



Cooper Center's Volcano Community News



NEWSLETTER #437

FEBRUARY 2026

All newsletter submissions MUST be in by the 10th of the month. Ads placed must provide us with snail mail addresses or ad will not be placed. This Volcano Community News, published by Cooper Center Council, will reinstitute the requirement that ALL submission must be in a digital format. We will not digitize a hand written submission for anyone. If you need help digitizing an unclassified, or article, Cooper Center offers that service.

Community Meeting Saturday, 2/7/26 at 6PM

The Volcano Health Collaborative (VHC) will be holding a community meeting on Saturday, February 7 at 6:00 pm at Cooper Center. The purpose of the meeting is to summarize the results of the Medical and Healthcare Needs Assessment conducted by the Volcano Community Association and to seek community input and comments. Please save the date and we hope to see you there!"

Happy Valentines Day!



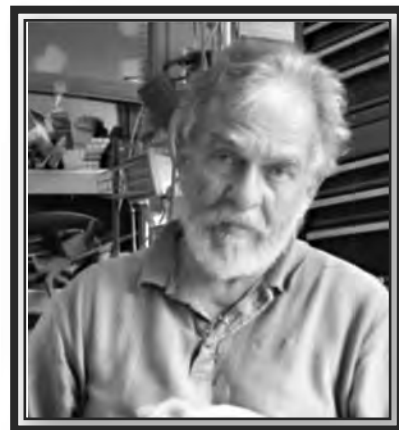
See page 3 for an article about dogs and chocolate.

Celebration of Life.

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 6pm

Come and celebrate Roger at Cooper Center on February 6th starting at 6p, please come and celebrate our long time community member who did so much for so many organizations. Cooper Center, Volcano Rotary, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and others.

We are looking also for donations to help cover his expenses as he has no family here. Donations will run through Veterans groups, Cooper Center so it is then a charitable contribution, please note that on any checks.



Roger George Schweitzer
April 28, 1949 - November 25, 2025

Cooper Center Community Pantry News

The Cooper Center Community Pantry drive-through food pantry is a week early due to the holidays on Wednesday, February 25th from 9:30-11:00am. Especially needed are canned goods, veggies, proteins, tuna, spam, canned chicken, canned meats, etc. Whatever you can we will accept. Non-perishable unexpired goods can be donated at the Cooper Center Bookstore. Mahalo.



Volcano volunteer Mary Narito happily greets people in line to pick up supplemental food.

to Volcano Newsletter News Submissions

All submissions must be by email, ads, articles, and unclassifieds to Linda Ugalde kilaueatutu@gmail.com, on or before the 10th of the month prior to month it's being submitted for. All ads must also give us their snail mail address for invoicing. Articles for non regular submissions may not be over 300 words. For additional information email me or call 808-936-9705. No calls after 5pm.

Volcano Community News (VCN) is not responsible for errors in submitted articles, that is the responsibility of the submitter.

Advertising

Ads: 1½" x 2½" \$40.00 per month, with 6 month pre-payment 10% reduction (\$216) in unchanged ad. For 2½" square ads it's \$60. per month. For 6 months 10% reduction (\$324). Back page (2½" square) is \$70 per month and \$378 for 6 months. Rates for larger ads on request. Ads are placed as submitted. It is not our job to change or fix an ad. Must be submitted in the size requested. Minimum resolution for ads is 300 dpi. Ad and payment must be received by the 10th. Clearly state if ad is being run for 1 month or if it's going to be longer. Again payment must be made by the 10th or ad will be pulled.

Checks for ads should be made out to **Cooper Center Council**, and mailed to:

P.O. Box 1000
Volcano, HI 96785,

and identify ad that's being paid for.

The "Voice" on pages 6 & 7 is produced with full editorial license by Volcano Community Association, not Cooper Center Council.

Editor: Linda L. Ugalde
Layout & Design by
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For Sale: Vintage Silk 1999 SONY Open Jacket, Size Men's XL, \$30 or Best. Vintage Italian Made Allen Edmonds Barbados Casual/Dress Shoes. Tan or Black, Men's Size 10. \$30/pair, \$50/both, or Best Offer. All Items Excellent Condition. Please call Auntie Frances at 808-985-8646 & leave name, number, & message.

