visit <http://hawaii tourism authority.org/news/special-alert/>.

HELPFUL LINKS

Hawai'i County Civil Defense

<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts>

Hawai'i County Eruption Map

<https://goo.gl/i7RbrB>

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory / USGS

<https://on.doi.gov/2FEPVBm>

Volcano Watch updates: <https://on.doi.gov/2r8G4zE>

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

<https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/lava2.htm>

Volcanic Ash Guide

<https://bit.ly/2IjIqBV>

SO2 Measurement Map – Department of Health

<http://www.hiso2index.info>

General Air Quality / Air Now

<https://bit.ly/2I33ixd>

State of Hawai'i Interagency Vog Information Dashboard

<http://www.ivhhn.org/vog/>

Hawaiian Eruptions

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/hawaii/page26.html>

TOURISM UPDATES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority Special Alerts

<http://www.hawaiiauthority.org/news/special-alert/>

TRAVELERS MAY CALL

Travelers planning a trip to the island of Hawai'i who have questions can contact the Hawai'i Tourism United States Call Center at 1-800-GO-HAWAII (1-800-464-2924).

Island of Hawai'i Volcano Update – May 15, 2018

TOURISM UPDATES

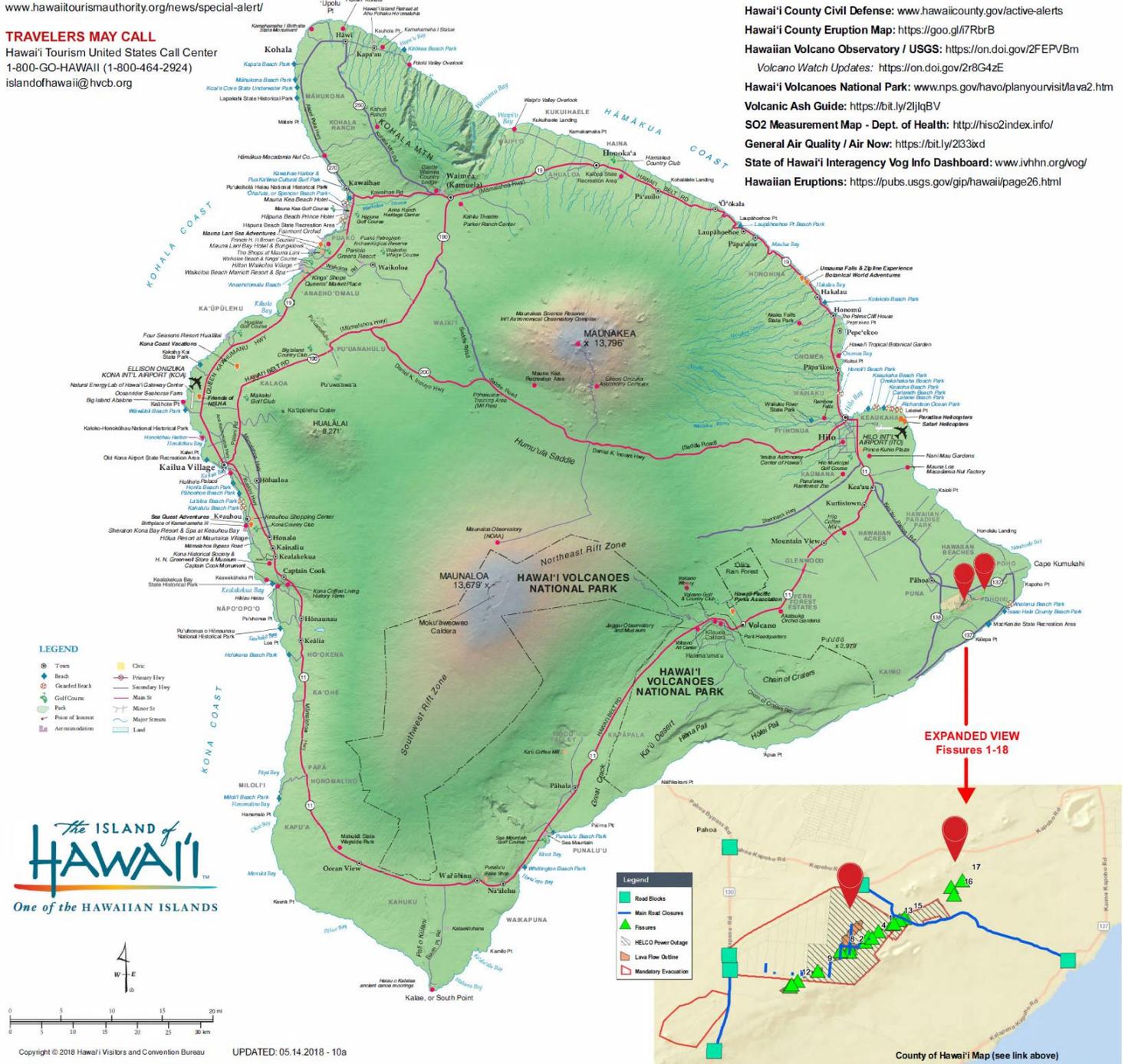
www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/news/special-alert/

TRAVELERS MAY CALL

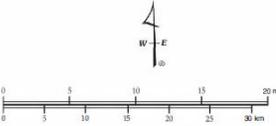
Hawai'i Tourism United States Call Center
1-800-GO-HAWAII (1-800-464-2924)
islandofhawaii@hvcb.org

HELPFUL LINKS

Hawai'i County Civil Defense: www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts
Hawai'i County Eruption Map: <https://goo.gl/i7RrB8>
Hawaiian Volcano Observatory / USGS: <https://on.doi.gov/2FEPV/Bm>
Volcano Watch Updates: <https://on.doi.gov/2r8G4ZE>
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park: www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/ava2.htm
Volcanic Ash Guide: <https://bit.ly/2JlqBV>
SO2 Measurement Map - Dept. of Health: <http://hiso2index.info/>
General Air Quality / Air Now: <https://bit.ly/2i3kxcd>
State of Hawai'i Interagency Vog Info Dashboard: www.ivhnm.org/vog/
Hawaiian Eruptions: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/hawaii/page26.html>



The ISLAND of
HAWAII
One of the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS



Copyright © 2018 Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau UPDATED: 05.14.2018 - 10a