

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 26, 2015

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: REQUEST THE ISSUANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL PENALTIES OF \$9,100.75 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 195, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO AHIU HAWAII LLC FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 13-209, HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, AT KAHAUALEA NATURAL AREA RESERVE, PUNA, HAWAII, TMK (3) 3-1-001:001

BACKGROUND:

Evidence exists that Ahiu Hawaii LLC, (“Ahiu Hawaii”) a tour company based in Hilo, has been operating unpermitted commercial tours in the closed Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve (NAR).

The Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve has been inundated by lava flows several times during the 28+ year eruption of the middle east rift zone vents. A hiking trail, known as the Captain’s trail, Kahaualea Trail, or Puu Oo trail, developed over years of use and is widely publicized in visitor publications as a way to access Puu Oo, the current eruption source. Between May 2008 and July 2014, Hawaii County Fire Department has responded to 14 separate incidents of lost parties in the Kahaualea NAR area. The NARS Commission has recommended closure of the NAR due to public safety and welfare concerns about unprepared visitors attempting to visit an active lava flow and an active volcanic area and the heightened risk of sulfur dioxide inhalation. The Board first closed Kahaualea NAR to public access effective July 25, 2007, and has extended the closure continuously in meetings on July 22, 2009, July 8, 2011, July 12, 2013, and May 22, 2015. The two-year closures are for public safety purposes, pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) § 13-209-4.5.

Signs of the closure have been posted at the Kahaualea NAR trailhead since 2007. DLNR has also issued a press release and website notices to inform the public about the closure.

Enforcement and Documentation History

On September 30, 2013, a cease and desist notice was served via certified mail and fax to Ahiu Hawaii for “advertising and conducting commercial activities within Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve.” The order states that “Ahiu Hawaii advertises that it offers Permitted trips to participate in the “Lava Flow Tour” hike, a Trip Advisor review states a price of \$155-195 for “Lava Flow Tour”. As Ahiu Hawaii does not presently have a special use permit, any hiking tour conducted as advertised on the website would be in violation of HAR § 13-209-4 (13) and

subject to arrest and prosecution under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 195-8 as well as subject to an administrative fine of up to \$2,500, plus charges for damages and administrative costs.”

On October 7, 2013, a cease and desist notice was served at the business office of Ahiu Hawaii LLC located at 485 Kinoole Street in Hilo.

On January 4, 2014, a cease and desist notice was issued to two employees of Ahiu Hawaii LLC as they shuttled tourists to private property at TMK (3) 1-1-033:024 where Ahiu Hawaii LLC is alleged to be accessing Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve and Kahaualea NAR with commercial tours. The owner of the private parcel is Ceronda Encencio.

On January 10, 2014, the cease and desist notice was issued to Orion Encencio, manager of Ahiu Hawaii LLC at the Captains Trail and Jungle King Roads intersection near the trailhead of Kahaualea NAR.

On May 5, 2014, Orion Encencio was notified via a letter that his permit application on behalf of Ahiu Hawaii to lead commercial hiking trips into Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve was denied. Reasons for denial included the NARS Commission’s recommendation that the Reserve is currently closed to public access due to volcanic hazards.

On July 23, 2014, the Hawaii Fire Department responded to a distress call stemming from within the Kahaualea NAR. According to the HFD report provided to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), a female on a hiking tour had sprained her ankle, and the female and others in her hiking group, as well as two male tour guides were airlifted by a Hawaii County Fire Department helicopter out of Kahaualea NAR and dropped off at the Fern Forest Community Park. GPS coordinates were taken of the extraction point and indicate that they were in the closed Kahaualea NAR. The Fire Department release also indicated the extraction point was in a muddy trail in Kahaualea NAR. A resulting Hawaii Tribune Herald article on July 25, 2014 quoted Orion Encencio, indicating that “We were totally out of the natural area reserve. The natural area reserve runs from the top of Glenwood to the (Hawaii Volcanoes National Park). It doesn’t run down to where we was.” “The forest reserve is run by the state (Department of Land and Natural Resources). Then you’ve got the Wao Kele O Puna below that. (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) takes care of that.”¹

On August 1, 2014, the cease and desist notice was served to Orion Encencio fronting the business office of Ahiu Hawaii located at 485 Kinoole Street in Hilo.

In addition to the fines associated with entering in a closed Natural Area Reserve and conducting unpermitted commercial tours, staff is recommending an associated administrative cost of \$4,100.75, representing the 184 hours of DOCARE time spent on this case over a year of investigations.

Exhibit 1 is the DOCARE report, which contains notices, incident reports, maps, websites, and photos associated with the events listed above.

¹ Hawaii Administrative Rule § 13-104-24 regulates commercial activities in forest reserves: “No person shall engage in commercial activities of any kind in a forest reserve without a written permit from the board or its authorized representative.” [Eff 12/9/02] (Auth: §183-2) (Imp: §183-2)

Exhibit 2 is the DOCARE report documenting the hours spent on the case between October 1, 2013 and October 28, 2014.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) § 13-209-4 (13) provides that no person shall “engage in commercial activities of any kind in a natural area reserve without a written special-use permit from the board or its authorized representative.” Commercial activity is defined by HAR § 13-209-2 as “the use of or activity on state lands for which compensation is received ... by any person for goods or services or both rendered to consumers or participants in that use or activity. Commercial activities include activities whose base of operations are outside the boundaries of the natural area reserve, or provide transportation to o[r] from the natural area reserve.” [Eff 6/29/81; am 12/9/02; am 7/3/03] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS §195-5)

Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) § 13-209-4.5 provides that:

The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission, may close or restrict the public use of all or any portion of a natural area reserve for up to two years, when deemed necessary by the commission for the protection of the natural, geological, or cultural resources of the area or the safety and welfare of persons or property, by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the duration, extent, and scope of closure. Closures may be renewed with the approval of the board or its authorized representative and the commission. All persons shall observe and abide by the officially posted signs designating the closed areas. [Eff 1/26/07] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 195-8 provides that:

(a) Any person who violates any of the laws and rules applicable to the reserves system, upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, for each offense.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, the board or its authorized representative by proper delegation is authorized to set, charge, and collect administrative fines or bring legal action to recover administrative fees and costs as documented by receipts or affidavit, including attorneys' fees and costs; or bring legal action to recover administrative fines, fees, and costs, including attorneys' fees and costs, or payment for damages or for the cost to correct damages resulting from a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted thereunder. The administrative fines shall be as follows:

(1) For a first violation, a fine of not more than \$2,500;

(2) For a second violation within five years of a previous violation, a fine of not more than \$5,000; and

(3) For a third or subsequent violation within five years of the last violation, a fine of not more than \$10,000.

(c) Any criminal action against a person for any violation of this chapter or any rule adopted thereunder shall not be deemed to preclude the State from pursuing civil legal action to recover administrative fines and costs against that person. Any civil legal action against a person to recover administrative fines and costs for any violation of this chapter or any rule adopted thereunder shall not be deemed to preclude the State from pursuing any criminal action against that person. [L 1970, c 139, pt of §1; am L 1981, c 74, §1; am L 2001, c 93, §1]

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

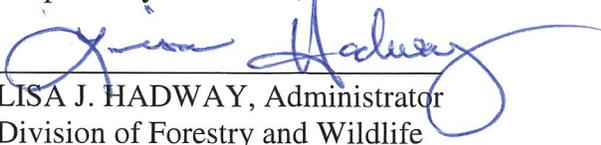
This action before the Board represents the application of civil penalties and does not constitute a use of State lands or funds, and therefore, this action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 343, HRS, relating to environmental impact statements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Find that Ahiu Hawaii LLC has violated Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 13-209-4 (13) as stated in the attached DOCARE report and labeled as Exhibit 1, for engaging in commercial activities.
2. Find that Ahiu Hawaii LLC has violated HAR section 13-209-4.5 as stated in the attached DOCARE report and labeled as Exhibit 1, for entering into a closed area.
3. Authorize an administrative fine of \$2,500 and associated administrative costs to be assessed against Ahiu Hawaii LLC pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 195-8 for the violation of HAR section 13-209-4 (13), for engaging in commercial activities in a NAR without a special-use permit.
4. Authorize an administrative fine of \$2,500 and associated administrative costs to be assessed against Ahiu Hawaii LLC pursuant to HRS section 195-8 for the violation of HAR section 13-209-4.5, for entering into a posted closed area.
5. Authorize assessment of \$4,100.75 for associated administrative costs against Ahiu Hawaii LLC, pursuant to HRS section 195-8.

Respectfully Submitted,


LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson

Attachments:

Exhibit 1: DOCARE REPORT

1. Map: Hiker Extraction Point.
2. Map: Kahaualea NAR and Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve and landmarks.
3. "Injured Woman, Family Airlifted Out of Rainforest" article, Hawaii Tribune-Herald, July 25, 2014.
4. Notice to Cease and Desist Advertising and Conducting Commercial Activities within Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve. Letter from Lisa Hadway, Administrator of Division of Forestry and Wildlife to Ahiu Hawaii dated September 30, 2013.
5. Investigation Report dated October 8, 2013.
6. Investigation Report dated July 27, 2014.
7. Incident and Report Control Form dated August 12, 2014.
8. Letter from William Aila, Jr., Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources to Ahiu Hawaii, denying permit application to lead commercial hiking trips into Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve dated May 5, 2014.
9. Photo of Orion Enocencio receiving cease and desist from DOCARE officer W. Young dated August 1, 2014.
10. BLNR submittal approved July 12, 2013 to extend the closure of Kahaualea NAR, island of Hawaii, to the public pursuant to HAR §13-209-4.5 for public safety purposes.
11. Photo of closure sign at Kahaualea NARS trailhead intact since December 1, 2007.
12. Website of <http://www.ahiuhawaii.com/adventures.html> accessed on December 31, 2013.
13. Website of <http://www.ahiuhawaii.com/adventures.html> accessed on September 3, 2014.
14. Website of TripAdvisor.com reviews for Ahiu Hawaii accessed on December 31, 2013.
15. Website of Facebook.com Ahiu Hawaii – Hilo, HI – Hunting and Fishing, Tour Company accessed on October 5, 2014.
16. Department of Land and Natural Resources, Title 13, Subtitle 9 Natural Area Reserves System, Chapter 209 Rules Regulating activities within Natural Area Reserves.

Exhibit 2: DOCARE HOURS REPORT

State of Hawaii | Department of Land and Natural Resources | Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	District East Hawaii	Lead Investigator Young, Wayde	Report Status Signoff (Supervisor)	Key Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date/Time Reported 07/25/2014 08:00AM	Location Puna	Classification NARS: prohibited activity		Connecting Reports

Investigation Report

BASIC	1. CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity						2. SOURCE Other			
	3. COMPLAINANT'S NAME Nicholas Agorastos			4. SEX Male	5. RACE White	6. AGE	7. BIRTH DATE	8. OCCUPATION T/A Branch Manager DOF/		
	9. ADDRESS 19 E. Kawili Street, Hilo, HI, 96720			10. PLACE EMPLOYED/SCHOOL ATTENDING DLNR			11. HOME	12. WORK 808-974-4221	13. CELL	
	14. LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INTERSECTING STREET Kahaulea NARS						15. DATE/TIME OCCURRED 07/23/2014 05:00PM		16. DATE/TIME REPORTED 07/25/2014 08:00AM	
VEHICLES	17. TYPE	18. YEAR	19. MAKE	20. MODEL	21. COLOR	22. LICENSE / HA No.		23. LENGTH	24. STOLEN	
	25. REGISTERED OWNER			26. ADDRESS			27. HOME	28. WORK	29. CELL	
	30. NOTES									
	31. TYPE	32. YEAR	33. MAKE	34. MODEL	35. COLOR	36. LICENSE / HA No.		37. LENGTH	38. STOLEN	
39. REGISTERED OWNER			40. ADDRESS			41. HOME	42. WORK	43. CELL		
44. NOTES										
PEOPLE	45. NAME Orion-Independence Enocencio			46. SEX Male	47. RACE	48. AGE	49. BIRTH DATE	50. OCCUPATION		
	51. CATEGORY Suspect			52. ADDRESS			53. HOME	54. WORK	55. CELL	
	56. NAME			57. SEX	58. RACE	59. AGE	60. BIRTH DATE	61. OCCUPATION		
	62. CATEGORY			63. ADDRESS			64. HOME	65. WORK	66. CELL	
67. NAME			68. SEX	69. RACE	70. AGE	71. BIRTH DATE	72. OCCUPATION			
73. CATEGORY			74. ADDRESS			75. HOME	76. WORK	77. CELL		
SYNOPSIS	78. SYNOPSIS Evidence exists the that tour company Ahiu Hawaii owned and operated by Orion Enocencio were in violation of laws governing the use of Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve(NARS). Newspaper articles have documented Enocencio's lava tour business/commercial venture within the Kahaulea NARS to view the lava flow stemming from the Puu O'O vent, when one of the patrons injured her ankle and had to be airlifted by HFD helicopter out of the NARS. Ahiu Hawaii was served with a Cease and Desist order 06-07-2013 at 1450 hours at their business office and on 01-10-2014 at 1000 hours near the trail head at Kahaulea/Captains Drive. INV. CONTINUING									
	COPY									
WRITER	79. REPORT WRITTEN BY Wayde Young <i>Wayde Young</i>			80. BADGE No. 54	81. DATE/TIME WRITTEN 10/06/2014 08:23AM		82. SUPERVISOR APPROVING <i>James Weller</i>		83. DATE/TIME APPROVED 10/16/14 1446	84. BADGE No. 19
	85. DISPOSITION									

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	DISTRICT Puna	LEAD INVESTIGATOR Wayde Young	KEY REPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
DATE / TIME REPORTED 7/25/2014 8:00:00 AM	LOCATION Kahaualea NARS	CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity	CONNECTING REPORT(S)

Report Type: Continuation of Report Supplemental Follow Up
Date/Time Written:
Written By: Young, Wayde

COPY

Report

Assignment/information received:

On the date of Friday July 25, 2014 at 0800 hours I was assigned this case by Supervisor Weller. Information received from the complainant, DOFAW Temporarily Assigned Branch Manager Nicholas Agorastos, that on the date of Wednesday July 23 at approximately 1700 hours, the Hawaii Fire Department responded to a distress call stemming from within the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve. It was alleged that a female on a commercial hiking tour conducted by the business named Ahiu Hawaii, had sprained her ankle. The female and others in her hiking group were air lifted by a Hawaii County Fire Department Helicopter out of Kahaualea NARS and dropped off at the Fern Forest Community Park.

Scene:

The scene is described as the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve, a 22,739 acre parcel managed by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Natural Area Reserve Section corresponding to TMK: 3-1-1-001-001. This land is adjacent to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and within the park the Pu'u O'o crater. Although access to the area has been prohibited for a few years there have been allegations of on-going illegal activity in the area to include hiking and commercial tours to view lava fingers emanating from the Pu'u O'o vent.

Hawaii Fire Department contacts/information received:

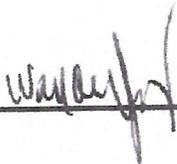
On the date of 07-25-2014 at approximately 1000 hours I contacted Hawaii Fire Department Greg Kane via telephone number 967-8367 who related:

- Fire dispatch received a distress call from a woman at 17:03 hours on Wednesday July 23, 2014. She was injured and requested extrication.
- The coordinates recorded by helicopter pilot Paul Darryl of the HFD during the extrication were:
 - o 19 degrees 25.00 minutes North and 155 degrees 05.23 minutes West.
- At the victims' drop off point at the Fern Acres Volunteer Fire Fighting area the names he noted the day of the incident were:
 - o Patricia Rodriguez born [redacted] female [redacted] sustained ankle injury, from Tijuana Mexico.
 - o Yemel Rodriguez born [redacted] male [redacted]
 - o Jorge Castaneda [redacted] years of age.
 - o Dayona Salazar, [redacted] years of age.
 - o Amenza Rodriguez, female [redacted] years of age.
 - o Eddie Garcia male, [redacted] years of age.
 - o No other information obtained.

On the date of 07-25-2014 at approximately 1100 hours I contacted HFD helicopter Paul Darryl via telephone number [redacted] who confirmed:

- The coordinates he recorded while extricating the injured hiker on Wednesday 07-23-2014 at approximately 1730 hours were:
 - o 19 degrees 25.00 minutes North and 155 degrees 05.23 minutes West.
- He extricated the parties and dropped them off at the Fern Acres Volunteer Fire Fighting area.
- He made 4 trips;
 - o The first trip he carried the injured female and another adult male, tourists.
 - o The second trip he carried two children, tourists.
 - o The third trip he carried two adults, tourists.
 - o The fourth trip two adult male hiking guides.

Young, Wayde
Officer



54
Badge No.

10-05-2014 at 1300 hours
Date / Time

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	DISTRICT Puna	LEAD INVESTIGATOR Wayde Young	KEY REPORT [X] Yes [] No
DATE / TIME REPORTED 7/25/2014 8:00:00 AM	LOCATION Kahaulea NARS	CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity	CONNECTING REPORT(S)

COPY

Report (Continued)

On the date of 07-28-2014 at 0836 hours HFD Chief of records Glenn Honda contacted me via telephone, number 1 /7. He related the emergency telephone call received the day of the extrication revealed:

- An unidentified woman along with two parties named Cody and Philip, unknown if they were tour guides or with the victim's traveling party, called in their rescue location as:
 - 19 degrees 25.02 minutes North and 155 degrees .0527 minutes West.
- This was confirmed by tracking the caller's cell phone.
- Note: These GPS points match closely with the HFD helicopter pilot's GPS points.

Map of scene:

Maps of the scene identifying the Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve, the injured party's extrication point and the area of active lava flow for that time period were obtained from DOFAW Nicholas Agorastos. They are documented in this report as enclosures 1 and 2. The points were plotted by Agorastos and indicate the extrication of the victim was well within the Kahaulea NARS.

Business/ owner identified by newspaper interview:

A newspaper article from the Hawaii Tribune Herald writer John Burnett dated July 25, 2014 identified the tour company whose client was injured and airlifted from the lava viewing area as Ahiu Hawaii, the owner Orion- Independence Enocencio. Investigation revealed the following pertaining to Enocencio:

- Male years of age DOB: _____
- Hawaii State driver's license # _____
- Residence address of: _____
- Business address of 485 Kinole Street in Hilo HI, 96720, Company name Ahiu Hawaii.
- Phone numbers of _____ cell phone, _____ business phone.

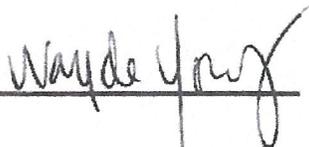
In the newspaper article/interview Enocencio admits to conducting lava tours in the general area of Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve, but denies being in Kahaulea Natural area reserve. A copy of the newspaper article is enclosed with this investigation indented as enclosure 3.

Cease and Desist documents served:

The business Ahiu Hawaii has been served a written order to cease and desist all activity in the Kahaulea NARS on the following dates.