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Local resident has firewood he can share. Contact John at 808-315-1192.

Advertising for: Yard work, cutting wild ginger, Hapu'u fern cleaning, and cob webs removal. Cell number: 808-765-2380



Worship Services & Meditation Groups

Catholic Sunday Mass
St. Theresa's in Mt. View
5:30 pm on Saturday
10:00 am on Sunday

New Hope Christian Fellowship
Hilo Side of Akatsuka Orchids
Sunday Svc. 8:30am
Pastor Ray Glory, Jr.
Pastor Jason Morton
newhopevolcano.com

The Village Church
Sunday Service at 10 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm
19-4276 Wright Rd
Volcano, HI 96785
email: tvcvolcano@gmail.com

Society of Friends (Quakers)
Royal Hawaiian Estates
Every Sunday at 2 pm
new phone # 808-443-9202

The Baha'i Faith / Mauna Loa Est.
6-7 pm Tuesdays
All are welcome! 551-6329

The Unitarian-Universalists of Puna
10:30 am Sundays in HPP
Call: 967-7295 for a ride.

Alaula Kipuka Refuge
yamahilo.wixsite.com/akrefuge
Every Sunday at 2:00 pm
808-443-9202

Volcano Insight Meditation Group
Mary Grace Orr, teacher
10 AM Sundays, on Zoom
Monthly in person at VAC
for info and link, email:
mgrace.orr@gmail.com

Family of Faith
Church of the Nazarene
18-1325 Old Volcano Rd - Mt View
Sunday Worship @ 9 am
(808) 491-8413

Rainfall in Inches for the Month of December 2025/& Year 2025

Volcano Golf Course 2.69/36.82
data collected by Janis
Hamersma

Volcano Village 6.9/116.45
data collected by Jim Bush

Mauna Loa Est. 3.93/60.11
data collected by JJ Jasinski

Royal Hawn Est. 6.5/86.035
data collected by Tom Pico

Fern Forest 8.17/100.52
data collected by Drew Kapp

Ohia Estates 5.67/84.74
data collected by Phil Haysmer



Volcano Seniors February 2026 Calendar

Feb 5 – Business Mtg,
Games, Potluck

Feb 12 – Club Anniversary
Lunch at Kaleo's (meet @
10:30 AM)

Feb 19 – Games, Potluck

Feb 26 – Bingo, Games,
Potluck

The Volcano Seniors Club meets
every Thursday morning at Cooper
Center from 9-12.

Volcano Rotary February 2026

A scholarship for those looking at a vocational field



In January, Rotary clubs across the country marked Vocational Service month, and in Volcano we began gearing up to promote our \$2,000 vocational scholarship given each year to a local high school student planning to move forward in a service field.

This scholarship is separate from the one we give each year to a student planning to attend a four-year school. We started the new scholarship because we believe there is great community value in investing in the training of someone who plans to go into a service field, whether its carpentry, auto mechanics, cosmetology, agriculture or any of the many other industries that we all depend on to keep our society running smoothly.

Here's just one example of what's happening elsewhere: In a garage outside Salinas, California, a local Rotary Club is helping young people who are learning to restore classic cars; they are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and a path away toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

So, a four-year university isn't for every high school graduate. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies around the world in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, there is going to be an increasing need for training that focuses on the jobs at hand, even in our own community. There are many good-paying jobs available in the service fields here, and they can provide a way for young people to stay here, raise their family and live a full, meaningful life.

If you know a local high school student who might be interested in our scholarship, ask them to contact their school counselor about how to apply. Or have them send us an email at rotaryclubofvolcano@gmail.com

Submitted by Mike Leidemann

No Chocolate for Dogs

It may be a traditional Valentine's Day gift to exchange with other people, but chocolate is absolutely off-limits for dogs. Although harmless to humans, chocolate contains both caffeine and theobromine, which can cause serious and potentially fatal health issues in dogs. These substances affect a dog's heart and central nervous system, and the more they ingest, the more serious the consequences.

Certain types of chocolate contain a higher percentage of caffeine and theobromine than others, which makes them more harmful. For example, ounce for ounce, unsweetened baker's chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. Remember, the heavier the dog, the more they can tolerate. As a general rule, serious side effects can occur with around one ounce of milk chocolate per pound of body weight.