- October 07, 2013 at 1450 hours served to Sadie-Ann Scharer-Kabalis, tour coordinator/ business associate working at the Ahiu Hawaii business desk located at 485 Kinole Street in Hilo, Hawaii. She immediately put me in contact with business owner Orion Enocencio. Via telephone I informed him of the Cease and Desist. He acknowledged receiving the Cease and Desist via Kabalis. He related that he would continue his tours as he has to make a living. HA-14-166 was initiated for documentation purposes. A service attempt of this document by DOFAW to Enocencio was attempted via registered mail. This met with negative results per Lisa Hadway of DOFAW.
 - A copy of the Cease and Desist and accompanying report HA-14-166 are included in this investigation as enclosures 4 and 5.
- On January 04, 2014 at 1400 hours a copy of the aforementioned cease and desist document was served to Ahiu Hawaii employees Joe Scharer and Jacob Smith as they shuttled tourists to private property bearing TMK: 3/1-1-033-024 where Ahiu Hawaii is alleged to be accessing Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve and Kahaulea Forest Reserve to view the lava.
 - This service is documented under report HA-14- 302 as enclosure 6.
- On January 10, 2014 at 1000 hours at the Captains Trail and Jungle King Roads intersection near the Trail Head of Kahaulea NARS, I served a copy of the cease and desist for activity in Kahaulea NARS to Orion Enocencio, Ahiu Hawaii business owner, Orion's sister Ceronda Enocencio property owner of TMK: 3/1-1-033-024 and Joe Scharer tour van operator following my observation of Scharer dropping off parties at the aforementioned property.
 - This service is documented under report HA-15-047 as enclosure 7.

Young, Wayde
Officer



54
Badge No.

10-05-2014 at 1300 hours
Date / Time

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	DISTRICT Puna	LEAD INVESTIGATOR Wayde Young	KEY REPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
DATE / TIME REPORTED 7/25/2014 8:00:00 AM	LOCATION Kahaulea NARS	CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity	CONNECTING REPORT(S)

COPY

Report (Continued)

Owner statement:

On the date of 07-28-2014 at 1145 hours I spoke with Orion Enocencio via telephone. He stated:

- His commercial tour was conducted on Wao Kele O Puna/OHA land not the Kahaulea NARS; this can be confirmed by his guides' GPS coordinates.
- He had knowledge that an agreement between OHA and DLNR was made for management of Wao Kele O Puna but it expired in 2010. Note: The management agreement ends in 2016.
- He is exercising his Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights on Office of Hawaiian Affairs land.
- He will continue to conduct lava tours because he as to make a living.
- He is waiting for a response from DOFAW Lisa Hadway on his permit to conduct commercial activity in the Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve.
- He was willing to provide me with the names and pertinent information of the tourists and hiking guides involved in the tour/extrication that day.
- He would drop off the information at the Hilo Docare office.

Attempts to contact Enocencio:

On the date of 07-29-2014 at 0931 hours via his cell phone number [redacted] attempted a follow up call to check on the progress of Enocencio obtaining the information I requested. The call was met with negative results. Message left.

On the date of 07-31-2014 at 1223 hours I attempted contact with Enocencio to obtain requested information on the parties involved with the hiker extrication. They were met with negative results. Message left.

On the date of 08-01-2014 at approximately 0900 hours fronting his business at 485 Kinoole Street in Hilo, I contacted Enocencio requesting from him the information he had promised me earlier regarding the tourists and tour guides involved in the extrication.

- He stated he was working on getting the information, adding that there are a lot of records he has to go through.
- Enocencio stated he would try to get me the tourists and guides information.
- As of 10-04-2014 no information has been provided to me yet.
- It appears he is being evasive.

Permit denial served:

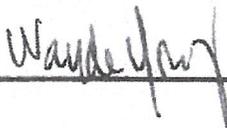
The following document was served:

- On the date of 08-01-2014, fronting his business at 485 Kinoole Street in Hilo, HI. I served Orion Enocencio a document from DOFAW that denied his permit to conduct commercial hiking trips into the Kahaulea NARS. It was dated May 5th, 2014.
- A copy of this document is enclosed with this report as enclosure 8.
- A photograph of Enocencio receiving the permit denial accompanies this report as enclosure 9.

Commercial activity continues:

- Website ahiuhawaii.com provides tour info. Stating the tour is a permitted activity exclusive to Ahiu Hawaii for a cost of \$155.00. Enclosures 12 and 13. Dated 12-13-2013 and 08-08-2014 respectively.
- Ahiu Hawaii on TripAdvisor.com. and Face book page depicting customers' experiences. Enclosures 14 and 15.

Young, Wayde
Officer



54
Badge No.

10-05-2014 at 1300 hours
Date / Time

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	DISTRICT Puna	LEAD INVESTIGATOR Wayde Young	KEY REPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
DATE / TIME REPORTED 7/25/2014 8:00:00 AM	LOCATION Kahaualea NARS	CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity	CONNECTING REPORT(S)

COPY

Report (Continued)

Violations Incurred. Refer to enclosure 16 Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 13-9-209:

13-209-4 Prohibited Activity:

- (13) Commercial activity
- (16) To be present in an area closed pursuant to section 13-209-4.5.

Evidence of commercial activity and presence in a closed area:

- o His admission to me documented in the **Owner Statement** section.
- o Map of hiker location/extraction point. **Enclosure 1 and 2.**
- o Newspaper article with his admission to John Burnett. **Enclosure 3.**
- o Ahiu Hawaii Website printouts. **Enclosures 12 and 13.**
- o Face book page and Trip Advisor .com documents. **Enclosures 14 and 15.**
- o GPS points from HFD Battalion Chief/HFD Pilot and HFD records section that place the tour group in Kahaualea NARS: **Refer to above section: Hawaii Fire Department contacts/information received.**

13-209-4.5 Closing of areas

- Area closed; posting of appropriate signs. Safety and welfare of persons.

Evidence of closed area/entry into closed area:

- o GPS points from HFD Battalion Chief/HFD Pilot and HFD records section that place the tour group in Kahaualea NARS: **Refer to above section: Hawaii Fire Department contacts/information received.**
- o Map of hiker location/extraction point. **Enclosure 1 and 2.**
- o Closure document. Waiting for latest copy from DOFAW. Closure proposal document accompanies report as **enclosure 10.**
- o Closure sign posted at Kahaualea NARS Trail Head 12-01-2007: Sign still intact as of the date 01-12-2014 refer to photos in report HA-14-302 **enclosure 6** and date of 08-04-2014 Refer to photograph of sign. **Enclosure 11.**

13-209-5 Special-use permits

- Kahaualea NARS Permit Denial letter served. **Enclosures 8 and 9.**

Enclosures:

- Map of Kahaualea NARS. **Enclosure 1.**
- Map of hiker extraction point. **Enclosure 2.**
- Tribune Herald article documenting commercial activity and Ahiu Hawaii's presence in the area. **Enclosure 3.**
- Notice to Cease and Desist Commercial Activity in Kahaualea NARS dated 09-30-2013 served to Ahiu Hawaii via registered mail. **Enclosures 4, 5, 6, and 7.**
- Document indicating permit denial to Ahiu Hawaii. **Enclosures 8 and 9.**
- Proposed Closure of Kahaualea NARS. **Enclosure 10.**
- Photograph of NARS closure sign. **Enclosure 11.**
- Print out from Ahiu Hawaii website documenting the advertising of a lava tour being permitted activity exclusive to Ahiu Hawaii and cost of tour \$155.00 dated 12-31-2014. **Enclosure 12.**
- Second document advertising \$155.00 for lava tour dated 08-03-2014. **Enclosure 13.**
- Tripadvisor.com printouts documenting past customer experiences on the lava tour from December 27, 2013 to July and August of 2014. **Enclosure 14.**
- Ahiu Hawaii Face book page, printouts from September 2014 back to December 2013. **Enclosure 15.**
- Copy of Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 13 as related to Natural Area Reserves. **Enclosure 16.**

Disposition:

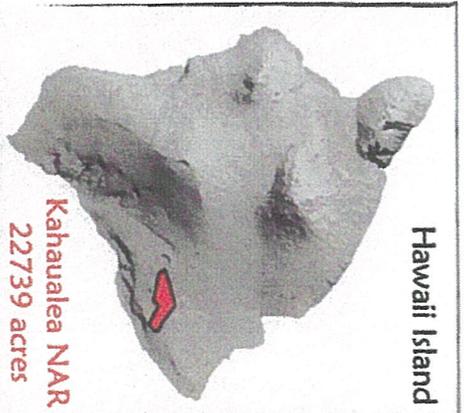
In light of the evidence presented herein that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the subject and his company have been and continue to be in violation of the Hawaii Administrative Rules listed above, it is recommended that this case be referred to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for their review, action and final disposition.

Referred to BLNR. Also send copy of report to Lisa HADWAY of DOFAW

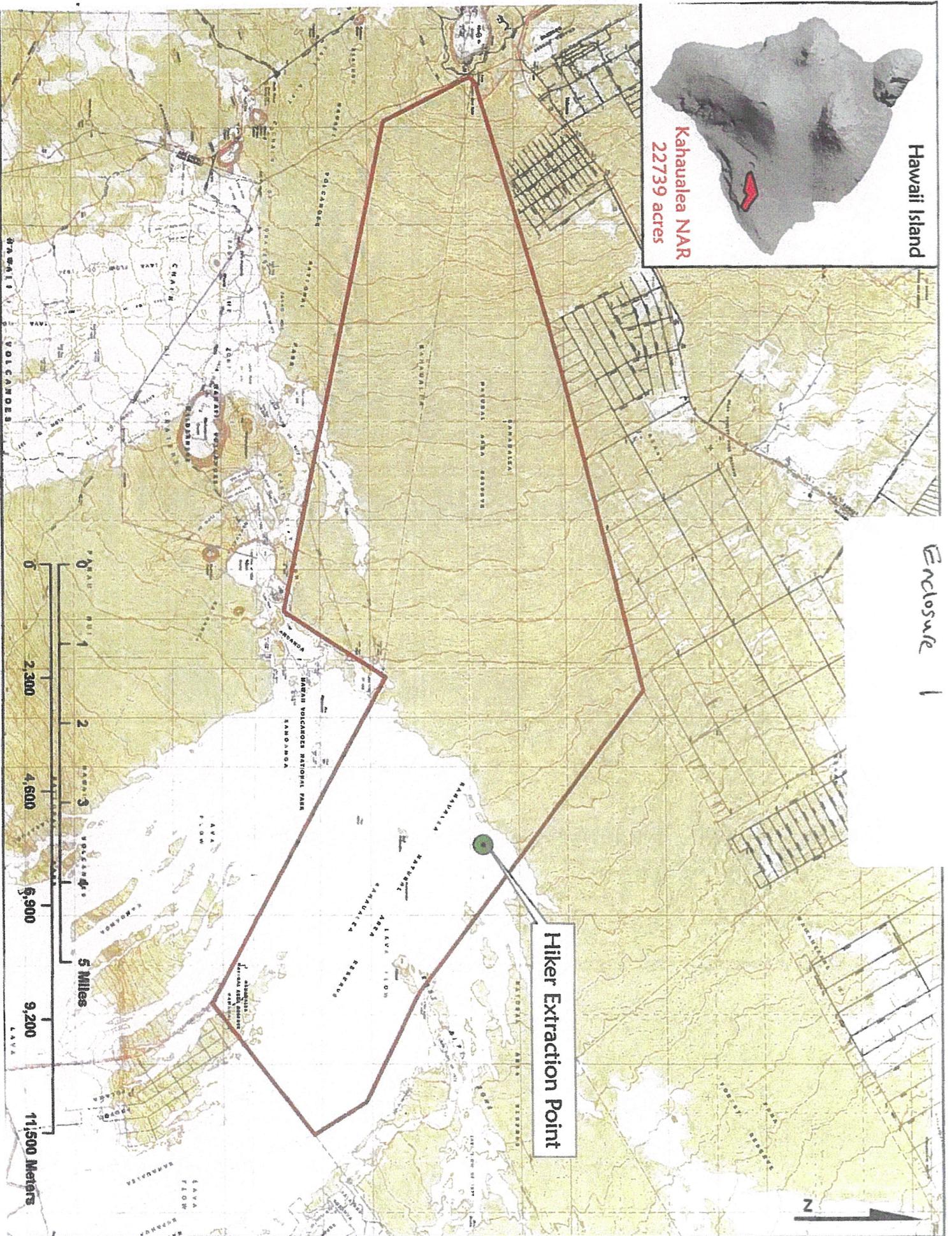
Young, Wayde 
 Officer

54
 Badge No.

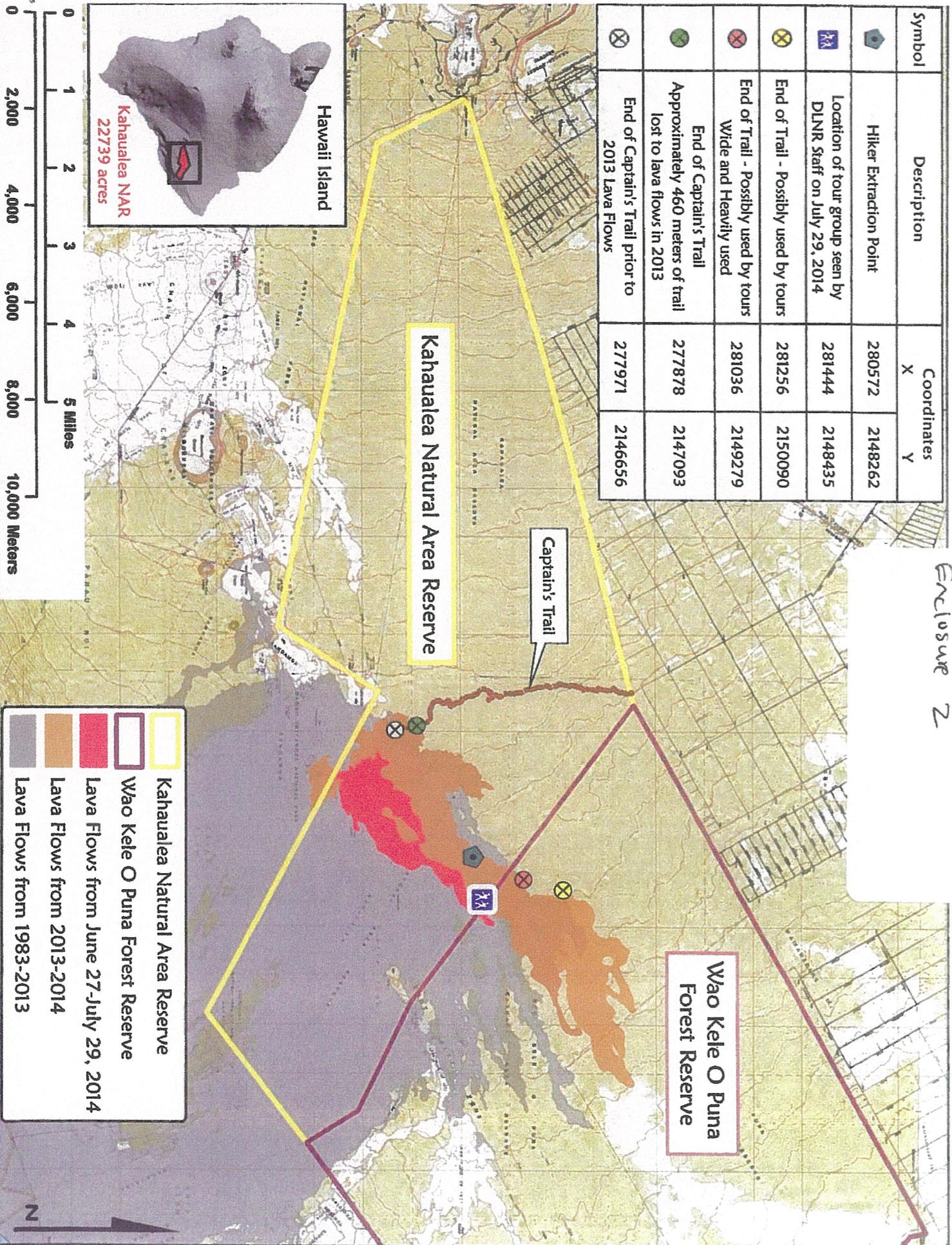
10-05-2014 at 1300 hours
 Date / Time



Enclosure 1



Symbol	Description	Coordinates	
		X	Y
	Hiker Extraction Point	280572	2148262
	Location of tour group seen by DLNR Staff on July 29, 2014	281444	2148435
	End of Trail - Possibly used by tours	281256	2150090
	End of Trail - Possibly used by tours Wide and Heavily used	281036	2149279
	End of Captain's Trail Approximately 460 meters of trail lost to lava flows in 2013	277878	2147093
	End of Captain's Trail prior to 2013 Lava Flows	277971	2146656



Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve

Captain's Trail

Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve

- Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve
- Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve
- Lava Flows from June 27-July 29, 2014
- Lava Flows from 2013-2014
- Lava Flows from 1983-2013

Injured woman, family airlifted out of rainforest

By JOHN BURNETT Tribune-Herald staff
writer

July 25, 2014 -
1:00am

A 36-year-old woman from Mexico sprained her ankle while hiking to see an active lava flow and was airlifted off a rainforest trail by a county helicopter early Wednesday evening.

The woman, who wasn't seriously injured, was on a guided lava tour with five other family members, who were also airlifted, along with two Ahiu Hawaii tour guides, to a landing zone in Fern Forest subdivision, where the woman was examined by paramedics from Volcano Fire Station. The woman didn't require further medical attention, according to a written Fire Department statement.

"The reason (for airlifting the entire group) was to keep them together as a unit," Fire Battalion Chief Jerry Lum said Thursday.

Six units, including the chopper, were dispatched after the 5:03 p.m. call by the woman. The first unit arrived on scene at 5:36 p.m., according to the release.

The Fire Department release stated the rescue took place on a muddy trail in the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve, but Ahiu Hawaii owner Orion-Independence Encencio said it actually occurred in Wao Kele o Puna rainforest.

"We were totally out of the natural area reserve. The natural area reserve runs from the top of Glenwood to the (Hawaii Volcanoes National Park). It doesn't run down to where we was," Encencio said. "The forest reserve is run by the state (Department of Land and Natural Resources). Then you've got the Wao Kele o Puna below that. (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) takes care of that."

DLNR administrative rules prohibit commercial activity in a forest reserve without a permit from the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

In an email Thursday afternoon, OHA spokesman Garrett Kamemoto said its land in Wao Kele is also part of the forest reserve and subject to DLNR rules, and referred questions to them.

"OHA does not condone the use of its land at Wao Kele o Puna for commercial activities," he wrote. DLNR did not return phone calls in time for this story.

Encencio said his company adheres to Hawaiian cultural practices regarding the land "and we do want to share the cultural part."

"We only do it on certain days; that way, the forest can rest," he said. He said lava tour companies are overrunning Kalapana "with so much and too much people down there." He added he hopes Wao Kele doesn't get overrun with people "taking all the resources from there."

He said he applied for a permit to conduct commercial activity in the natural area reserve.

"We're awaiting approval for it," he said.

The fire department said the incident occurred about 3.5 miles from the trailhead, but Encencio said his GPS coordinates indicated it was probably more like 2.8 miles.

Lum said he didn't know where the hikers were from, but Encencio said the woman and her family are from Mexico.

"What happened was that she hurt her ankle out in the field," Enocencio said. "From there, we called and scheduled a helicopter company to go ahead and come out and pick her up. But she didn't want to, so they actually called the rescue on their cells."

Enocencio said the woman was only "about a quarter-mile" from the lava flow when she said she couldn't go any further.