It can take over six hours before symptoms start, but always play it safe and immediately contact your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline (855-213-6680) for advice.

American Kennel Club



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ALOHA KAKOU!

Follow Cupid's Arrow to February's Volcano Swap
 Meets. Held 2nd & 4th Saturdays, February 14th & 28th
 from 9AM to 1PM in the Historic Heart of Volcano Village
 on Wright Road at the Cooper Center.

KEEP IT LOCAL! No need the long drive & big crowds in
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Hau'oli La Ho'oipo!
 Happy Valentine's Day!
 Gung Hei Fat Choy!
 Happy Chinese New Year!
 A Hui Hou,
 Auntie Frances Roberts-Bennett

Valentine's Day in Other Countries

France is a lover's paradise, and couples flock here for Valentine's Day
 every year. French couples exchange letters and cards on the day, a
 tradition which was actually started in France in the 15th century, when
 the imprisoned Duke of Orleans wrote a poem to his lover and called her
 "my valentine."

The Japanese associate February 14th with one thing: chocolate. Some
 estimates suggest that Japanese chocolatiers make half of their yearly
 income from Valentine's Day sales. Women in Japan give their male
 friends and coworkers giri-choco, an obligatory gift of chocolate, while
 they reserve gifts of honmei-choco ("true-feeling chocolate") for those
 they care more about. Men return the favor on March 14th ("White Day"),
 with gifts of white chocolate and other, more valuable pieces.

In Germany, the symbol for luck (as well as lust) is an odd one: the pig!
 Lovers in Germany exchange flowers, chocolates, and all manner of pig-
 shaped gifts, including statues and stuffed toys. Heart-shaped ginger
 cookies with love messages written in icing are also popular.

In Ireland, many folks in search of true love make a pilgrimage to the
 Shrine of St. Valentine in Dublin, which allegedly houses relics of Rome's
 original Saint Valentine, who was martyred for performing secret wed-
 dings for soldiers.

www.odysseys-unlimited.com/valentines-day



Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Hawai'i Volcanoes Institute Presents

SUNDAY WALK IN THE PARK – EXPLORING MAUNA ULU & PU'UHULUHULU

Sunday, February 8, 2026

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

This monthly program on second Sundays is aimed at bringing together the members of the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to explore the park's beautiful trails. This month's 3-mile round-trip walk explores the Mauna Ulu area.

Experience a lava landscape from the 1969-1974 Mauna Ulu flow. Walk by lava tree molds and climb 210 feet (64m) to the top of a forested cinder cone, Pu'uuhuluhulu (hairy hill). View Mauna Ulu's steaming shield, which is similar to the Pu'u 'Ō'ō cone in the distance. On a clear day you can see Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea and the Pacific Ocean.

Of interest: Pāhoehoe and 'a'ā lava, kīpuka (old land surrounded by new land), lava tree molds, cinder cones, lava rampart, native pioneer plants and trees and panoramic vista.

Distance: 2.5 miles (4.0 km) round trip.

This event is presented by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Program cost is \$5.00 for Friends members. Non-members are welcome to join the Friends in order to attend. And, of course, additional donations are always accepted. Park entrance fees apply.

Please check <https://www.fhvn.org/events/sw-20260208/> for updates and for more information about this event.

Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is the official philanthropic partner of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park – We are a non-profit 501(c)3
PO Box 653, Volcano HI 96785 - (808) 985-7373 - email: admin@fhvn.org - Web: www.fhvn.org
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Aloha Volcano Ohana,

As most residents know, there has been an increasing amount of damage caused by the invasion of pigs in the Volcano area. It is evident of their rapid breeding cycle, starting anywhere from 5-8 months of age, with gestation lasting about 115 days, and average litters ranging from 4-12, these ungulates multiply rapidly, often having 2 litters a year. In densely populated, heavily forested areas, such as Volcano, the effects of this biological process are felt greatly by the inhabitants, both human and vegetation, and the scope of destruction to the environment, extensive.