"The rest of the family, everybody else except the woman's husband, who stayed with her, before they were flown out, they went to see the lava ... and then we brought them back to where she was so we could give (Fire Rescue) the GPS coordinates," he said. Enocencio said there were actually three guides on the tour and one stayed with the woman and the husband "the whole time" while the others escorted the family to the lava.

Enocencio pointed to Ahiu Hawaii's lava tour reviews on the website tripadvisor.com, which awarded the company a certificate of excellence this year. Out of 107 user reviews, 90 rated the company's tour "excellent," 11 rated it "very good," while three gave it an "average" rating, one "poor" and two "terrible" — with the company receiving a better than 4.5-rating out of a possible five.

"We encourage people to read the tripadvisor reviews because they put everything on top of there," he said. "We go over so much different safety things before we go out and we let them know that it is hard work. It's not something that just anybody can do. And that is why we had three guides who went out on the tour.

"When people want to turn around for whatever (reason), we want to make sure we accommodate them to make it easier for people. We don't want to push people. They had an option from many different points to turn around. ... But it was actually that one person who decided to keep going and that is when she sprained her ankle. She did say that her ankle was getting sore. Our guide said we could bring her out, but she said that she wanted to see the lava."

Email John Burnett at jburnett@hawaiitribune-herald.com.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
19 EAST KAWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808)974-4221 FAX: 808)974-4226

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FOUNTAIN CITY

WILLIAM BL TAM
DUPITY DIRECTOR WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

September 30, 2013

Ahiu Hawaii
485 Kinoole St.
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 769-9453

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND FAX

RE: NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST ADVERTISING AND CONDUCTING
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN KAHUALEA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

It has come to the attention of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources that 'Ahiu Hawaii is guiding hiking tours to Pu'u O'o vent and lava flows via the Kahaualea Trail located within Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve (see www.Ahiuhawaii.com & www.tripadvisor.com).

Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) § 13-209-4(13) provides that "no person shall engage in commercial activities of any kind in a natural area reserve without a written special use permit from the board or its authorized representative." Commercial activity is defined by HAR § 13-209-2 as "the use of or activity on state lands for which compensation is received by any person for goods or services or both rendered to consumers or participants in that use or activity." Commercial activities include activities whose base of operations are outside the boundaries of the natural area reserve, or provide transportation to or from the natural area reserve.

Ahiu Hawaii advertises that it offers Permitted trips to participate in the "Lava Flow Tour" hike, a Trip Advisor review states a price of \$155-195 for "Lava FlowTour". As Ahiu Hawaii does not presently have a special use permit, any hiking tour conducted as advertised on the website would be in violation of HAR 13-209-4(13) and subject to arrest and prosecution under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 195-8 as well as subject to an administrative fine of up to \$2,500, plus charges for damages and administrative costs.

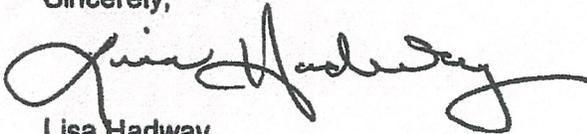
Ahiu Hawaii
September 30, 2013
Page two

Moreover, as Ahiu Hawaii does not have legal permission to offer the "Lava Flow Trip" to Pu'u O'o through Kahaualea NAR, advertising its availability may constitute an unfair and deceptive trade practice in violation of HRS § 480-2, subject to a fine of between \$500 to \$10,000 per day.

This letter is to request that you cease and desist all commercial activities within Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve and that you remove the advertisement for the "Lava Flow Tour" which leads to Pu'u O'o vent area from your website. The Department will be monitoring the trail and

website for compliance and will take future action as needed to enforce the rules and regulations of the State. If you are interested in applying for a special use permit or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 974-4221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Hadway", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Hadway

Branch Manager, Island of Hawai'i
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Dept DLNR
Div. DOCARE

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Enclosure 5

CLASSIFICATION NARS; COMERCIAL ACTIVITY PROHIBITED		3. ISLAND HI	1. REPORT NUMBER HA-14-166	
5. COMPLAINANT (Form Name, if Business)		6. SEX m	RACE unknown	AGE unk.
9. ADDRESS		10. SCHOOL EMPLOYED/SCHOOL ATTENDING	7. D.O.B. unk.	8. OCCUPATION unk.
11. LOCATION OF OFFENSE AND CLOSEST INTERSECTING STREET Captains Drive off S.Glenwood Road in Fern Forest		12. DATE/TIME/DAY OCCURRED alleged to be ongoing		13. DATE/TIME REPORTED 09-20-2013/1450
14. DESCRIBE LOCATION OF OFFENSE OR TYPE OF PREMISES Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve, TMK:		15. HOW REPORTED Docare complaint line		

16. VEHICLE INVOLVED <input type="checkbox"/>	Year	Make	Model	Color(s)	License No.	I.D. Characteristics
17. BOAT INVOLVED <input type="checkbox"/>	Length	Make	Model	Color(s)	Name	HA No. I.D. Characteristics
18. REGISTERED OWNER		Address			Res. Phone	

CODE:		W = Witness		S = Suspect (Fill In Composite Description)			R = Reporting Person	
19. NAME	Age	Sex	Code	Address			Res. Phone	Bus. Phone
20. SEX Composite Description Race		Age	Wt.	Build	Hair	Eyes	Complex.	Clothes/I.D. Characteristics

21. INVESTIGATION: 1. Insert a synopsis of the crime or incident. 2. Summarize details of the crime or incident. 3. Denote persons from whom statements taken and who took them. 4. Identify additional suspects and witnesses. 5. Identify additional investigators. 6. Use opposite side for continuation of report, if necessary.

Synopsis

On the date of 09-30-2013 I was assigned this case. The complainant identified only as _____ an employee of the _____

He alleges someone named "Gui" was taking tourists up to Captains Trail at night. On the DOCARE complaint form the license plates of ZBP-183 and ZAV-858 were included and I assume used by the party. Investigation revealed the vehicles of the possible suspects to be rented from Enterprise Car Rentals. Phone calls to Mr. _____ were met with negative results. His voice mail indicated his absence until the U.S. Government reinstated funds for the National Parks reopening. Follow up investigation with Lisa HADWAY DOFAW Hawaii Branch Manager revealed a possible violator to be the company Ahiu Hawaii owned and operated by Orion ENOCENCIO. On the date of 10-07-2013 at 1450 hours I assisted DOFAW by serving a cease and desist notice at the Business office of Ahiu Hawaii located at 485 Kinoole Street in Hilo. Present was a party Sadie KABALIS identified as the tour coordinator and store manger. Not present was business owner ENOCENCIO. I contacted him by phone. I informed him of the allegations made against him and his business. I educated him about commercial activity law and the permit process.

DISPOSITION:

In view of the aforementioned this case is closed as:

CLOSED: RECORDS ONLY, Cease and Desist served.

22. REPORT WRITTEN BY: Wayde Young <i>Wayde Young</i>	Badge No. 54	Date/Time 10-08-2013/1630	13. SUPERVISOR APPROVALS James WELLER <i>James Weller</i>	Badge No. 19
24. DISPOSITION <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrested/No Prosecution		<input type="checkbox"/> Citation/No. Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Arrested/Prosecuted Juvenile		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other/No Arrest
25. Date/Time Reproduced	26. Distribution		27. Connecting Report No.	

Dept DLNR
Div. DOCARE

INVESTIGATION REPORT
Enclosure 6

CLASSIFICATION		3. ISLAND		1. REPORT NUMBER	
NARS: PROHIBITED ACTIVITY		HI		HA-14-302	
5. COMPLAINANT (Firm Name, if Business)		6. SEX RACE AGE		2. INVESTIGATOR	
DOFAW				Wayde Young	
9. ADDRESS		10. SCHOOL EMPLOYED/SCHOOL ATTENDING		4. DISTRICT	
19 E. Kawili Street Hilo, HI 96720		DLNR		E.HLS.HL.	
11. LOCATION OF OFFENSE AND CLOSEST INTERSECTING STREET		12. DATE/TIME/DAY OCCURRED		7. D.O.B.	
Jungle King Road off Captains Drive front TMK: 3-1-1-033-024		01-04-2014/1353 hours/Saturday			
14. DESCRIBE LOCATION OF OFFENSE OR TYPE OF PREMISES		15. HOW REPORTED		8. OCCUPATION	
private/community owned road of Fern Acres Association		On view			

16. VEHICLE INVOLVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year	Make	Model	Color(s)	License No.	I.D. Characteristics
Yes	2006	Ford	P-van	White	674-HDU	P-van
17. BOAT INVOLVED <input type="checkbox"/>	Length	Make	Model	Color(s)	Name	HA No.

18. REGISTERED OWNER: Orion-Independence Enocencio
Address: _____ Res. Phone: _____

19. NAME		Age	Sex	Code	Address	Res. Phone	Bus. Phone
Joel David Scharer Jr.			M	S	_____ in Papaikou		808-769-9453
No active Hawaii Driver's License				Scharer info: DOB: _____		Tour Driver for Ahiu Hawaii, SSN: xx-xxx-xxxx	
Jacob Gordon Smith			M	S	_____		808-769-9453
20. SEX Composite Description Race		Age	WL	Build	Hair	Eyes	Complex.
				Tour/Hiking Guide for _____ HI		SSN: xx-xxx-xxxx	
				No active Hawaii Driver's License			

21. INVESTIGATION: 1. Insert a synopsis of the crime or incident. 2. Summarize details of the crime or incident. 3. Denote persons from whom statements taken and who took them. 4. Identify additional suspects and witnesses. 5. Identify additional investigators. 6. Use opposite side for continuation of report, if necessary.

Synopsis

On the date of Saturday 01-04-2014 at 1353 hours I contacted the above parties Smith and Scharer within the Fern Acres subdivision fronting a property bearing TMK: 3-1-1-033-024. Investigation revealed that Lava Tour company Ahiu Hawaii owned and operated by Orion Enocencio were possibly using said property to access Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve and Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve to conduct commercial lava viewing tours, the lava stemming from the Pu'u O'o Vent. The parties were in a white van bearing license plate 674-HBU registered to Orion Enocencio. There were six passengers in the van. Following the van were two rental vehicles operated by tour customers. The two employees of Ahiu Hawaii were issued a cease and desist document for Kahaulea NARS similar to the one issued under report HA-14-166 to Ahiu Hawaii at their business address. The employees both stated that Orion Enocencio was their boss/business owner and that he collected the money from the tourists. They added they did not know this activity was illegal. Scharer stated he just picks up the tourists from the office, drives them to the drop off point then picks them up. Smith stated he is just a guide on the hike. He takes the tourists to the lava viewing site in Wao Kele and back.

PHOTOS: Photos were taken by ofcr. A Ford. Refer to the photographic record for more information.

Disposition: Because an ongoing investigation is being conducted this case is;
CLOSED: Record Only, cease and desist for Kahaulea NARS issued.

22. REPORT WRITTEN BY: <u>Wayde Young</u>	Badge No. <u>54</u>	Date/Time <u>07-27-14/1100</u>	23. SUPERVISOR APPROVAL: <u>James Weller</u>	Badge No. <u>#19</u>
---	---------------------	--------------------------------	--	----------------------

24. DISPOSITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citation/No. Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested/Prosecuted Juvenile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other/ No Arrest
-----------------	------------------------------------	--	---	---

25. Date/Time Reproduced	26. Distribution	27. Connecting Report No.
--------------------------	------------------	---------------------------

STATE OF HAWAII
DLNR/DOCARE

Exhibit "A"

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Report # HA 14-0302

Classification NARS: Commercial

Page 1 of 1 Pages

Activity Prohibited _____

DATE/TIME: 01-04-14/1353 Hours

PHOTOGRAPHER: A. FORD

NUMBER OF PHOTOS TAKEN: 8 (eight)

CAMERA USED: Olympus 8010

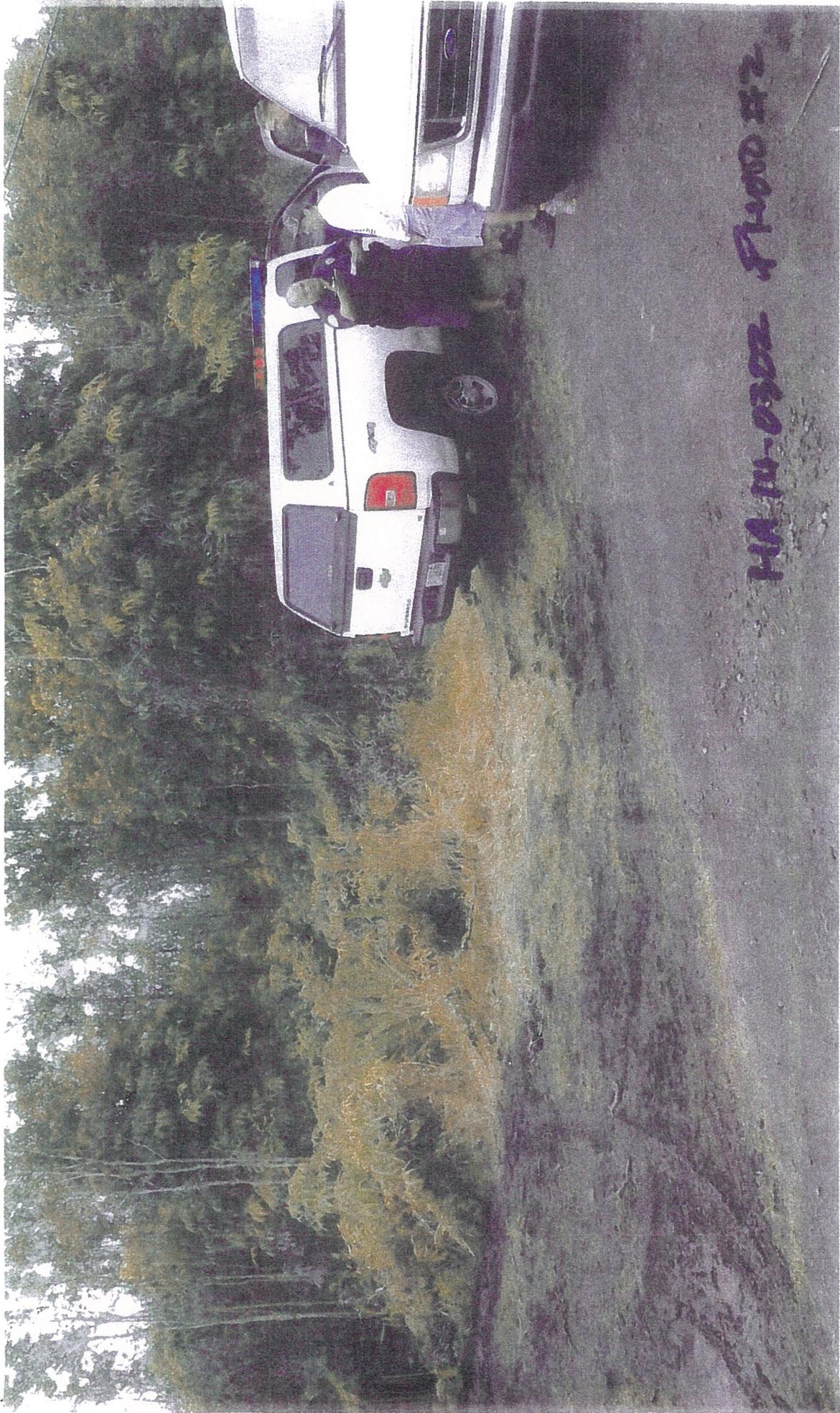
WEATHER: Cloudy DAY xx NIGHT _____

PHOTO #	DESCRIPTION
1	View of CREO W. YOUNG interviewing tour van driver (white shirt) and guide (orange shirt)
2	View of above showing entry to private property allegedly used to access NARS area
3	View of above showing additional client's vehicles red jeep and silver sedan
4	View of entry to private property allegedly used to access NARS area (note hiking sticks)
5	View of similar hiking sticks at the closed Captain's Drive trail access
6	View of NARS Closure sign at Captain's Drive access
7	View of No Commercial Activity sign at Captain's Drive access
8	View of NARS Closure and No Commercial Activity signs at Captain's Drive access

OFFICER: Andrew FORD *Andrew Ford* BADGE NO. 47 DATE/TIME 01-12-14/1015 Hours

SUPERVISOR APPROVAL *Jan & Willie* DATE/TIME 08-13-14 1400





HA 11-0302 Photo #2





HA14-0302 PHOTO #5

TRAIL CLOSED

**KAHAUALEA NATURAL AREA RESERVE
CLOSED**

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Due to Dangerous and Unpredictable
Volcanic and Ground Conditions
and the Presence of Sulfur Dioxide Fumes.**

Entry into the closed Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve
is a violation of Hawaii Administrative Rule 13-209-4.5.

Violators will be subject to the penalties provided
for in Hawaii Revised Statutes 195-8.

For further information please call
Department of Land and Natural Resources
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
808/586-1111

is a violation of Hawaii Administrative Rule 13-209-4.5.
Violators will be subject to the penalties provided
for in Hawaii Revised Statutes 195-8.

For further information please call
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife (808) 974-4221

**NO
COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITY
ALLOWED**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13-130-43 HAR

**INFORMATION REGARDING
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY**

MAY BE OBTAINED @ 974-4221

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

TRAIL CLOSED

KAHAUALEA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

CLOSED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Due to Dangerous and Unpredictable
Volcanic and Ground Conditions
and the Presence of Sulfur Dioxide Fumes.**

Entry into the closed Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve
is a violation of Hawaii Administrative Rule 13-209-4.5.
Violators will be subject to the penalties provided
for in Hawaii Revised Statutes 195-8.

*For further information please call
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife (808) 974-4221*

**NO
COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITY
ALLOWED**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13-130-43 HAR

**INFORMATION REGARDING
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY
MAY BE OBTAINED @ 974-4221**

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife



HA 14-0302 PHOTO # 4



Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours, Hilo

JOIN LOG IN USD

Hilo Hotels Flights Vacation Rentals Restaurants Things to Do Best of 2014 Trending Now More Write a Review ^{1*}

United States Hawaii (HI) Island of Hawaii Hilo Things to Do in Hilo
 Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Search for a city, hotel, etc.

Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

485 Kinole St, Hilo, Island of Hawaii, HI 96742
 +1 808-769-9453 Website E-mail Improve this listing

Save Saved

Ranked #12 of 47 Activities in Hilo
 125 Reviews
 Certificate of Excellence 2014



129 visitor photos

Type: Tours

Owner description: COME & SEE LAVA UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH EXPERIENCED HAWAII VOLCANOLOGIST! Aloha! Mahalo for choosing 'Ahiu Hawaii for your REAL LAVA ADVENTURE!! We... more »

Hawaii Tours to See Lava

www.seelava.com/ Lava Hike in Hawaii top attraction See Lava TODAY Hawaii Lava Tour

125 reviews from our community

Visitor rating

Excellent	102
Very good	13
Average	5
Poor	2
Terrible	3

125 reviews sorted by: **Date** | Rating

Sponsored links *

Write a Review

Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

- Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel**
 1,087 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
 1.4 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours
- Uncle Billy's Hilo Bay Hotel**
 281 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
 1.4 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours
- Hilo Seaside Hotel**
 518 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
 1.6 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Viewed attractions

Delete all

- Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours**
 125 Reviews

Browse nearby

Things to Do (101) | Hotels (8) | Restaurants (205)



Interactive map

Which Hilo hotels are on sale?

mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

See hotels

English first



BigJay-Bird
 Atlanta Georgia

Reviewer

3 reviews

5 helpful votes

"Hike of a lifetime!"

Reviewed May 25, 2014

First some advice. Wear boots of some kind, the folks in the group that had tennis shoes struggled twice as much with trying to keep the mud from sucking them right off their feet. When you pack your backpack, take twice as much water as you think you'll need I had 2.5 liters and was wishing I'd had a 3rd ..

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2

Enclosure 7

INVESTIGATION # 15-047-HA	District	Lead Investigator Young, Wayde	Report Source In-Field	Key Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date/Time Reported 01/10/2014 11:00AM	Location	Class. Nars: Prohibited Activity	Connecting Reports	

Incident & Report Control Form

DOCARE-5 (Rev 8/03)

A. COMPLAINT

Taken By: Wayde Young **Reported Date/Time** 01/10/2014 11:00AM
How Taken: On Beat

Complainant: Wayde Young
Home **Work** **Cell**

Phone:

Address:

Incident Summary **Description:**

Suspect

Vehicle/Vessel:

Location: **Occurred From:** 01/10/2014 11:00AM
Location Notes: Intersection of Captain's Drive and Jungle King Road **Occurred To:**

B. REPORT CONTROL

Branch: Hawaii
District:
Lead Investigator: Wayde Young
Date Assigned: 07/28/2014 02:43PM

C. NOTES/DISPOSITION/OTHER INFO

Contacted Orion Encencio, Ceronda Encencio and Jimmy F. Encencio. Seved cease and Desist for Kahaualea NARS.

COPY

State of Hawaii | Department of Land and Natural Resources | Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement

INVESTIGATION # 15-047-HA	District East Hawaii	Lead Investigator Young, Wayde	Report Status In Progress	Key Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date/Time Reported 01/10/2014 11:00AM	Location East Hawaii District	Classification NARS: prohibited activity		Connecting Reports

Investigation Report

BASIC	1. CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity						2. SOURCE On Beat			
	3. COMPLAINANT'S NAME Wayde Young			4. SEX	5. RACE	6. AGE	7. BIRTH DATE	8. OCCUPATION		
	9. ADDRESS			10. PLACE EMPLOYED/SCHOOL ATTENDING			11. HOME	12. WORK	13. CELL	
	14. LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INTERSECTING STREET Fern Acres subdivision, Captain's Drive and Jungle King Road near Kahaualea						15. DATE/TIME OCCURRED 01/10/2014 11:00AM		16. DATE/TIME REPORTED 01/10/2014 11:00AM	
17. VEHICLES		18. PEOPLE		19. PROPERTY		20. ARRESTS		21. CITATIONS		22. PHOTO REPORTS

VEHICLES	23. TYPE	24. YEAR	25. MAKE	26. MODEL	27. COLOR	28. LICENSE / HA No.	29. LENGTH	30. STOLEN			
	31. REGISTERED OWNER			32. ADDRESS			33. HOME	34. WORK	35. CELL		
	36. NOTES										
	37. TYPE	38. YEAR	39. MAKE	40. MODEL	41. COLOR	42. LICENSE / HA No.	43. LENGTH	44. STOLEN			
45. REGISTERED OWNER			46. ADDRESS			47. HOME	48. WORK	49. CELL			
50. NOTES											

PEOPLE	51. NAME Orion-Independence Enocencio				52. SEX Male	53. RACE	54. AGE	55. BIRTH DATE	56. OCCUPATION		
	57. CATEGORY Suspect			58. ADDRESS			59. HOME	60. WORK	61. CELL		
	62. NAME Ceronda Enocencio				63. SEX Female	64. RACE	65. AGE	66. BIRTH DATE	67. OCCUPATION		
	68. CATEGORY Suspect			69. ADDRESS			70. HOME	71. WORK	72. CELL		
73. NAME				74. SEX	75. RACE	76. AGE	77. BIRTH DATE	78. OCCUPATION			
79. CATEGORY			80. ADDRESS			81. HOME	82. WORK	83. CELL			

SYNOPSIS	84. SYNOPSIS
	<p>While patrolling Kahaualea NARS Trailhead, I contacted parties associated with the business Ahiu Hawaii, who advertise/conduct lava tours associated with the Pu' O'o eruption. They were served cease and desist documents warning them to stop advertising and conducting commercial activities within the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve. They claimed they were practicing their Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights on OHA/Office of Hawaiian Affairs land, Wao Kele O Puna parcel. I related the State DLNR/DOFAW and OHA had a memorandum of agreement to manage the Wao Kele O Puna parcel. They stated they applied for a permit with DOFAW/Lisa Hadway to conduct commercial activity but had not been approved yet.</p> <p>Enclosure: A copy of the issue Cease and Desist document is enclosed.</p> <p>Disposition: Closed: Warning Issued.</p>

WRITER	85. REPORT WRITTEN BY: Wayde Young	86. BADGE No. 54	87. DATE/TIME WRITTEN 08/12/2014 02:38PM	88. SUPERVISOR/ APPROVING James Weller	89. DATE/TIME APPROVED 08/14/14 1500	90. BADGE No. 19
	91. DISPOSITION					

COP

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAROLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

May 5, 2014
'Āhiu Hawai'i
Orion Encencio, Manager
485 Kino'ole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

COPY

Dear Mr. Encencio,

The Natural Area Reserves System Commission has recommended denial of your permit application to lead commercial hiking trips into Kahauale'a Natural Area Reserve, Island of Hawai'i. The Reserve is currently closed to public access, due to volcanic hazards. The Department of Land and Natural Resources is abiding by the recommendations of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO), and Civil Defense. Limited access has been granted to Department and HVO staff for monitoring of resources, through a Memorandum of understanding signed by all parties.

HVO is still recommending closure as eruptive activity shifts constantly, producing hazardous fumes. Active flows may also burn into vegetation, causing methane gas explosions that may also be hazardous. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has also requested that the Reserve remains closed. Numerous rescues in the Reserve as well as adjacent National Park lands place rescuers at risk, as well as the public.

Mahalo for your consideration,

William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

ENCLOSURE 9

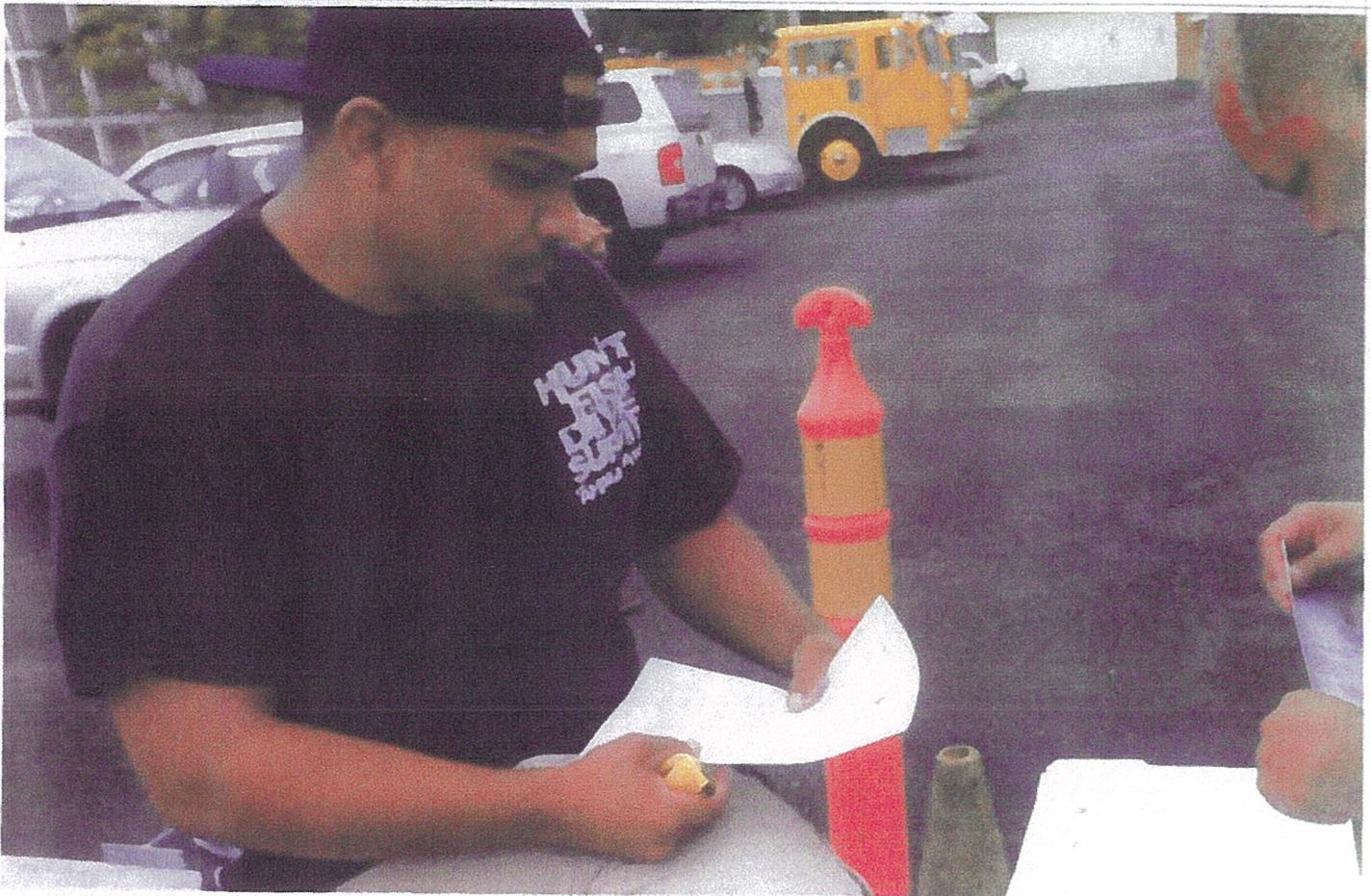
INVESTIGATION # 15-0034-HA	DISTRICT East Hawaii	REPORT Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
DATE / TIME REPORTED 07-23-2014 05:00PAM	LOCATION Puna	CLASSIFICATION NARS:Prohibited Activity	CONNECTING REPORT(S)

Report Description: NARS: Prohibited Activity
Date/Time Taken: 08-01-14/0933 Hours
Taken By: Ford, Andrew
Scene: Kinoole St., fronting Ahiu Hawaii Office

COPY

Equipment: Olympus 8010
Weather Conditions: P. Cloudy
Lighting: Sunlight
Focus: Auto

1 Subject ENOCENCIO receives Cease and Desist from CREO W. YOUNG



COPY

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

July 12, 2013

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Approved by the Board of
Land and Natural Resources
at its meeting held on

JUL 12 2013

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXTEND THE CLOSURE OF KAHUALE'A
NATURAL AREA RESERVE, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, TO THE
PUBLIC PURSUANT TO HAR § 13-209-4.5 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
PURPOSES**

This Board Submittal outlines the status of the volcanic hazards in Kahauale'a Natural Area Reserve (NAR), island of Hawai'i and requests the Board extend the closure of this area to the public, pursuant to HAR § 13-209-4.5.

BACKGROUND:

Kilauea Volcano has been erupting continuously since January 1983. The Kahauale'a NAR has been inundated by lava flows several times during the 28+ year eruption of the middle east rift zone vents, namely Pu'u 'Ö'ö, Kupaianaha, and the Thanksgiving Eve Breakout (TEB) vents. As recently as March 2011 flows were still active within the Natural Area Reserve that originated from the TEB vent (its official name) that commenced erupting in July, 2007. On March 5th, 2011 the floor of Pu'u 'Ö'ö vent collapsed, dropping at least 370 ft. Subsequently, the Kamoamoia fissure eruption ensued for 4 days, stalling activity in the TEB vent. Large land cracks up to 6 ft wide were opened during this event, and sulfur dioxide concentrations exceeded 11,000 tons per day. Since the cessation of the Kamoamoia fissure eruption, lava has returned to the Pu'u 'Ö'ö vent and is slowly filling the crater floor. As of June 1, 2011, the lava was within 130 ft of the eastern vent wall. The lava could stay within the Pu'u 'Ö'ö crater, erupt to the east, as it did between 2007 and 2011, or erupt to the west, as it did with the March, 2011 Kamoamoia eruption. Another eruption to the east will directly impact the NAR.

The U.S. Geological Survey – Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (USGS-HVO) website provides updated status reports on the activity of Kilauea that continue to demonstrate the need for

COPY

continued closure.

Before the July 21, 2007 eruption, public use of Kahauale'a was steadily increasing. A hiking trail (known as the Captain's Trail, Kahauale'a Trail, or Pu'u 'Ō'ō Trail) developed over years of use is widely publicized in visitor publications such as *Hawaii Revealed* and encourages people to use the trail to illegally access Pu'u 'Ō'ō, the current eruption source. The northern slope of Pu'u 'Ō'ō is within the Kahauale'a NAR, with the majority of the vent within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (NPS). The NPS continues to restrict access to Pu'u 'Ō'ō. Over the years, in response to the number of rescues and incidents at Kahauale'a, NARS staff have partnered with the Hawai'i Fire Department to increase signage and make minor trail improvements to minimize the number of hikers who become lost by going off-trail. The Hawai'i County Fire Department (HCFD) has responded to 14 separate incidents of lost parties in the Kahauale'a NAR area since May 2008, most of which occurred in 2010-2011. A number of closure signs and fenced barriers have been placed across the trail. There now seems to be an increased draw to try and view lava in Pu'u 'Ō'ō vent, as it is the only active lava in the east rift zone. Prior to March 2011, lava was entering the ocean near Kalapana and viewing activity was closely monitored by the County of Hawai'i.

Due to public safety concerns relating to unprepared visitors attempting to visit an active lava flow and an active volcanic area and the heightened risk of sulfur dioxide inhalation, and after discussions with staff from USGS-HVO, the Board first closed Kahauale'a NAR to public access effective July 25, 2007. Since that time, NARS staff has communicated with USGS-HVO staff on a regular basis about the status and condition of the area to confirm that the area continues to pose a safety risk to visitors. In May 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the USGS-HVO was entered into that allows USGS-HVO access to Kahauale'a for the purposes of volcanic hazard monitoring and provides the Board with hazard assessments and recommendations. Staff regularly attends weekly updates at the USGS-HVO headquarters in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. In addition, Division staff regularly monitors the signage and barricade at the Captain's Trail, and DOCARE officers patrol the area.

The Division requests the Board to continue the closure initiated July 25, 2007 and to extend it for another two years, through July 24, 2015. This closure is supported by the USGS-HVO and the County of Hawai'i Civil Defense. Should conditions change during the next years so that public access can again be safely restored, the Division will return to the Board to re-open the NAR; however, there is currently active lava flowing on to the Captain's Trail on the Pu'u 'Ō'ō end of the trail.

During the current closure, Special Use Permit Applications to conduct research, filming, cultural practice, and other uses have been considered on a case-by-case basis with restrictive conditions, as necessary, clearly defined.

ANALYSIS:

Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 195-5 provides that the Department of Land and Natural Resources may make rules governing the use, control and protection of the areas included within the

COPY

reserves system. Hawai'i Administrative Rule § 13-209-4.5 provides:

The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission, may close or restrict the public use of all or any portion of a natural area reserve for up to two years, when deemed necessary by the commission for the protection of the natural, geological, or cultural resources of the area or the safety and welfare of persons or property, by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the duration, extent, and scope of closure. Closures may be renewed with the approval of the board or its authorized representative and the commission.

The proposed closure is requested for the safety and welfare of the public. The Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) approved the previous closure extension at its meeting April 6, 2009, and recommended the Board extend the closure until July 24, 2011. At its meeting of June 20, 2011, the Commission approved extending the closure through July 25, 2013, and at its June 17, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved extending the closure through July 24, 2015.

The Division is seeking approval to close the entire NAR, TMK 311001002 Parcel 1 & 2 (22,521 acres), based primarily on information from USGS-HVO. The vent areas and lava channels are hazardous and conditions can change rapidly including collapse of existing features. Lava flows advancing through vegetation are hazardous and can produce fire and methane explosions that propel chunks of lava and rock several feet in the air. Fume emissions in the area can exceed 1000 tons per day of sulfur dioxide, and exceeded 11,000 tons per day during the Kamoamoa eruption event. Downwind exposure to these fumes can be hazardous, and have been known to reach concentrations that can be lethal. Finally, because of previous volcanic activity in Kahauale'a in the 1980s and 1990s, the entire NAR is marked by old lava tubes and cracks, now partially covered by vegetation, making the holes and gaps difficult to see and extremely dangerous to anyone venturing off established trails. Based on the current volcanic activity and the known dangers, the Division recommends closing the entire NAR, rather than just a portion. Natural Area Reserve Special Use Permit Applications to conduct research, filming, cultural practice, and other uses, such as hunting, will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis with restrictive conditions, as necessary, clearly defined.

The Division requests, following recommendation by the Commission, that the Board approve extending the closure of Kahauale'a NAR for a term of two years commencing on July 25, 2013 through July 24, 2015, with the possibility of renewal should the current volcanic conditions continue. Should the current conditions change before July 24, 2015, so that public access can be safely accommodated, the Division will return to the Board to remove the closure. The exact duration of the closure is currently uncertain, as it is entirely dependent on the volcanic activity. The Division is concerned about posting a specific date on signage, based upon a belief that visitor publication will then re-publicize that date as a date upon which the NAR will be re-opened, building expectations and creating management problems if the closure needs to be extended. After further discussion with the Attorney General's office and the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), the Division has installed signage indicating that the area is *Closed until further notice*, or other appropriate language indicating the

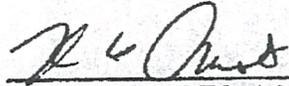
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duration of the closure.

RECOMMENDATION:

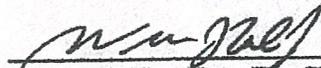
That the Board extends the closure of Kahauale'a Natural Area Reserve for an additional term of two years commencing from July 25, 2013 to July 24, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



ROGER H. IMOTO, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments: USGS-HVO letter
USGS-HVO-BLNR MOU

ENCLOSURE 11

INVESTIGATION # 15-034-HA	DISTRICT East Hawaii	CLASSIFICATION NARS: prohibited activity	KEY REPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
DATE / TIME REPORTED 7/25/2014 8:00:00 AM	LOCATION Puna		CONNECTING REPORT(S)

Report Description: NARS: prohibited activity
 Date/Time Taken: 08-04-2014 at 1250 pm
 Taken By: Young, Wayde
 Scene: Kahaualea NARS Trailhead

COPY

Equipment: Olympus Digital
 Weather Conditions: Clear
 Lighting: Day
 Focus:



Depicts Sign at Kahaualea NARS Trailhead intact since 12-01-2007

Enclosure 12

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■ TROPHY SHEEP HUNTING & MANAGEMENT MEAT HUNTING

\$1200 up to 2

The temperature is about 50 degrees, skies are clear with a few picturesque clouds above our heads. The sun is peeking over the horizon of the worlds longest mountain - Mauna Loa. Suddenly you hear a variety of upland game birds welcoming the morning sun. Then, in the back ground, sheep crying all around us as they get ready to migrate. We'll slowly make our way one step at a time to look for a trophy Black Hawaiian Ram. There it is! Your guide whispers trying to control his excitement. Cautiously both of us make our way as we pursue a trophy of a lifetime. Come and experience this wonderful and heart pounding experience as one of our experienced guides take you on a journey you'll never forget!