Pigs can carry ROD spores on their fur. As they dig for worms in their search for fleshy roots, tubers, bulbs, and corms, they can tear up the roots of Ohia, allowing an entry for infection. Pigs also find a readily available snack in Hapu'u tree ferns, eating through the fibrous stalk getting to the starchy core returning over and over again usually until the Hapu'u is destroyed. Best, worst-case-scenario, it is purely aesthetic, with lawns and other ornamental and agricultural plantings destroyed as pigs plow the ground. With all this natural process working against us, year after year, this seemingly uphill battle can be discouraging, to say

the least. But what can be done?

Fortunately, there are many options, depending on what parameters you are working within, the scope can be as sophisticated or primitive as fits your situation.

The approaches would seem to fall into two categories, culling the numbers, and fortifying the vulnerable.

Starting with the former;

Hunting: Here in Hawaii, hunting pigs can be almost religion to some here in Hawaii. If you don't hunt, a hunter can often be found by asking your fellow neighbors. Some people even offer it as

a service, usually bringing a cage for a fee, to leave for a certain time frame, as well as usually another fee to remove the pig once caught.

Snares are also another option for pig trapping, though typically has a lower effectiveness and also leaves dogs and other animals susceptible to being caught.

Programs: There are also opportunities to establish a cooperative agreement with USDA Wildlife Services, available for wild pig control. Under the agreement, payment is made to the agency in exchange for provision of traps, vehicles, dispatch of animals, and removal of pig carcasses by USDA staff. The dead pigs can be made available to interested parties for home consumption. County grant money is available to allay costs. Community members, associations, and road maintenance corporations can apply for discretionary monies grants through the offices of County Council members Matt Kanealii-

VCA Monthly Meetings are held on every third Monday at 5.00pm at Cooper Center. Please notify the VCA Board via vcaboardcontact@gmail.com so that we can prepare a seat at the table. VCA always welcomes volunteers with great energy and ideas.

VCA Board: James Morgan – President, Elaine Lee – VP, Jane Field – Treasurer, Directors: John Lakatos, Ed Clapp, Blair Norris and Kim Weisenborn.

Kleinfelder or Michelle Galimba. A major stipulation of this program, is that the grant has to be held under a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

As for what you can do to protect:

Electric fences seem to work well. The input cost is comparatively low but comes with a higher investment of maintenance. Anything touching the line will cause it to short out. Electric fences work well in a lawn or other area easily monitored.

Electric noise makers attached to motion detectors have been effective. They sound like pigs in distress. The drawback is they don't cover large areas.

As far as standard fences go, a stout hog panel fence, done by a local installer is an investment for the long term solution. The cost are, unfortunately, usually prohibitive.

Some people have collaborated with their neighbors to share the cost of fencing adjoining properties.

Do it yourself fences and barriers are a common endeavor for many of us desperate to preserve all the labor of love we've put in the ground. Effectiveness and durability can be a challenge because feral pigs are relentless in pushing against barriers. If the fence isn't attached well to the posts the pigs will push until they find a weak point or an advantageous dip to exploit underneath and get through.

Below are some tips to help increase your success when trying to make a DIY fence/barrier:

Fencing Material- Typically, when you think of fence, the standard 4.5' hog wire is what comes to mind, but really, only half of that height is necessary to stand in the way of a pig they won't cross over. Other thinner gauge metal fencing can be used, usually coming in the smaller 2-3' height, but you may want to put your posts being used closer, to keep the flexibility to a medium.

Another option that has fairly good effectiveness in smaller, isolated areas, is making simple wooden barriers. Debris piles stacked along property lines or in isolated areas of high value plants, can work as berms to help keep pigs at bay. Pigs can climb, so the berms should be fairly steep. Fallen trees and branches can be piled up along with leaf and lawn clippings to create a robust and natural barrier. Plants like monstera, and other epiphytes can be planted on the piles to cover their messy appearance as well.

Tips on posts-

Fencing posts are somewhat straight forward, but here are a few considerations when coming up with your own approach:

Metal T posts are the standard, using "T clips" to affix the fencing and generally last a long time, though can be one of the first places you see rust starting on a new fence.