■ UPLAND GAMEBIRD & RIO GRANDE TURKEY HUNTING

\$800 up to 2

Join us as we hunt on more than 30,000 acres of prime upland game bird hunting and Rio Grande turkeys. No matter what type of bird is chosen to be hunted, we're sure that by the end of the day you'll be awed by the abundance of birds and the breathtaking views of the ranch.



for Seasons from October - February
and Season November - March



■ LAVA FLOW TOUR

Dont just see the glow, But come and see the actually Lava Flow. 'Ahiu Hawaii is the only company **PERMITTED** to take you literally feet away from **HOT FLOWING LAVA!** Come and join us as our experience guides take you on Hawaii's hottest adventure!

Tour Times: 8:00am & 4:00pm

The adventure is approximately 5 miles and a total of 5hours in the fields (2hours walking in, 1 hour of viewing, and 2miles of walking back out)

We recommend you wear a good pair of covered shoes(mandatory), pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, sunglasses and apply sunscreen

Things to bring to add to backpacks-camera and a raincoat (pack extra clothes and leave in your vehicle)

Price is \$155 per person. We supply a backpack, 2flashlights, light snacks, and a 1.5 liter bottle water. Plus a stick to poke the lava!



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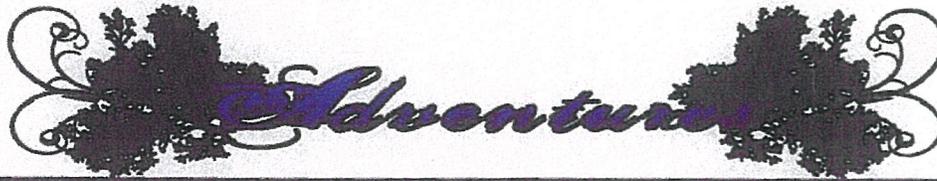
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Lava Flow Tour

■ **WILD HAWAIIAN CATTLE HUNTS** \$1500 per person

What could be more dangerous than putting yourself on a train track and waiting for a locomotive to come close to hitting you? A 1,000 plus pound Hawaii Vancouver wild bull! Imagine those ferocious eyes staring you down while he watches every twitch on your body and the only thing between you and him is your weapon and a few yards. Your heart is beating, you start to shake, and you just remembered you need to get a nice clean shot or both you and your guide will be in a lot of danger.

Here at 'Ahiu Hawaii you'll be sure to experience that 1st hand as one of our experienced guides bring you to these great beasts. So what are you waiting for? Let's feel the rush together! Hope to see you soon.

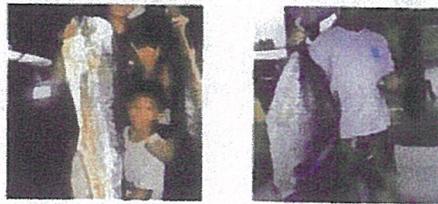


■ **SHORE FISHING** \$400 up to 4

In Hawaii we have so many outdoor activities and at 'Ahiu Hawaii we provide practically everything that our guest could participate in. One of the activities is shore fishing! If you're not a person that likes to go on a boat, the next best thing is to fish from the shore.

Come and join our experienced guides as they teach you the ancient and modern ways of fishing in the Hawaiian Islands. Then, experience the joy and excitement for yourself. We bet that fishing here on the Big Island is something you will never

forget the variety of fish that you will land and the many scenic views you will see. We just hope that you wouldn't pass this opportunity up, because we are the only touring company offering this activity. So what are you waiting for? Let's get your gear and go!



Please Call for Price



■ HIKING AND EXPLORING TOURS

If you're a beginner or even an expert in the field of hiking, our team of experienced guides will take you to places that you will never forget. Come and join us to see the beauty and to learn of the history of these remarkable places. Come to see the variety of birds flying tree to tree and listen to the different songs they sing. Then let's search for Hawaii's Game Mammals as they gracefully move about the land. Next, feel the mana (power) of the forest as we find a Koa tree to sit under for lunch and to ponder on all we have seen and what will be coming up next.

Above is just a brief sample of what we at 'Abiu Hawaii will offer on your outdoor expeditions. Keep in mind there are numerous outdoor trails and our team of activity specialists can help you in choosing one that suits your needs. Then when you're ready, our experienced guides will bring you to these magical places. So, strap on a pack and let's get going!



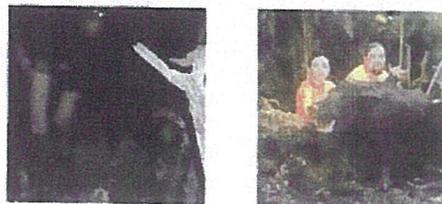
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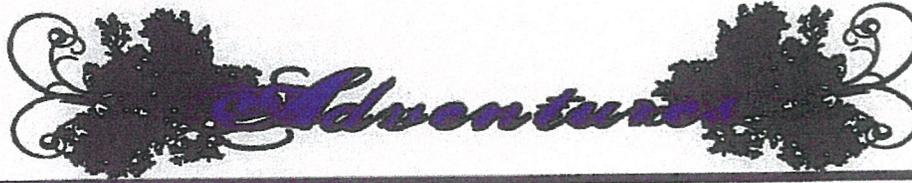


■ HAWAIIAN PIG HUNTING

\$600 up to 4

Pig hunting here on the big island is one of the toughest outdoor sports. It is important to make sure each dog is fully trained to handle a very raunchy Hawaiian Boar. Next, the trainer behind these dogs and his guests need to be fully prepared for anything that could go wrong. This is how the hunt starts. Imagine walking through one of Hawaii's rainforest, and the dogs passing us each time as they look for a Hawaiian Pig. Then we see some huli (diggings) on the trail, the dogs are gone and everything around us is silent. All of a sudden the dogs are barking in the distance. We safely make our way there. You'll see the action and the strength of the Hawaiian Pig! Then it comes down to the moment when the kill is made simply with a knife no longer than 8". Throughout the whole time you'll see and feel the strength of these animals that live in our rainforests. Come and feel the rush!





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Lava Flow Tour
 Hawaii's Best South & East Side Adventure
 Hawaiian Pig Hunting
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■ **LAVA FLOW TOUR** \$155 per person

Dont just see the glow. But come and see the actual Lava Flow. 'Ahiu Hawaii is the only company able to take you literally feet away from HOT FLOWING LAVA! Come and join us as our experience guides take you on Hawaii's hottest adventure!

Tour Times: 9:00am & 12:00pm

The adventure is approximately 6miles roundtrip and a total of 6 hours or more in the field. Depending on the group and the amount of time that you stay at the lava. (Approximately 2 1/2hrs walking in, minimum of 1hour of interacting with the lava, and 2 1/2hrs of walking back out)

We recommend you wear a good pair of covered shoes(mandatory), pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, sunglasses and apply sunscreen

Things to bring to add to backpacks-CAMERA (pack extra clothes and leave in vehicle)

We supply a backpack, filled with snacks, sandwiches, a 1.5 liter bottled water, leather gloves, rain poncho, a 305 lumen Headlamp plus a stick to interact with the lava!



\$165 per person

Join us on our ranch as we share our knowledge of the old Hawaiian Villages which resided here, then learn how the Sugar Plantation took over. Then learn how WE the newest Ranchers and Farmers of Hawaii are trying to preserve what we have been taught through our ancestors. Next join us as we swim in a pristine Waterfall/River and fill up on REAL Hawaiian food raised straight from our farm.

Next we will make a journey to the most Southern Part of the United States, then to the Secluded GREENSANDS Beach. Last But not least we will finish up Exploring the South Side of the Island and moving on to the East Side at Hawaii Volcano National Park to see all the cool things including the Lava Glowing! Tour Times: 10:00am

Please wear swimming clothes, also bring extra clothes, a towel and dont forget your cameras.



■ WILD HAWAIIAN CATTLE HUNTS \$1500 per person

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Please Call for Price



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■ MANAGEMENT MEAT HUNTING

\$1200 up to 2

The temperature is about 50 degrees, skies are clear with a few picturesque clouds above our heads. The sun is peeking over the horizon of the worlds longest mountain - Mauna Loa. Suddenly you hear a variety of upland game birds welcoming the morning sun. Then, in the back ground, sheep crying all around us as they get ready to migrate. We'll slowly make our way one step at a time to look for a trophy Black Hawaiian Ram. There it is! Your guide whispers trying to control his excitement. Cautiously both of us make our way as we pursue a trophy of a lifetime. Come and experience this wonderful and heart pounding experience as one of our experienced guides take you on a journey you'll never forget!





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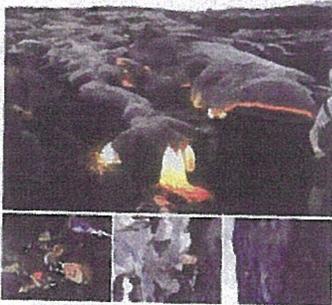
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66 Reviews

Type: Tours

Owner description: COME & SEE LAVA UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH EXPERIENCED HAWAII VOLCANOLOGIST! Aloha! Mahalo for choosing 'Ahiu Hawaii for your REAL LAVA ADVENTURE!! We... more >



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Visitor rating

Excellent	59
Very good	6
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Poor	0
Terrible	0

66 reviews sorted by Date Rating

English first



gustav2011
Louisville, Colorado

Top Contributor

- 84 reviews
- 7 attraction reviews
- Reviews in 35 cities
- 37 helpful votes

"Awesome Experience.. Be prepared"

Reviewed December 27, 2013 NEW

We were the second group to hike on the new trail (Dec 11) with our guides (also their first time). We had our GPS with us and the totals are as follows:

3.4 miles in the jungle each way
1.1 other, walking across the crater, poking lava, looking for lava, etc.
Total for the day, 7.9 miles

It was a great adventure. We were warned when checking in that the lava had moved but they had a new trail that was still being developed and was rough and challenging but cut off a few miles of the jungle hike and additional hike time on the crater. Our group was given the option of the old vs. new trail and we opted for the new. The nice thing about the new trail was it wasn't very muddy (after the initial mutual portion), but it was not developed, particularly the last half mile which added to the challenge. We were behind one of the trail builders and when we caught up to him we

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- Travelocity

were able to see him in action with his machete, carving out the best route. Pretty cool! There were several pits and areas we had to scramble, jump and pull ourselves up and down that are probably in much better condition now that the trail has had more use and development.

Your experience and difficulty rating really depends on your fitness level and how prepared you come. We are in our 40s and we came prepared with our personal Camelbacks, rain gear, hiking boots etc. and it made a huge difference. We really didn't find the trail as challenging as most state and part of the annoying factor was being held back and having to stay with the group.

We had a large group of 10 (five couples plus a baby, so actually 11). Yes a German woman with a baby under a year old on her back hiked this trail and kept up with pace leaders. They do have two guides so if you are in a group you will see a natural split in the beginning, the faster hikers will go ahead with one of the guides. If we had been on our own we would have powered through and made it to the crater a lot faster. On the way back, once our guide had us on the right trail and past the old trail fork, he let us go ahead and we were out of the jungle within 2 hours of leaving the crater, well before dark, which is key. The first four couples and our guide arrived sporadically within about 5-25 minutes of each other.

My only complaint was we had one young couple that were so slow the 2nd guide had to take them back alone and it took them FOUR HOURS to hike out. Everyone else had been done well under two and half hours so we all were forced to wait in the cold dark for this slow couple. It was okay for the first 45 minutes when we were changing, having a beer and trying to clean up a little but then it got really annoying and frustrating since we had no idea how long we were going to have to wait. It would have been nice if they could have taken us back to Hilo. I really don't want to complain too much (I can only imagine how the family with the baby felt, they suggested we call them but our guide said if we didn't hear anything it was actually a good sign and he didn't want to slow them down anymore) and it didn't ruin the experience but it would have been nice to be able to get back at a decent time. And it really tested everyone's patience waiting when they took another 10 minutes to try to clean-up. It was a very quiet ride back to Hilo.

When the slow couple finally finished she proclaimed this the first and last hike she would make.

So in sum if someone that has never hiked can do this hike along with a woman carrying a baby in a backpack I think anyone can technically make this hike. We weren't very sore the next day either. I also asked if people ever aborted the hike and turned back and my guide had only had that experience once but they do take two guides to handle the different skill levels and allow for a contingency plan should someone want to turn back.

I do agree with another reviewer, you can't clean-up well afterwards and I too wore capris and had mud caked all over my legs. Since I had to wait almost 4 hours to wash it off it was dried on and was painful and time consuming to remove.

I would suggest wearing nylon hiking pants to protect your legs. We wore shorts and capris and our legs were trashed. Also you won't want to keep anything you wear on this journey. I changed and threw all my clothes out and left them with the guide to toss. They were torn, stained, and destroyed. If you plan to do any hiking on the island bringing a Camelback is a tremendous help. They do provide you with a backpack full of supplies but you have to stop to take the bottle out to drink. The Camelback gave us the edge and ability to keep the pace because we were well hydrated. Also bring your own rain gear... it didn't rain for us but had it I would have been glad to have our own jackets. The ones they provide are super thin plastic bags that are ill fitting and would have ripped to shreds.

Seeing the lava itself is amazing! Fortunately our fast group had about an hour and 15 minutes to play around in it. Great to fulfill your inner child's urges.

If we do it again we will ask for a private tour so we can keep our own pace and not be put out by others. I see people complain about the cost but \$160 for a once-in-a-lifetime experience is well worth it. And it is an entire day.

Also our guide Matt was awesome! He really made the day for us leading the front group and having a bunch of supplies and a few cold beers at the end. He made the waiting time pass as quickly as possible too. I can't comment on our other guide since we never really saw him.

Visited December 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes 2

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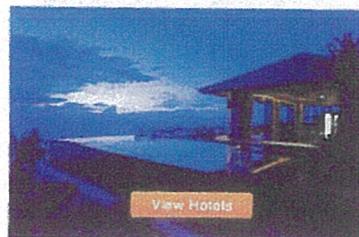
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-  **Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel**
3.5 out of 5, 949 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 30, 2013
-  **Volcano Fern Forest Retreat**
5.0 out of 5, 49 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 29, 2013
-  **Volcano Hale (Chalet Kilauea Collection)**
4.0 out of 5, 121 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 27, 2013



Lisa M
Santa Rosa, California

Top Contributor

92 reviews

7 attraction reviews

Reviews in 84 cities

119 helpful votes

"The most challenging hike of my life"

Reviewed December 24, 2013

This review is for the "new trail" lava hike on the north side of the volcano, which goes through a muddy jungle. This is an advanced, technical hike for active, athletic people who enjoy spending most of the day sweaty and muddy. This trail has been the only way, by foot, to see lava for the last 3-4 months, and the new portion of this trail has been open since early December. (The traditional lava hike that takes place mostly on dry lava fields is currently not available, as of fall 2013, because the south flow dried up.)

This is the most challenging, technical hike I've ever done. I am not a novice hiker either. I'm athletic (run six miles a day five days a week) and hike Yosemite once a year. Ahiu Hawaii's website doesn't fully explain the scope of this adventure, so I'll give you the down-low and tips here. It's not that you won't have a good time—if you're into spending a day in jungle-like bootcamp—you just need to be mentally and physically prepared. I was not.

The description of this being 2.5 miles or 4 miles, depending on your source within their company (employees still debating which is correct), doesn't really matter. What matters is the environment you're hiking in and the length of time it will take. This hike is two solid hours of trekking through a thick, muddy, humid jungle—and that two hours is if you are a skilled hiker and/or in good shape—followed by one hour at the lava field and then another two hours minimum back through the jungle the way you came. We were hiking in soupy mud up to our knees at times. We had to climb over fallen trees and under branches. We had to hop across small earth cracks along the trail and slide on our butts a foot to get down elevated portions of the trail. Hikers are given gloves and you'll need them to grab at trees along the way to keep you from slipping and falling. We left their office at 9:30am and didn't return to their until 6:30pm. We were told we were a very fast group. If you haven't seen lava before and you're into wet, dirty adventure, you probably think the hike was worth it. If your idea of a vacation excursion is a walk to the beach chair, this is probably not the activity for you.

If you choose to accept this mission, here are tips to make your jungle lava hike as enjoyable as possible:

1) **CLOTHING** -- Bring your own hiking clothing: items you would have no problem throwing away after the experience. Do not wear your fancy tennis shoes. They will mostly likely be ruined. Other hikers have complained and asked for reimbursement for shoe damage. Take some old sneakers or hiking boots that lace up tight and won't slip off in the mud. Velcro shoes will just slip off once their Velcro gets wet. If you only have one pair of sneakers for your trip, you might want to rethink wearing them or be prepared to go shopping. That's just the muddy part. The lava gets hot under your shoes and may make the soles come unglued. The guide brings duct tape to tape your shoes together to get you back. But you'll still be out a pair of shoes. (They have about a dozen pairs of used shoes you can borrow but sizes are limited.) For pants, jeans will protect your calves the best from scrapes and bruises, but the jungle is humid and your jeans will get muddy-wet from the knee down. Hiking pants are recommended, especially the kind wear you can zip off the legs (great for the end of the tour). Capris and light yoga pants will lead to scraped legs. I washed my capri-length hiking shorts and tank top as soon as we got back to our rental house, but the mud stains were permanent.

2) **TIMING** -- Take the morning hike so that you won't have to hike the jungle in the dark—that is unless you enjoy hiking at night with a headlamp through slick mud with the occasional tree trunk and earth crack below your feet. Also, you'll probably need to give your body 1-2 days to recover—my calves and arms were really sore the next day—so you might want to avoid booking a different excursion for the next day.

3) **GEAR** -- Take the walking stick when you're offered it, ladies. Don't try to be tough. You'll need it to keep from falling and to poke in the mud to find the deepest spots. Bring your own backpack if it has padding. Their



Volcano Rainforest Cottages
4.5 out of 5, 298 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 28, 2013



Crater Rim Cabin
5.0 out of 5, 123 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 19, 2013



A'alaani Volcano Heart Hawaii
4.0 out of 5, 1 review
Last reviewed Dec 13, 2013



Treehouse Skye
5.0 out of 5, 38 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 11, 2013



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5.0 out of 5, 338 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 9, 2013



D&S Bed and Breakfast
5.0 out of 5, 83 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 9, 2013



Volcano Rainforest Lodge - Volcano
5.0 out of 5, 3 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 5, 2013



5th Street Ohana
5.0 out of 5, 16 reviews
Last reviewed Nov 17, 2013



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4.5 out of 5, 31 reviews
Last reviewed Nov 16, 2013



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Last reviewed Oct 16, 2013



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Last reviewed Oct 10, 2013

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5.0 out of 5, 63 reviews

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3.5 out of 5, 373 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 30, 2013

[Hilton Hotel Caribe](#)
3.5 out of 5, 2,982 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 31, 2013

[Hyatt Place Waikiki Beach in Hawaii](#)
4.0 out of 5, 598 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 27, 2013

[Viceroys Bali in Ubud](#)
4.5 out of 5, 351 reviews
Last reviewed Dec 20, 2013

backpacks are basic and don't have any padding to make the carry weight more comfortable.

4) FLUIDS -- Take both giant bottles of water you are offered, despite the backpack weight, and drink them--one out and one back. It will keep you hydrated. If you don't need to go to the bathroom in the woods at least 1-2 times, you probably aren't getting enough fluids. I drank one big bottle the whole trip, and the effects of dehydration set in later that night.

5) CLEAN UP -- Bring a gallon of water and ask to keep it in their van. (Or try to make arrangements with the guide during reservation process to bring washing water.) Use it to wash your toes, feet and legs roadside before you get back in the van. That's one of the biggest downsides to the entire experience--they offer no clean-up facilities. You are muddy, sweaty, sore and exhausted, and you have to ride in the van back to their Hilo office in your own muck. No place to clean up at their office in Hilo either. By then, the mud is caked on. It took me 15 minutes to scrub off all the mud and it hurt.

[Less](#)

Was this review helpful? Yes 3

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[Ask Lisa M about Ahu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours](#)

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.



Ania P
New York City, New York

Reviewer

★ 4 reviews

📍 3 attraction reviews

🌐 Reviews in 3 cities

👍 1 helpful vote

"Best and worst experience!"

Reviewed December 24, 2013 via mobile

This was a two-in-one experience for me, best and worst. I think no one realizes how tough this hike is until they actually do it. We were told about the knee-high mud etc. but the general expectation was that it can't be THAT BAD. Well, it is as bad as they tell you if not worse. Even the most experienced hikers had problems with it. I think the worst part of it is just wrapping your mind around the fact that you are bound to step into mud, very deep mud, no matter how hard you try not to. It's just not something you can avoid in this hike. HOWEVER, in the end, the experience is like no other you have ever had. It is extremely worth all the effort. When we went with our group, we were lucky enough to experience an EXTREME white-out. It's just a sight that you don't forget, simply amazing. The fact how close you

can get to lava is both, exhilarating and scary! In the end, I would totally recommend this hike to anyone who is willing to "get down and dirty" and is mentally prepared for extreme hiking conditions. A+ to all guides for doing these tours, it is definitely something I would not do for pleasure, once is enough for me, but those guys seem to really love what they do. Props to them!

Visited December 2013

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Was this review helpful? Yes

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[Ask Ania P about Ahu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours](#)

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"Great lava, long hike"

Reviewed December 24, 2013

As other people here has mentioned, the hike was pretty tough and you need to be good physically. I did the hike around Dec 20 and the whole hike took us about 8.5 hours (including a 45mins drive to the entrance of the hike). This is definitely not for the casual tourist who is expecting a easy hike. Even though the staff at the shop told us the hike was going to be an intermediate level, our guide told us it was an expert level for sure. Everyone in our group was exhausted when we got back to the van at midnight and the water they provided was not enough. After all, the lava was amazing and we had a chance to play with it. Very cool experience. Be sure to wear pants and shoes you don't care about, you are going to be in deep mud up to your knees. VERY MUDDY!



Visited December 2013

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Was this review helpful? Yes

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MauiNFS
Durham, North Carolina

1 review

Ask MauiNFS about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

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worldtravelleler
Cambridge, UK

Contributor

★ 13 reviews

🌐 Reviews in 11 cities

👍 6 helpful votes

"Tough but excellent experience"

Reviewed December 21, 2013 via mobile

Did the hike around 16th December 13, and as others have mentioned, despite being a seasoned hiker, used to walking 30kms easily, this was a tough hike due to knee deep mud and wading through the rainforest. Took us 8 hours because everyone in our group was pretty fit, but this hike has taken others 16 hours apparently. Experience is amazing, our guide, Max, was great, but I have my doubts over the legality of it, as everyone else (including park rangers) told us it was illegal to go on the lava right now. Word of caution: they only give you 1.5L of water, you NEED at least 2.5-3L, especially if it takes longer than 8hours. We were happy we took some extra sandwiches as well, and an extra pair of clothes to change into after the hike as we were soaked. Overall, a great experience.

Visited December 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes

[Problem with this review?](#)

Ask worldtravelleler about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

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TravelKish
Burbank, California

Senior Contributor

★ 22 reviews

🌐 15 attraction reviews

🌐 Reviews in 11 cities

👍 12 helpful votes

"Offbeat one of a kind experience"

Reviewed December 18, 2013

This is not for the casual tourist and you need to be in fairly good shape. Listen to the guides' recommendations.

Facts:

- You will need to hike 9-10 miles round trip.
- You will make a major portion in slush and mud and the lava search will be on fairly hot glassy rocks.
- You will hike back in darkness with only a headlamp.
- You will feel its all worth it in the end.

Seeing the lava, touching it with a stick and learning all about it from the expert guides is an experience like no other. We even got to toast marshmallows on it! Its a little expensive but all totally worth it.

Visited September 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

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Ask TravelKish about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

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Jeremiah D
Columbia, South Carolina

Amex Traveler

Senior Contributor

★ 27 reviews

🌐 3 attraction reviews

🌐 Reviews in 12 cities

👍 6 helpful votes

"Well Worth the effort!"

Reviewed December 10, 2013

This hike is not as hard as some would make it out to be, but you do need to be in good shape. My advice is to give up trying to tip toe around the mud and just walk through it. Be sure to wear pants and shoes that you really do not care about. After all of that work, you will be able to see and interact with lava like you would never imagine. By far the one of the coolest things I have ever done.

Visited December 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

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Ask Jeremiah D about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

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"Go big or go home!"

Reviewed December 3, 2013



live4today_808
Haleiwa, Hawaii

Senior Reviewer

6 reviews

3 attraction reviews

Reviews in 4 cities

2 helpful votes

This hike is nuts! We went out the last day of our trip to the Big Island and are so happy we did. Ahiu's crew is awesome - they take great care of you from start to finish, provide everything you need (water, lunch, gloves, etc.) & the guides are wonderful!

Now for the dirt (literally)... be prepared to get VERY filthy/dirty/muddy/all of the above. Tip #1: seems obvious, but don't wear your new running shoes. They will be destroyed.

The trail is through dense jungle and, though its fairly flat most of the way, it is VERY difficult due to the conditions. We consider ourselves avid hikers & very active/in shape and I tell you, my whole body is still sore from this days later. Best advice I can give - go to this hike with your game face on!! You must be ready to go all in & be up for a challenge (or else if you take too long you're left hiking back in the dark, in the mud, in the jungle... no thank you).

All that said, you get an up close & personal experience with active lava and its amazing! We were literally the only people out on that entire lava field (while helicopters were overhead - way less cool) and were even able to poke a bunch of lava with a stick (very cool).

Being out there is an unbelievable experience! Pictures don't do it justice, it's something you just have to do for yourself. Definitely a great sense of accomplishment once you make it out.

Highly recommend Ahiu for your next lava experience - thanks for a great day guys!



Visited December 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

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[Ask live4today_808 about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours](#)

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.

"Not for the the average hiker..."

Reviewed November 29, 2013

We went on this hike last week and I wanted to share some of my experiences/observations. When reading through all the reviews, most commented on how difficult the terrain is or how long the hike takes but the rewards of the lava make up it all worthwhile. And while I do agree... I think it is important to note that most people think they are up for the challenge. Here is a statistic from one of our guides. Only 30% of those who start out make it to the end. That's right... 70% turn around. I've hiked half dome and mist trail in Yosemite...so I was prepared for an extremely strenuous hike. What I wasn't prepared for are the difficulties that come with walking through mud bogs/swamps and through a tightly knit jungle. It was relatively dry in the area and still I was knee deep (and my boyfriend waist deep after dark) in a places. While in the jungle, you climb over tree branches or thru exposed roots or jump over large crevices. All before you take on the boulders on the lava flow. Personally, I made it only 2.5 miles into the jungle - there was at least another 2.5 miles to go to reach the flow... AND THEN back out. I recognized my limitations and knew it was better to turn around than to press on ... especially knowing that I would have to cross the swamp in the dark. Trust me. It's not a place you want to be in the dark. What is IMPORTANT to note is that the guides are EXCELLENT. Should you decide to turn back a guide stays with you the entire way. He/She will take your backpack if necessary. Even carry you out. Both were not necessary in my case - but good to know they have experience doing so. Once they have you safely out of the jungle -- they will take excellent care of you. In my case, Mark, took me exploring sharing stories of his experiences living / working in the area. We stopped for food at Verma's... an excellent roadside stand. We were together for several hours waiting on the rest of the group to make it back out. I opted to stay nearby, however, if I wanted to return to Hilo he would have been



HollyStoyanovich
Toledo, Ohio

1 review

5 helpful votes

happy to comply. It's really up to you...the experience that you have on this hike. I averaged a 50 minute mile – which sounds ridiculously slow...however, that is a great pace for the environment. Before you go...recognize your limitations. It's OK to turn around. Don't let your pride and/or lack of knowledge get in your way. Injuries are far too easy in the environment. Let your vacation be an adventure, not a military march!

Visited November 2013

Less

Was this review helpful? Yes 5

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Ask HollyStoyanovich about Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC



Roy S Bromsgrove

2 reviews

7 helpful votes

"Just fantastic!"

Reviewed November 23, 2013

This trip fulfilled a long-held ambition of mine to get up-close to some flowing lava. The Company are able to offer the tour because they own the access land (private property) leading to the current active flow. Other reviewers have highlighted the reasonably arduous nature of the hike, and this is indeed the case. However, any reasonably hill-fit, competent walker should have no real difficulty. The trail we followed was a recently cut (shoulder width), "hunting" trail - basically straight through jungle, cut with machetes and bow saws. There were numerous obstacles to clamber over, boggy and very wet sections, and some uneven ground. The environment is warm, steamy and wet. We were fortunate to have no problems with mosquitoes because you are sufficiently high up the mountain for it not to be a problem. The jungle hike itself is an interesting exercise, and then once out of the jungle the trail leads onto an unconsolidated rubbly 'A'a flow, with some lichen and small shrubby vegetation. This is loose and sharp and requires care to traverse safely. We were surprised that a number of our group chose to wear shorts. The company info clearly states that long trousers should be worn and I would certainly recommend this (to prevent lacerations on the lava and also whilst in the jungle section). We booked the trip in advance and took along our walking boots and gaiters (this was well-worth it), and also wore old trousers which we were happy to bin after the hike (which we did). If you decide to do the hike in trainers - wear old ones or buy throw-away cheap ones. You will have a tough job "reclaiming" any footwear you use. The company provide good quality leather gloves, which were invaluable whilst grasping vegetation on the way through the jungle, and to protect against fall on the lava.

The approximate timing of our trip was - assemble at office in Hilo ~09.00am; depart in minibus ~09.25am; arrive at the end of the forest track ~10.40am. We started hiking into jungle ~10.50am. We walked at a good brisk pace - first mile in about 45mins, and reached the edge of the 'A'a flow by about 1.30pm, pausing a few times for a minute or so, for the group to close-up, and to grab a snack or drink of water. We had a brief stop for snacks / lunch whilst our guide Joe scouted ahead to assess the best approach. We were on the move again by 2.00pm having waited in steady drizzle and started to cool down a lot. We hiked for another 20 minutes or so to reach the Pāhoehoe lava, and then a short distance further to get to the toe of the active flow. This was a truly amazing environment. The fresh lava (hours to days old) was still very warm, and very crackly to walk on due the surface layers having cracked by thermal shock of hot rock interacting with rain / mist. We could see red hot lava only a few feet below us in the cracks in the solidified lava. Because our group had made very good time on the walk in, our guides, Joe and Max, were comfortable that we would be strong enough to hike out in good time, and we were treated to about 1hr 20 mins interacting with the bright red fluid lava lobes at the foot of the flow. This was just fantastic. (Tip for future group members – grab a LONG stick as you exit the jungle. Only one of our group thought to do this and we took turns in probing the lava with it – it is an amazing material).

We were able to take as many photos as we wished, and there was no need for warnings not to get too close to the lava – it is at a temperature of around 1100 °C to 1200 °C and anywhere closer than about 2 metres is unbearably hot for a more than a few seconds.

We left the flow at about 3.35pm and made our way back across the crunchy, smooth slabs of Pāhoehoe lava, and then across the rough loose

'A'a flow and back into the jungle for about 4.00pm. The group made good time on the return trip, considering how wet and tired many people were, and the last 45 minutes or so were hiked in the dark using the head torches provided. We reached the minibus at 7.00pm. We loaded up quickly and were happy to be chauffeur driven back to Hilo, arriving at the office for around 08.30pm. The guides were excellent, and the company seemed professional and well-organised. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I would certainly do it again. However, it was clear that several of the group found it VERY hard going, and were not well-used to hiking in a "back country" situation. We learned that not all groups "make it" to the lava, and some people do have to turn back - so, do assess your fitness and stamina before you sign-up. If you are "up for it", you'll have a truly memorable day and a fantastic experience. Thank you Joe, Max, Ahiu Hawaii, and of course Madame Pele!



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Visited November 2013

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Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours, Hilo

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129 visitor photos

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Hilo, Island of Hawaii
1.4 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours
- Hilo Seaside Hotel**
518 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
1.5 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Viewed attractions

Delete all

- Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours**
125 Reviews

Browse nearby

Things to Do (101) | Hotels (8) | Restaurants (205)



Interactive map

Which Hilo hotels are on sale?

mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

See hotels

English first



Mike T
1 review
5 helpful votes

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Reviewed June 19, 2014

I'll try not to ramble too much, or "muddy" my point - but this experience made my recent trip to the Big Island my most memorable vacation ever. Ahiu's lava tour is top notch. When booking a guided lava tour, one must know what to expect. Weather is unpredictable, lava is unpredictable, and there's definitely a bit of the unknown that's just...

More

Was this review helpful? 5



kellygrrrl
Austin, Texas
Reviewer
3 reviews
20 helpful votes

"all the reviews are dead-on"

Reviewed June 11, 2014

this is a crazy, 3-hour trek through knee high mud, over logs, boulders, trees and even holes in the ground with no flat surface whatsoever. as you slip and slide your way up and down the "trail," you use everything you can grab, including your walking stick, to hurdle yourself through the mud. the number of previously-broken branches attest to...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 9



John J
Portland, Oregon
Senior Reviewer
10 reviews
3 attraction reviews
7 helpful votes

"Amazing Lava - Rough Hike"

Reviewed June 10, 2014

The chance to get close to lava was more than I could resist - but I would have left some family members in Hilo if I knew how rough the hike was. I've climbed Mt. Rainier, the Grand Teton, Cotopaxi etc and I've endured some miserable hikes - and this one was near the top. The guides (who appeared to...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2



ThomasJWolfCall
Kansas City, Missouri
1 review
3 helpful votes

"Bar none, the most fun thing I have done on a vacation!"

Reviewed June 9, 2014

First, bring extra water, extra food, and dry clothes to leave in the van. I spent 8 years in the Army and work out every day but this hike SMOKED me. It is rough, slippery, and wet. The 3 miles (one way) can be done in about 2 hours but it seems to go on forever, sapping your will to...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 3



French-girl-in-TO
Toronto, Canada
Senior Contributor
21 reviews
5 attraction reviews
15 helpful votes

"long and tiring hike"

Reviewed June 9, 2014

I was concerned by the hike in the mud. The guide kept saying it was challenging. I finally didn't find it that hard. Just too fast (I would have stopped more often and would have gone a little more slowly), and hard to focus to step on the dnest parts of the trail. It was worth it. But I think...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 1



Rich R
San Leandro, California
Senior Reviewer
7 reviews
5 helpful votes

"Once in a Lifetime Hike!"

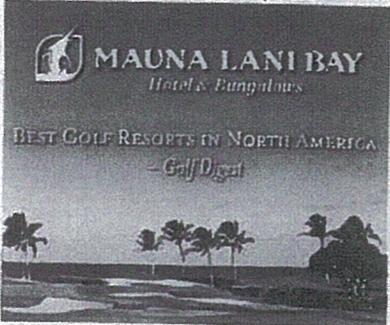
Reviewed June 7, 2014

If you go to Volcano National Park, the Rangers will tell you that either there is no lava to see that day, or that it is impossible to hike too. That is what happened to me. But, I was determined. I found Ahiu Hawaii online. They pretty much guarantee that if you go on their hike you will see lava....

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2

Amazing Hawaiian Tours Sponsored links
www.sunshinehelicopters.com/ See Hawaii in A New Light With Our Helicopter Tours. Save up to \$50!



Popular Hilo attractions

- Mauna Kea Observatory
- Waipo Valley
- Akaka Falls State Park
- Kaunama Caves Park
- Pepeekeo Scenic Drive
- Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station
- Liliuokalani Gardens
- Richardson Beach Park
- Lyman Museum
- Queen Liliuokalani Gardens
- Mauna Loa Observatory
- Pacific Tsunami Museum
- Imiloa Astronomy Center
- Native Hawaiian Lava
- Coconut Island
- Rainbow Falls
- Orizuka Center for International Astronomy
- Panaewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens
- Palace Theatre
- St. Joseph Catholic Church,



Hotels around Hilo

- Hilo Seaside Hotel**
3.5 out of 5, 518 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 4, 2014
- Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel**
3.5 out of 5, 1,087 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014
- Hilo Naniloa Hotel**
3.0 out of 5, 64 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014
- Wild Ginger Inn Hotel & Hostel**

C
 Shravan K
 1 review
 3 helpful votes

"best tour of Big Island"

Reviewed June 3, 2014

My wife and I did this trip in Nov 2013.. it was the most exhausting yet awesome thing that we ever did. The lava sighting was totally worth the 8 hr (up n down) trek. Its definitely a must do for any adventure seeking person

Was this review helpful? Yes 3

C
 Sunitha_k25
 Pocatello, Idaho
 Reviewer
 5 reviews
 6 helpful votes

"Killer of a Hike... Lava flow is amazing!!"

Reviewed June 2, 2014

This was THE toughest hike I've ever done!! The path is not a regular one; Its quite rugged, wild and treacherous. It goes through a dense/ humid never-ending rain forest, full of very thick/ muddy swamps. Those swamps are knee high or even thigh high at many places and you HAVE to traverse through them as there's no other way!...

More



Was this review helpful? Yes 3

C
 ValerieGNrs
 Hilo, Hawaii
 2 reviews
 3 helpful votes

"Real adventure!"