If you are using natural materials, guava is a good choice for making post, just watch out for them regrowing! The best way to attach any fencing to them is to line up where your horizontal fencing lines are, and drill small holes to hold your fence strapping material in place when affixing post to fence (typically UV resistant Zip Tie or galvanized wire). This helps your fencing stay in the same place when pigs test it. It's also recommended to secure a 2-3' diameter wood or bamboo post along the bottom of your DIY fence, to take the brunt of the rooting instead of the bottom fence.

Pigs are here to stay. As they rapidly reproduce the problem is going to get worse. How can we as a community come together to address this problem? How can we as individuals work to solve this problem?

The VCA is committed to help support the well being of the residents and environment. Please email us if there are any methods we didn't mention, or have any other constructive comments on this topic. Send email with subject "Pig Problems" to vcaboardcontact@gmail.com, and stay tuned for more collaborative efforts from the VCA and it's Forrest Overlay Committee to bring forth more information resources.





Volcano School of Arts & Sciences February 2026 News

Volcano School 8th Grade Experience Immersive Place-Based Education at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge

Fourteen eighth grade students spent three transformative days at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, gaining firsthand experience with the unique native koa and 'ōhi'a forest and the dedicated conservation efforts to protect it.

Once at the site, binoculars in hand and guided by wildlife expert Colleen Cole, students observed an impressive array of endemic birds, including 'i'iwi, 'akiapōlā'au, alawī, 'ōma'o, 'amakihi, 'elepaio, 'ākepa, and 'apapane.

The following day students observed Bailey Daniels and Alex Wang with the Hawai'i State Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Avian Malaria Project weighing, measuring, and checking birds for disease. Each student then got to hold, band and release one of the birds—a moment many of them described as magical. Later, stu-

dents reflected on the experience by sketching their bird, researching its species, and writing a short story from the bird's perspective.

On day three, students then toured the Hakalau Forest NWF plan nursery and greenhouse led by restoration manager, Eric Hamren. The greenhouse is home to thousands of various native keiki plants—including the extremely rare endemic buttercup (fewer than 30 plants are known to exist). Students learned to separate pod casings from koa and māmakī seeds using fans.

That afternoon, students went to Pua 'Ākala, where they examined mosquito traps designed to combat avian malaria and planted 200 native plants including 'ōhi'a, pilo, māmakī, pōpolo and native mints. As each plant went into the ground, the student chanted "I ola 'oe, i ola mākou nei"—when you thrive, we thrive.

Other highlights of the trip included star gazing at 6,000 feet, spider hunting in the dark, and surprisingly seeing an 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat) resting in a koa at nighttime. Most of all,

students and staff were especially appreciative of the chaperones and agencies that supported this trip to Hakalau Forest NWF that made this special opportunity of immersive place-based learning possible.

Special Thanks to: Springer Kaye, Leah Messer, Colleen Cole, Ian Cole, Anne Farahi, Alex Wang, Bailey Daniels, Eric-Preston Hamren, Kumu Morrison, Kumu Schubert, Chris King-Gates, Laura Warner, Dr. Pat Hart, and the Pilina 'Āina program.



February 2026 Events at the Volcano Art Center & Gallery

The Love the Arts annual fundraiser event: “Earth, Wind & Fire” takes place on Saturday, February 21st, from 4:30pm to 8:30pm at Volcano Art Center’s Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village, (19-4074 Old Volcano Road). This annual gala is our main event to raise funds for Volcano Art Center which allows us to fund classes, exhibits, workshops, and offer the creative arts experience in this uniquely nurturing and inspiring environment. Call (808) 967-8222 for tickets or visit our website at www.volcanoartcenter.org.

Hawaiki to Hawai’i: A glass exhibition by Daniel Moe continue through February 15th, at VAC gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park.

Exhibition: Still, It Is Night: The Artwork of Domino Cohn & Paula de la Cruz at VAC Gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Daily 9am - 5pm. Opening Reception: Saturday, Feb. 21st from 12noon -2pm. Free: park entrance fees apply.

Join VAC Gallery artist June Dalde, in an introduction to Lauhala Weaving, Wednesdays, February 4th to February 18th, (3 sessions), from 2:30pm to 4pm. Ages 12 years old and up. Class Fees -\$55/ \$45 for VAC members.