Reviewed June 1, 2014

Was awesome! Just tips for anyone that does go: make sure to put your change of clothes in a waterproof container because the backpacks don't keep it dry if it rains..or put on poncho asap over backpack. Bring 3 pairs of socks and shirts and extra pair of pants and a pair of slippers for the end. Wear the gloves...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

C
 CHRISTOPHER P
 1 review
 1 helpful vote

"Epic adventure"

Reviewed June 1, 2014

This adventure is definitely not for the couch potato expecting to see laval with in 1 hour. Its truly an adventure starting with a 3 mile hike through mud, lush forests, a swamp, and more forest. The hike is not extremely difficult, but it is a jungle hike going up, down, under, and through various terrain. I would recommend getting...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

21-30 of 125 reviews

« 1 2 3 4 ... 13 »

Travelers who viewed Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours also viewed

C Lava Ocean Tours, Inc

Lava Ocean Tours, Inc
 252 Reviews
 Pahoa, Island of Hawaii

C Lavalan d Hawaii Day Tours

Lavalan d Hawaii Day Tours
 101 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii

C 3.5 out of 5, 79 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014

C Uncle Billy's Hilo Bay Hotel
 2.5 out of 5, 281 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014

C Shaka Shak
 4.0 out of 5, 7 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 1, 2014

C The Lotus Garden Hilo
 4.5 out of 5, 34 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 29, 2014

C The Bay House
 4.5 out of 5, 223 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 26, 2014

C At the Beach with Friends Bed & Breakfast
 4.5 out of 5, 59 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 25, 2014

C Dolphin Bay
 4.5 out of 5, 498 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 25, 2014

C Hilltop Legacy
 3.5 out of 5, 53 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 13, 2014

C Pakalana Inn
 4.5 out of 5, 77 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 8, 2014

C Hilo Bay Hostel
 4.5 out of 5, 136 reviews
 Last reviewed Aug 31, 2014

C The Old Hawaiian B&B
 4.5 out of 5, 121 reviews
 Last reviewed Aug 14, 2014

C Hilo Tropical Gardens
 4.0 out of 5, 25 reviews
 Last reviewed Aug 2, 2014

Hilo resources

- Hilo Bed and Breakfast
- Hilo Maps
- Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Explore the World

Sightseeing

Columbia River Highway in Troutdale
 5 out of 5, 149 reviews

Discover Wallis Gray in Clearwater
 5 out of 5, 56 reviews

Fly Paragliding
 5 out of 5, 31 reviews

Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati
 4 out of 5, 35 reviews

Travel Destinations

Surprise Hotels
 44 hotels, 950 Reviews

Miami Beach
 1,888 hotels, 116,010 Reviews

Hotels

Barcelo Maya Palace Deluxe in Riviera Maya
 4.5 out of 5, 2,389 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014

The Atlantic Resort And Spa
 4.5 out of 5, 1,205 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014

Royal Pacific Hotel
 3.5 out of 5, 52 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 8, 2014

Howard Johnson Anaheim Hotel and Water Playground
 4.5 out of 5, 4,381 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 4, 2014



Blue Hawaiian Helicopters
426 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii



**VolcanoDiscovery Hawaii
- Private Tours**
297 Reviews
Volcano, Island of Hawaii

All things to do in Hilo (101)

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[Add Photos & Videos](#)

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C
 Cloud21_de
 Wurzburg, Germany
 Reviewer
C 4 reviews
 7 helpful votes

The Lava-Flows we're a Highlight of our vacation. But be aware, it's an exhausting 2-3 hour hike for experienced hikers and you'll get dirty. Our tour guide Alex gave a lot of information during the hike and the time on the Lava fields, he also told some fun stories of other groups he guided. If possible rent some shoes at...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes No 3

C
 xociarax
 California, Maryland
 1 review
 1 helpful vote

"Amazing!"

Reviewed April 14, 2014 via mobile

We took an adventure with Ahiu Hawaii, to see the flowing lava! It was an absolute great experience that anybody should try. It is 2.5 miles they're & 2.5 miles back. It's muddy, but the hike was well worth the site to see. Helpful tip: Do Not Avoid The Mud, it is best if you walk threw the mud. It's...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes No 1

C
 Jetta2177
 Contributor
C 17 reviews
C 3 attraction reviews
 28 helpful votes

"Lava was amazing, tour guide not so much"

Reviewed April 13, 2014

This review is based solely on our guide and the company itself as getting up close to lava is an amazing experience that really can't be rated. First off, the company lied about the distance to the lava field so if they tell you it's 2 miles, it's really 4 each way. Just tell me the truth- I don't appreciate...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes No 7

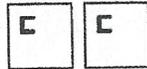
C
 Eric F
 Glendora, California
 Contributor
C 12 reviews
C 6 attraction reviews
 11 helpful votes

"Once in a life-time experience!"

Reviewed April 9, 2014

First, the hike is hard - but in a way makes the experience even greater. Lots of mud, up and down, rocks, and bushes. The Swamp is the real thing! As you get closer to the lava field, we heard BOOMS of exploding trees, the smell of burning trees, and ash coming down. You quickly realize this is real. The...

More



Was this review helpful? Yes No 3

- C** Last reviewed Sep 27, 2014
- C** **T** **H**
 The Bay House
 4.5 out of 5, 223 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 26, 2014
- C** **C** **D**
 Dolphin Bay
 4.5 out of 5, 498 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 25, 2014
- C** **I** **S**
 Island Goode's
 5.0 out of 5, 124 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 14, 2014
- C** **I** **L**
 Hilltop Legacy
 3.5 out of 5, 53 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 13, 2014
- C** **F** **A**
 Pakalana Inn
 4.5 out of 5, 77 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 8, 2014
- C** **I** **L**
 Hilo Bay Hostel
 4.5 out of 5, 136 reviews
 Last reviewed Aug 31, 2014

Hilo resources

- Hilo Bed and Breakfast
- Hilo Maps
- Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Explore the World

Sightseeing

- Village du Pere Noel
 4.5 out of 5, 36 reviews
- The Polo Club Lounge in New Orleans
 4 out of 5, 11 reviews
- Cevijarski most
 4 out of 5, 1 review
- Arlington Convention Center
 4 out of 5, 23 reviews

Travel Destinations

- Hermosa Beach Hotels
 51 hotels, 1,859 Reviews
- Managua
 136 hotels, 4,275 Reviews

Hotels

- Hampton Inn Washington, DC - Convention Center in Washington DC
 4 out of 5, 671 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 4, 2014
- La Vota Hotel La Vota
 4 out of 5, 167 reviews
 Last reviewed Sep 30, 2014
- Spyglass Inn in Pismo Beach
 4 out of 5, 484 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014
- Holiday Inn Munich - City Centre
 4 out of 5, 1,314 reviews
 Last reviewed Oct 5, 2014

31-40 of 125 reviews

« 1 ... 3 4 5 ... 13 »

Travelers who viewed Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours also viewed

- C** **L** **A** **V** **A**
Lava Ocean Tours, Inc
 252 Reviews
 Pahoehoe, Island of Hawaii
- C** **L** **A** **V** **A** **L**
Lavaland Hawaii Day Tours
 101 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
- B** **L** **U** **E**
Blue Hawaiian Helicopters
 426 Reviews
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
- V** **O** **L** **C** **A** **N** **O** **D** **I** **S** **C** **O** **V** **E** **R**
VolcanoDiscovery Hawai'i - Private Tours
 297 Reviews



Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours, Hilo

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Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

485 Kunoole St, Hilo, Island of Hawaii, HI 96742
 +1 808-769-9453 Website E-mail Improve this listing

Save Saved

Ranked #12 of 47 Activities in Hilo
 125 Reviews
 Certificate of Excellence 2014



Type: Tours

Owner description: COME & SEE LAVA UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH EXPERIENCED HAWAII VOLCANOLOGIST! Aloha! Mahalo for choosing 'Ahiu Hawaii' for your REAL LAVA ADVENTURE!! We... more »

129 visitor photos

Hawaii Tours to See Lava

www.see.lava.com/ Lava Hike in Hawaii top attraction See Lava TODAY Hawaii Lava Tour

125 reviews from our community

Visitor rating

Excellent	102
Very good	13
Average	5
Poor	2
Terrible	3

125 reviews sorted by Date | Rating

Sponsored links

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Hotels near Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

- Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel**
1,087 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
1.4 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours
- Uncle Billy's Hilo Bay Hotel**
281 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
1.4 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours
- Hilo Seaside Hotel**
518 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
1.5 miles from Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

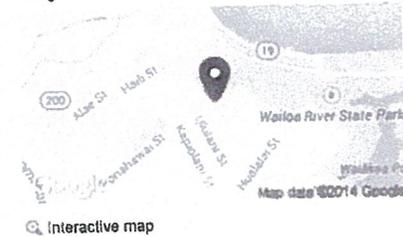
Viewed attractions

Delete all

- Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours**
125 Reviews

Browse nearby

Things to Do (101) | Hotels (8) | Restaurants (205)



Which Hilo hotels are on sale?

mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

See hotels



kisaDC
Washington, DC

Top Contributor
71 reviews

29 attraction reviews

81 helpful votes

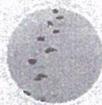
"Tough trek, mixed guides, unbelievable lava, incompetent office."

Reviewed August 23, 2014

Admittedly, the pickings are slim when it comes to finding an operator that would get you to flowing lava. Otherwise - based on what we know now - this company would not have been our choice. Please don't interpret this as a reflection on their main guide - Matt. That gentleman is superb in every respect. I'd go on a...

More

Was this review helpful? 2



TravelReally
1 review
3 helpful votes

"If you want it, you will do it"

Reviewed May 14, 2014 via mobile

This world is full of great opportunities to see awesome stuff. This is just an awesome place. I've been hiking, climbing, and trekking all over the world and this was stunning and a well run experience. If you want to see and touch and play with lava, this is the tour for you. If u dream and desire to have...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 3



AukaIT
1 review
1 helpful vote

"THE TOUR TO SEE THE REAL HAWAII"

Reviewed May 8, 2014 via mobile

Amazing tour through the rain forest into the lava field where you see lava up close and experience the heat! Take marshmallows and roast them by the lava!

Was this review helpful? Yes 1



Acacia G
1 review

"Awesome adventure!"

Reviewed May 7, 2014

went on the lava tour and it was a great hike and the view at the end was amazing! Got to go right up to the lava, I live in hilo and haven't been able to do that in a while. Very worth it and I would definitely reccomend/do more tours with them in the future

Was this review helpful? Yes



Nancye N
Tanawha, Australia
Reviewer
 4 reviews
 3 attraction reviews
6 helpful votes

"Tough mudder!"

Reviewed May 6, 2014

Walk through 3 miles of ankle to thigh deep mud, over trees and boulders the whole way. I am very fit but this was TOUGH. Be prepared to loose a toenail or 2! Take their backpacks as they will get mud on them. in fact, everything will get mud on it. My backpack melted when I sat it down on...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2



TerriynWaterford
Waterford
Senior Reviewer
 6 reviews
13 helpful votes

"LAVA FLOW"

Reviewed May 3, 2014

This hike is a long one. It is not for the faint at heart. We set out with 13 travellers and 2 had to turn back about 1/3 of the way. It is a lot of hard hiking and you do get very dirty. Advice from me, just get dirty and don't worry about it, it will save a lot...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 1

"Adventurous Hike - Great Experience"

Reviewed April 30, 2014

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www.sunshinehelicopters.com/ See Hawaii in A New Light With Our Helicopter Tours. Save up to \$50!



Popular Hilo attractions

- Mauna Kea Observatory
- Waipo Valley
- Akaka Falls State Park
- Kaumana Caves Park
- Pepeekeo Scenic Drive
- Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station
- Liliuokalani Gardens
- Richardson Beach Park
- Lyman Museum
- Queen Liliuokalani Gardens
- Mauna Loa Observatory
- Pacific Tsunami Museum
- Imiloa Astronomy Center
- Native Hawaiian Lava
- Coconut Island
- Rainbow Falls
- Onizuka Center for International Astronomy
- Panaewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens
- Palace Theatre
- St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Hotels around Hilo

- Hilo Seaside Hotel
3.5 out of 5, 518 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 4, 2014
- Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
3.5 out of 5, 1,087 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014
- Country Club Hawaii Condo Hotel
2.5 out of 5, 53 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014
- Wild Ginger Inn Hotel & Hostel
3.5 out of 5, 79 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014
- Uncle Billy's Hilo Bay Hotel
2.5 out of 5, 281 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014
- Shaka Shak
4.0 out of 5, 7 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 1, 2014
- Holmes Sweet Home B&B
4.5 out of 5, 126 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 29, 2014
- The Lotus Garden Hilo
4.5 out of 5, 34 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 29, 2014
- Arnott's Lodge
4.0 out of 5, 227 reviews

3 attraction reviews
13 helpful votes

Skippy's last day, so unfortunately he won't be leading anyone out again (to Ahu's determent), but if...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes No 1



Sarah B
London, United Kingdom
1 review
2 helpful votes

"The most challenging and amazing experience"

Reviewed July 24, 2014 via mobile

We were on our honeymoon in Hawaii and found out from our receptionist that the only way to see flowing lava is to go on a guided tour and when they said it'll be a 10mile hike we thought why not who needs a relaxing honeymoon! So we were on a afternoon group starting the hike at 2 (this means...

More



Was this review helpful? Yes No 2



annavinn
Richmond Virginia
1 review
13 helpful votes

"Guide left our kids in the rainforest in the dark for over an hour"

Reviewed July 21, 2014

My husband, our 9 year old twin boys and me went on the lava hike 2 d ago. Please note, due to vanability in lava flow current hike is 10 miles round trip. Three miles each way you are literally moving from one mud puddle to another (mid calf to knee deep), falling, tripping over roots, and ending up covered...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes No 13

AhuHawaii, Manager at Ahu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours, responded to this review

Aloha Anna K I am so sorry that we didnt respond earlier. With the hurricane that came to our island it put a stop to ALOT of stuffs. But still as promised, via our conversation over the phone, I will post our response here. Leaving any child behind is definitely not acceptable. After investigating the whole situation it was a

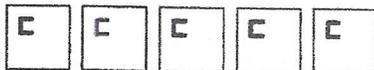
More

"Great hike worth the effort"

Reviewed July 15, 2014

I wanted to see lava with wife and son I signed up to see lava with Ahu. However, i did not expect that we would actually walk on lava. I was in a group of about 20 people with Matt our guide, some mixture of Crocodile Dundee and Navy seal type of guy. All felt safe around him During the

More



Was this review helpful? Yes No 2

3.0 out of 5, 64 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014

Wild Ginger Inn Hotel & Hostel
3.5 out of 5, 79 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014

Uncle Billy's Hilo Bay Hotel
2.5 out of 5, 261 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014

Shaka Shak
4.0 out of 5, 7 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 1, 2014

The Inn at Kulaniapia Falls
4.0 out of 5, 495 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 1, 2014

The Lotus Garden Hilo
4.5 out of 5, 34 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 29, 2014

The Bay House
4.5 out of 5, 223 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 26, 2014

At the Beach with Friends Bed & Breakfast
4.5 out of 5, 59 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 25, 2014

Dolphin Bay
4.5 out of 5, 498 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 25, 2014

Hilltop Legacy
3.5 out of 5, 53 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 13, 2014

Pakalana Inn
4.5 out of 5, 77 reviews
Last reviewed Sep 8, 2014

Hilo Bay Hostel
4.5 out of 5, 136 reviews
Last reviewed Aug 31, 2014

Hilo resources

Hilo Bed and Breakfast

Hilo Maps

Hotels near Ahu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours

Explore the World

Sightseeing

Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas
4.5 out of 5, 2,417 reviews

Carrick River Walk
4.6 out of 5, 3 reviews

Lanx Bridge

Asiana-Karakhoja Tombs
3 out of 5, 23 reviews

Travel Destinations

Fort Lauderdale Hotels
561 hotels, 62,760 Reviews

Traverse City
118 hotels, 8,435 Reviews

Hotels

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
4 out of 5, 900 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 5, 2014

Trump International Hotel and Tower New York in New York City
4.5 out of 5, 606 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014

Bavarian Inn Frankenmuth Mi
4.5 out of 5, 2,152 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 5, 2014

Capella Pedregal in Cabo San Lucas
5 out of 5, 1,021 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 1, 2014



imc11
Quebec
Senior Contributor
37 reviews
32 attraction reviews
28 helpful votes


Jon714714
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
2 reviews
2 helpful votes

"Tough hike but worth it!"
Reviewed June 28, 2014

Our group consisted of a family of 4 (kids 12 and 14) and our best friends. All of the adults are 50+ and in good shape. We spent 1 week in Maui and 1 week on the Big Island and this tour was the absolute highlight of the trip. Our awesome guide, Matt, warned us right away that we signed...

More


Was this review helpful? Yes 2

11-20 of 125 reviews

« 1 2 3 ... 13 »

Travelers who viewed Ahiu Hawaii Guided Lava Tours also viewed

-  **Lava Ocean Tours, Inc**
252 Reviews
Pahoa, Island of Hawaii
-  **Lavaland Hawaii Day Tours**
101 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
-  **Blue Hawaiian Helicopters**
426 Reviews
Hilo, Island of Hawaii
-  **VolcanoDiscovery Hawai'i - Private Tours**
297 Reviews
Volcano, Island of Hawaii

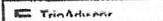
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tmansaionga
Union City, California

Reviewer

4 reviews

3 attraction reviews

3 helpful votes

"Front office needs some work"

Reviewed August 21, 2014

My husband and I almost didn't get to go out on this trip because this company does not seem to check their emails or answer their phones. We contacted them weeks before our trip and gave them two days we were available during our vacation to go out on their hike and got a reply saying they do not go...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2



Forever123
Tucson

1 review

1 helpful vote

"Great Tour; Sadly horrible young guides with no experience for touring a group nor: forest hiking expertise!"

Reviewed August 12, 2014 via mobile

My family and I reviewed Ahiu Hawaii's tour 7 weeks before arriving to Hilo. Money wise, this trip is worth every experience you could imagine in your life time. However, some less experienced employees (females ranging from their early 20's I'm assuming) lacked the knowledge of their home land. Despite their attractive, beautiful, and fit appearance I would recommend more...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 1



Elena_Aloha
Milan, Italy

Reviewer

4 reviews

4 helpful votes

"Yes, I will do it again"

Reviewed August 7, 2014

We did the mud hiking yesterday. Not today, not tomorrow, but I will do it again. Yes, as our guide Malt said, it's a mud hike to see some lava. 3 miles in at least ankle deep mud, even higher in most of the way. It's long, heavy and boring! You need to be fit to not suffer too much...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 2



Theo P
USA

Senior Contributor

26 reviews

15 attraction reviews

32 helpful votes

"Experience of a lifetime, but not for everybody!"

Reviewed July 31, 2014

It needs to be said somewhere, so I'll put it at the top. This tour is NOT for everybody. Even for moderately fit 20-somethings, this is a rather grueling hike, so I can't possibly understand why people have ever thought to bring their children or anyone else not physically able to keep up. Simply put, if you're under 16 or...

More

Was this review helpful? Yes 7



Jared S
San Francisco, California

Senior Reviewer

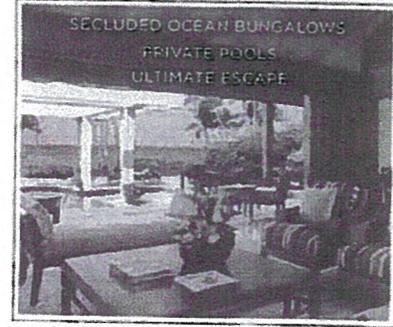
7 reviews

"Amazing experience, terrible front office handling"

Reviewed July 29, 2014

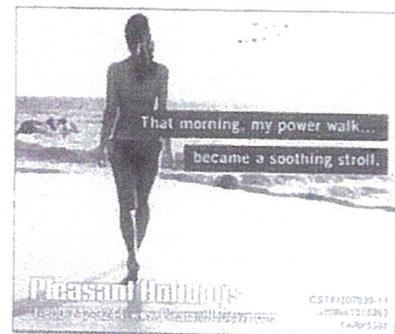
To start the good: Provided the lava is flowing, they will get you to lava. And being inches away from lava is an experience you will never forget. Also, the guides that we had, Matt and Skippy, also got 5 stars. It was

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Tours From Hilo. Book Your Trip Online Today & Save!