Join VAC artist Jelena Clay for a Knotless Netting Beach Glass Workshop on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, from 10am – 12pm, at VAC Nialani Campus (19-4074 Old Volcano Road). Students will learn needle weaving on a piece of faux beach glass. The cost for the class: \$65/ \$60 for VAC members plus a \$25 supply fee.

Whether you are a beginner or experienced Zentangle artist, you can expect a fun & relaxing time creating a **Valentine’s-themed Zentangle**. Join Iris Thornton on February 14th, 2026, from 10am – 2pm, at VAC Nialani Campus. Class fee \$35/ \$30 for VAC members plus a \$15 supply fee.

Discover the batik painting process to create colorful hand painted designs on fabric with Margo Vitarelli, on February 28th, from 9am -12pm. We will use a modern adaptation of the traditional Indonesian batik process. Class Fee \$70 / \$65 for VAC members, plus a \$25 supply fee. Register online or call (808) 967-8222.

Hula Arts at Kilauea: Hula Kahiko performance on February 14th with Kumu Lahela Spencer with Hula Hālau Kaleiokaulupalai at 10:30am. Held outdoors at the kahua hula (hula platform) in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Park entry fees apply. (808) 967-7565.

Ceramics Classes: We are thrilled to have you join our creative community. Here, you will have the opportunity to explore various techniques, work with different clays and develop skills at your own pace. For questions about our ceramics classes or to register call (808) 967-8222. Classes are on Wednesdays 3:30pm – 6:30pm, Saturday or Sunday, from 10am -1pm.

Soul Fitness: Join PK for senior exercise class every Thursdays, 11:30am – 12:30pm, and every Tuesdays Fit & Firm from 9am – 10am., at Volcano Art Center Nialani Campus (19-4074 Old Volcano Road) All equipment provided. For more information or to register call Puakea Soares Mercado at (808) 315-9130.

Aloha Friday Cultural demonstrations at VAC gallery in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Every Friday, from 11am. – 1pm.

The Volcano Art Center is a non-profit educational organization created in 1974 to promote, develop, and perpetuate the artistic and cultural heritage of Hawai’i’s people and environment through activities in the visual, literary, and performing arts



February 2026 Events & Updates at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park



Kīlauea Volcano Eruption. Kīlauea continues to erupt into 2026, with 40-and-counting eruptions all located within Halema'uma'u crater at the volcano's summit. The spectacular and historic eruptive activity is in a closed area of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park but is easily seen from open viewing areas along the caldera rim. Stay out of closed areas! Hazards include volcanic gas, steep unstable cliff edges, earth cracks and falling airborne rock material.

Visitation skyrockets during eruptions. Traffic is heavy and parking is limited. Visitors are urged to park in designated areas only. Plan ahead and check the park website for viewing locations, parking tips, and more. When will Kīlauea erupt again? Sign up for free Volcano Notification Service emails through the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Be aware that the eruption could stop before you arrive.

Park Events

All events are free, but park entrance fees apply. Some programs are sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association. Programs are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Check the park calendar for more information.

Stewardship at the Summit Rainforest Restoration. Volunteer to help remove invasive, non-native plant species that prevent native plants from growing in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Bring a hat, rain gear, day pack, snacks and water. Gloves and tools are provided. Under 18? Parental or guardian accompaniment with written consent is required. Visit the park website for details. **When:** February 7, 21 & 28. Meet at 8:45 a.m. **Where:** Meet project leaders Paul and Jane Field at Kīlauea Visitor Center parking lot on the dates above. (The meeting place is open during the visitor center renovation.)

Hana Hou! Nani O Kahuku Returns. This original living history play is a loving and informative remembrance of Kahuku Ranch in the 1870s. The play is taken from the memoir of Hannah Pi'ilani Jones (daughter of George Jones, the second owner of the ranch), staged by Jackie Pualani Johnson (professor emerita of the theatre arts program at UH Hilo), and brought to life by talented actress Alya-Joy Kanehailua. Bring your valentine! **When:** Saturday, February 14 from 11 a.m. to noonish. **Where:** Kahuku Visitor Contact Station

Fee-Free on President's Day. Make an executive decision to enjoy your park for free on the federal President's Day holiday. More information and a list of the 10 National Park Service 2026 fee-free days are available on the NPS website. **When:** Monday, February 16 **Where:** All fee-charging national parks

Meet Photographer and February's Artist-in-Residence Houston Vandergriff. Professional photographer, entrepreneur and disability advocate, Houston Vandergriff, is the National Parks Arts Foundation and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park artist in residence for February. Born with Down syndrome, Vandergriff met early medical challenges with grit and curiosity. Although speech was never easy, he found his voice through a lens and transformed his passion into a career that blends travel, art and advocacy. Houston is from Knoxville, Tennessee. He has traveled extensively, and his work is showcased around the globe. Come and meet this extraordinary photographer and learn about his journey. Sponsored by the National Parks Arts Foundation and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. **When:** Saturday, February 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Where:** Kahuku Visitor Contact Station

Guided Hike of Palm Trail. Join us on a 2.6-mile loop trail along an old ranch road that leads to amazing volcanic features from the 1868 Mauna Loa eruption. Discover relics from the ranching era and learn about huluhia (catastrophic change) and kūlia (restoration), two natural eruptive processes. Enjoy panoramic views of Kahuku and the Ka'ū coastline on this moderately difficult 90-minute trek. **When:** Saturday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. **Where:** Kahuku Visitor Contact Station

Ranger-Guided Programs at Kīlauea Summit. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park offers free guided programs nearly every day. Experience Life on the Edge at Uēkahuna, Explore the Summit and other ranger programs by checking the

park calendar for dates, times and descriptions or drop by the Welcome Center to read the program board. **When:** Almost daily **Where:** Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Kīlauea summit

Construction Updates

Progress continues on the **Kīlauea Visitor Center Rehabilitation** (Phase Two of the Disaster Recovery Project). Roofing and tongue-and-groove underlay are being installed on the spacious open-air hālau that will serve as a visitor information area. Roofing on the restrooms, relocated to the east end of the building, is complete and the leach field and absorption beds are close to being finished. Inside, workers are installing a fire suppression system and waterproofing basement walls. Work to convert former office space into visitor areas, increase space for the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association (HPPA) store, and create exhibits in English and ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, is ongoing. The visitor center is closed during the rehab project. Park rangers and the HPPA store continue to serve visitors from the temporary Welcome Center at Kilauea Military Camp. Kīlauea Visitor Center should reopen later this year.

Head to the Welcome Center! Kīlauea Visitor Center is closed for renovation, but park rangers, the NPS Passport stamp station, Junior Ranger books, visitor services and the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association store have relocated to the Welcome Center at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC). Take Crater Rim Drive West, a little over a mile from the park entrance and park at the adjacent ballfield. Parking in front of KMC is for registered guests only. The Welcome Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Got Water? Visitors should bring their own water to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. The water station at Kīlauea Visitor Center is unavailable during renovations. A drinking fountain is available at Uēkahuna, and the bottle-filling station will be reinstalled there soon. Water is available for purchase at Volcano House.

Highway 11 Power Pole Replacement. HELCO’s Line Relocation and Replacement project should be complete by the end of March 2026. Workers are pulling lines in the underground conduit between the park entrance and the ‘Ōhi‘a Wing near Volcano House, then will remove poles that are safe to remove once the new lines are energized. More information and the Environmental Assessment can be found online.



Episode 40 of the historic summit eruption at Halema'uma'u crater.

NPS Photo/J.Wei

Volcano Community News

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Voyage From Hawaiiki: A glass exhibition

by Daniel Moe at VAC gallery in HVNP continues
through February 15th

Exhibition: Still, It Is Night: The Artwork of Domino

Cohn & Paula de la Cruz 2/21 - 3/29

2/4 - Lauhala Weaving with June Dalde

2/7 - Knotless Netting on Beach Glass Workshop
with Jelena Clay

2/14 - Valentangle with Iris Thornton

2/14 - Hula Kahiko in the Park

2/21 - Love The Arts Annual Fundraising Event

2/28 - Batik Painting with Margo Vitarelli

Ongoing Ceramics Classes

Soul Fitness with PK Mercado

Thursdays 11:30am - 12:30pm

Tuesdays Fit & Firm 9am - 10am

Aloha Fridays | 11am - 1pm

Free Guided Forest Tour Mondays 9:30am

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