Popular Hilo attractions

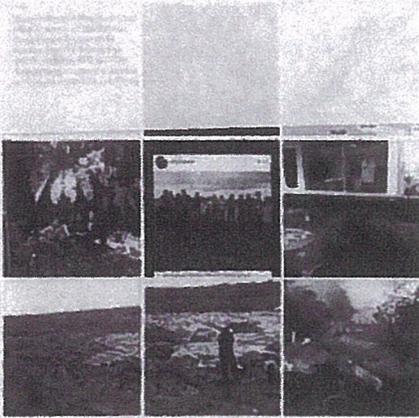
- Mauna Kea Observatory
- Waipo Valley
- Akaka Falls State Park
- Kaumana Caves Park
- Pepeekeo Scenic Drive
- Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station
- Liliuokalani Gardens
- Richardson Beach Park
- Lyman Museum
- Queen Liliuokalani Gardens
- Mauna Loa Observatory
- Pacific Tsunami Museum
- Imiloa Astronomy Center
- Native Hawaiian Lava
- Coconut Island
- Rainbow Falls
- Onizuka Center for International Astronomy
- Panaewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens
- Palace Theatre
- St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Hotels around Hilo

- Hilo Seaside Hotel**
3.5 out of 5: 518 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 4, 2014
- Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel**
3.5 out of 5: 1,087 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 3, 2014
- Country Club Hawaii Condo Hotel**
2.5 out of 5: 53 reviews
Last reviewed Oct 2, 2014
- Hilo Nani'oa Hotel**

Enclosure 15



'Ahiu Hawai'i
September 25

One of our guides- Orion Enocencio at the lava. Book your lava adventure owl Call (808) 769-9453



0:15

POSTS TO PAGE



Chloe Elia
October 3 at 12:44am

📄 20 Things You Didn't Know About National Parks
<http://briefly.today/20-things-you-didnt-know-about-national-parks/>

Like · Comment · Share



Kalama Malama
October 1 at 5:50pm

I would like to book a hike. please contact me by FB, Thanks

Like · Comment · Share



Lottie Tagupa
September 30 at 4:02pm

📄 Illegally operating <http://m.hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/oliveira-no-lava-tours-kaohae>

Like · Comment · Share

REVIEWS



Kathleen Parker Champagne
★★★★★ 08/30/2014

Email we wrote to this company, with no response from them...

"I am writing to express my deep displeasure with the man... See More

5 3



Rich Robeson
★★★★★ 06/06/2014

I've climbed the highest mountains, swam with sharks and visited many of the "new" seven wonders of the world, but THIS ... See More



Jd Stumpf
★★★★★ 06/18/2014

The Lava Death Hike video tells my tale in a way that words can't. Clearly I am a changed man from the experience...

Like · Comment · Share

Kellie Swift, Rebecca Olson Hilton, Natalie Quebral and 39 others like this.



Waylon Camara Janeen Kahikuna
September 25 at 10:40am



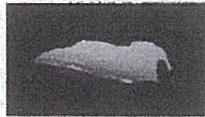
Julian Tovar Jessica Tovar S.
September 25 at 7:11pm



'Ahiu Hawai'i shared a link.
September 16

Skylight of Lava Tube that's feeding towards Pahoa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G50fgnUOzd8&list=PLAB350437D01FBF09&index=14>



Skylight of a Lava Tube in Hawaii

You will see how much metric tons of lava is feeding the lava flows that are heading towards Pahoa town..this lava tube was measured approximately 20ft wide ...

Like · Comment · Share

12 Shares

Rebecca Olson Hilton, Ceecee Swain, Wilson Matsumura and 51 others like this.



'Ahiu Hawai'i shared a link.
September 16

September 15 2014 Lava Update!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfBGLO1K9cY&list=PLAB350437D01FBF09&index=13>



September 15th 2014- Lava Flow Heading to Pahoa

This is a current lava flow outbreak thats heading towards Pahoa town.

Like · Comment · Share

1 Share

Kini Elia, Arruda Navigate, Cecilia Shaw and 11 others like this.



'Ahiu Hawai'i shared a link.
September 6

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Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series
Hunting and Fishing



Hunters Namibia Safaris
Hunting and Fishing



Texas Hunt Lodge
Hunting and Fishing

See more places in Hilo, Hawaii

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Facebook © 2014

Pele is coming! Join us to go and see her! Call us at (808) 769-9453

<http://m.kitv.com/news/big-island-residents-prepare-for-lava-flow/27912798>



Big Island residents prepare for lava flow
Residents in the path of the lava flow do what they can to prepare for the worst.

Like · Comment · Share

Rebecca Olson Hilton, Charleston Awai Jr., Gina-Marie Ducosin and 3 others like this.



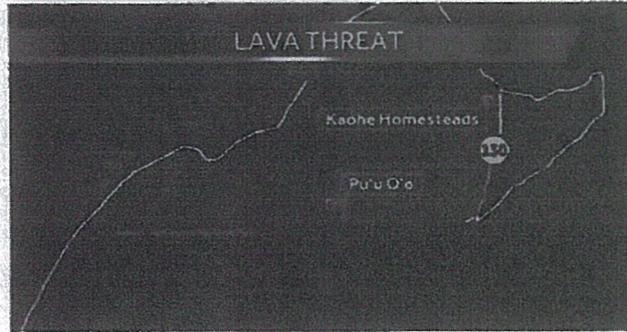
Sean Lai Unreal
September 6 at 3:25pm



'Ahiu Hawai'i' shared a link.
September 6

Don't go out to the lava by yourself! Let our experienced guides get you to the lava and out safely!..Book your lava adventure now- call (808)769-9453

<http://m.kitv.com/news/want-to-get-a-look-at-the-lava-experts-say-dont-go/27907328>



Want to get a look at the lava? Experts say -- don't go!
m.kitv.com

Experts are trying to dissuade people from getting too close to the lava.

Like · Comment · Share

Nina Payomo, Cheru Chan, Roxann Serrao and 2 others like this.



Rui Dai Aloha, we are planning a trip for your lava tour. Would you recommend staying in Hilo the night before the tour? When does your tour end? Is there enough time to drive back to a hotel in Kona or should we plan on staying in Hilo too? Thanks!
September 9 at 11:03pm

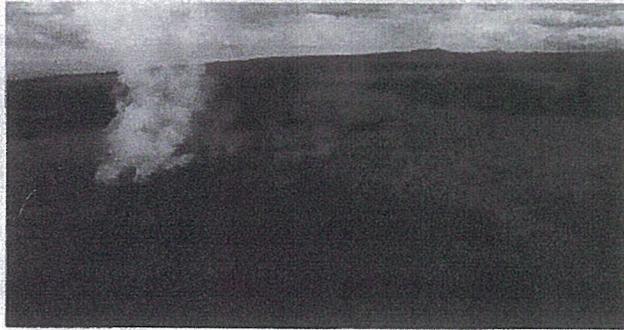


'Ahiu Hawai'i' Aloha and Mahalo for choosing Ahiu Hawaii. For booking and information, please call (808) 769-9453 or email us at ahiuhawaii@aol.com. mahalo
September 10 at 9:58am



'Ahiu Hawai'i' shared a link.
August 22

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26351131/experts-kilauea-lava-flow-a-potential-concern-to-residential-areas>

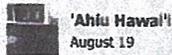


Experts: Recent Kilauea lava flow a potential concern to residential areas
www.hawaiinewsnow.com

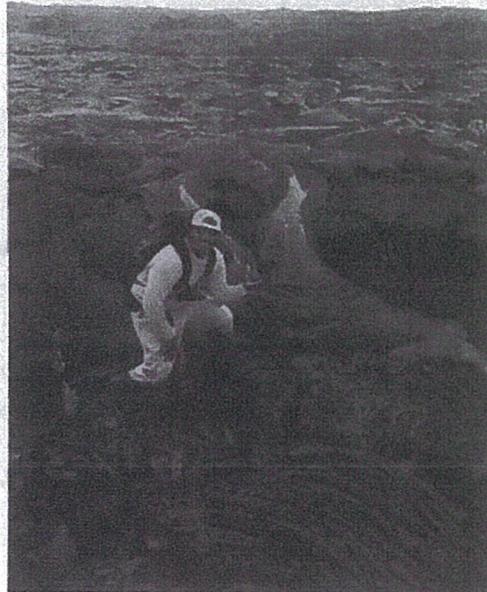
The June 27th lava flow continues to advance to the northeast of its vent on the flank of Pu'u 'O'o on Kilauea Volcano's East Rift Zone.

Like · Comment · Share

50 · 4 · 15 Shares

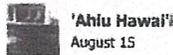


Do you want to get this close to flowing lava? Well book your lava adventure with 'Ahiu Hawaii. Call (808) 769-9453 now



Like · Comment · Share

325 · 11 · 13 Shares



OPERATION

HUNT. FISH. DIVE.SURVIVE!

Please join the staff of 'Ahiu Hawaii & other volunteers this Saturday (8-16-2014) at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (right below Orchidland Wiki Wiki) for Dinner which will start at 4pm.

We will be serving multiple dishes from what our island has to offer like

-Fresh cooked Meats from local Hunters and Ranchers!

-Fresh Fried Fish from Fisherman & Divers!

-Last but not least Fresh Produce from local Farmers!

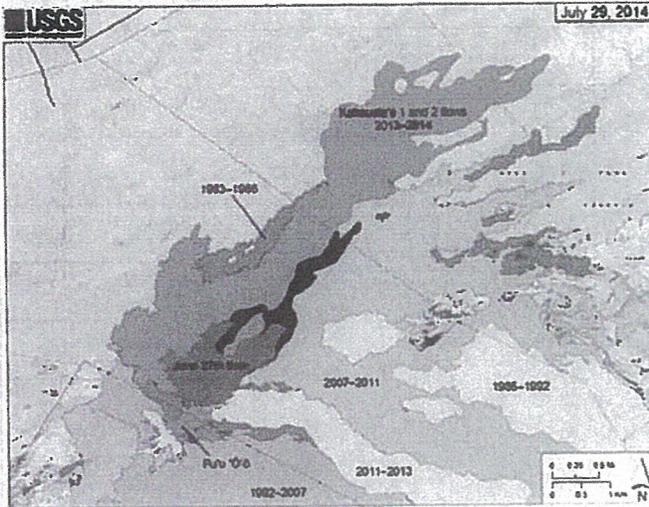
See you all there!!! Aloha!!!

Like · Comment

9

'Ahiu Hawai'i
July 30

There is a ton of lava to see! Come and book your lava adventure with 'Ahiu Hawai'i...Call (808) 769-9453



Like · Comment · Share

12

'Ahiu Hawai'i
July 19

It's always awesome to see the young generation, wanting to be outdoors, instead of having they're minds occupied by technology! We appreciate those moments to see them picking up a stick & having fun:) & also HUNTING , we took the kids on an adventure they sure well not forget. They had a blast & so did we #bookatour #hunting #fishing or #diving OR #bookour #LAVAtour Call us @ (808)769-9453 [WILD] -Mahalo



Like · Comment · Share

24

'Ahiu Hawai'i
June 16

06/17/14 group picture:) book your tour today(:



Like · Comment · Share

11

 'Ahiu Hawai'i
June 17

ALOHA FACEBOOK FRIENDS,
If you or you know somebody that needs Fencing, Taxidermy, Animal Removal.. etc.. For more Info or pricing PLEASE CALL (808)769-WILD(9453) have a awesome day LIVE AHIU:)

Like · Comment

3

 'Ahiu Hawai'i
June 3

Aloha FACEBOOK friends:)

Our Lava is Flowing at this moment, email us Instagram us, & we may book a tour for you(: have a wonderful day.

Like · Comment

1

 'Ahiu Hawai'i
May 30

Just "Chillaxen" (chilling & relaxing) by the Lava. Check us out, to ALL OF OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS book a tour. You won't retreat it..for sure:))

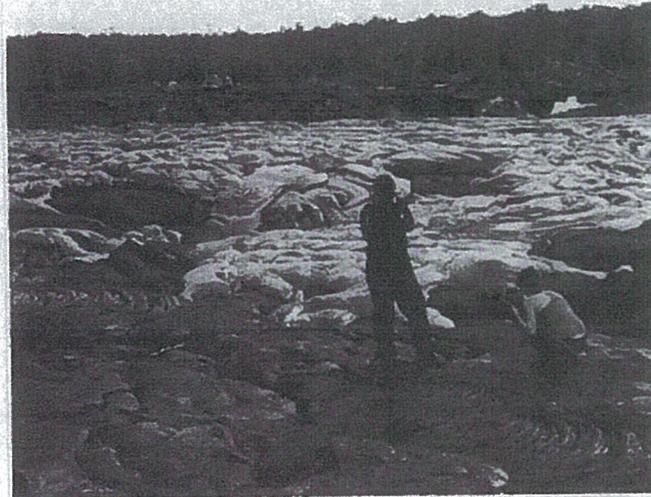


Like · Comment · Share

2

'Ahiu Hawai'i
May 30

Here we have our guest checking out the lava, if you could see in the background, we also have a group having a sat checking out the lava. This is truly amazing, and a must see. Have a beautiful day:)



Like · Comment · Share

10

'Ahiu Hawai'i
May 30

Our guide izzy had took this beautiful picture of the Lava Flowing. It was a awesome day, our guest had fun, book a tour with Ahiu Hawaii.. #ourhome #ahiuhawaii



Like · Comment · Share

8

'Ahiu Hawai'i
May 16

Group picture:) lava flow



Like · Comment · Share

31 1

'Ahiu Hawai'i changed their cover photo.
May 9



Like · Comment · Share

'Ahiu Hawai'i shared a link.
May 9

Aloha Everyone,
If you are from another countries or city or island, & you would like to
experience a lifetime moment to get up & close (personal) with the flowing
lava give us a call 1(808)769-9453 or email us at media@ahiuhawaii.com we
will love to give you folks a whole bunch of info to whatever questions you
may have on your mind. Mahalo(:



'Ahiu Hawaii
ahiuhawaii.com
media@ahiuhawaii.com

Like · Comment · Share

1 1 Share

See More Stories

EARLIER IN 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

'Ahiu Hawai'i
April 26

LAVA is DEFINITELY flowing! Get up close and personal to lava exclusively
with 'Ahiu Hawaii...call now to book your spot (808) 769-9453...
Here is the latest lava update...
<http://m.kitv.com/news/kilauea-lava-flow-watched-closely-as-it-creeps-northeast/25525008>

Like · Comment

3

'Ahiu Hawai'i

March 25

Another beautiful afternoon at the lava...



Like · Comment · Share

18 1 Share

'Ahiu Hawai'i
March 25

Book your lava adventure with us- 'Ahiu Hawai'i.. Call (808) 769-9453 and get up close and personal to lava!



Like · Comment · Share

10

'Ahiu Hawai'i
March 3

Jeremy M. your heads are completed and has been crated and shipped! Its Cherry! Get all your taxidermy work completed with 'Ahiu Hawai'i..call 808-769-9453



Like · Comment · Share

89

'Ahiu Hawai'i
March 3

Huge Lava Surface flows all around us....Plus we had the opportunity to see the lava burning the forest too. Get this close to lava! Call (808) 769-9453



Like · Comment · Share

17 7

See More Stories

2013

HIGHLIGHTS

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 21, 2013

-Anatomically Detailed Mounts
-Proven Tanning System
Get all your taxidermy completed by 'Āhiu Hawaii. Call (808) 769-9453



Like · Comment

61 5

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 21, 2013

Going out to see the lava on your own is very dangerous! This video shows exactly what will happen when it starts to rain by the lava. Zero visibility! Choose 'Ahiu Hawaii Lava Tours to get you to the lava and back safely! Call 808-769-9453



0:13

Like · Comment · Share

48 4 1 Share

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 21, 2013

Beautiful Lava flows all around us! Wanna get this close too? Book now! Call 808-769-9453



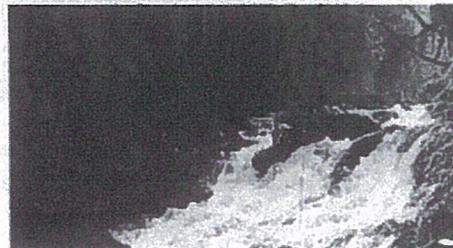
0:20

Like · Comment · Share

6

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 15, 2013

Hawaii is known for its active Lava and beautiful Waterfalls! Don't just see this spectacular events but experience it EXCLUSIVELY with only us- 'Ahiu Hawaii. Call now to book! (808)769-9453



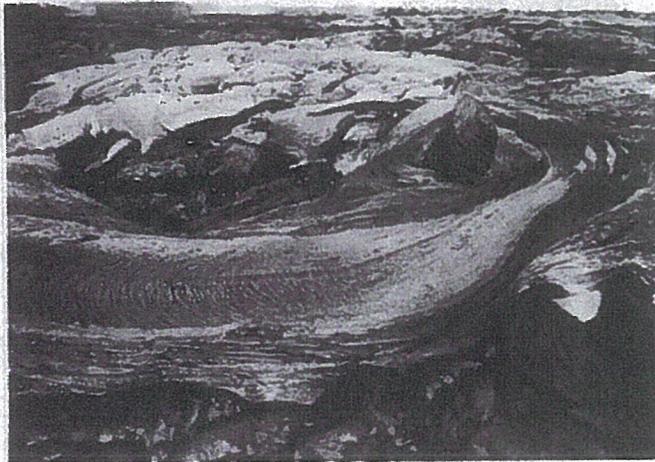


Like · Comment

52 2 Shares

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 14, 2013

Late post from a few days back, but the lava is still going off! Come and book your lava adventure with us. Call (808) 769-9453



Like · Comment · Share

12

'Ahiu Hawai'i
December 14, 2013

Another adventure in the works! We'll keep you all updated when its ready!

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TITLE 13
SUBTITLE 9 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM
CHAPTER 209
RULES REGULATING ACTIVITIES WITHIN NATURAL AREA RESERVES

- § 13-209-1 Purpose and applicability
- § 13-209-2 Definitions
- § 13-209-3 Permitted activities
- § 13-209-4 Prohibited activities
- § 13-209-4.5 Closing of areas
- § 13-209-4.6 Visiting hours
- § 13-209-5 Special-use permits
- § 13-209-5.5 Applications for special-use permits
- § 13-209-6 Penalty

Historical Note: Chapter 209 of Title 13, Administrative Rules, is based substantially upon Regulation 10 of the Administration of the Department of Land and Natural Resources entitled "Regulating and Prohibiting Activities within Natural Area Reserves Including Provisions for Excepted-Use Activities by Permit and Penalties for Violation of the Regulation." [Eff 5/20/79; R 6/29/81]

§ 13-209-1 Purpose and applicability. (a) The purpose of these rules is to regulate activity within natural area reserves established pursuant to section 195-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes. (b) These rules shall apply to all persons entering the boundaries of a natural area reserve. [Eff 6/29/81] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-2 Definitions. As used in these rules, unless context requires otherwise:

"Board" means the board of land and natural resources.

"Commission" means the natural area reserves system commission.

"Department" means the department of land and natural resources.

"Game mammals and birds" means those animals that have been designated as such by sections 191-8 and 191-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and by administrative rules of the department.

"Natural area reserve" means those State lands that have been designated as part of the Hawaii natural area reserves system by the department pursuant to section 195-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"Commercial activity" means the use of or activity on state lands for which compensation is received and by any person for goods or services or both rendered to consumers or participants in that use or activity.

Commercial activities include activities whose base of operations are outside the boundaries of the natural area reserve, or provide transportation to or from the natural area reserve.

"Compensation" includes but is not limited to, monetary fees, barter, or services in-kind.

[Eff 6/29/81; am 12/9/02; am 7/3/03] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-3 Permitted activities. Hiking and nature study of group size of ten or less are permitted except where restricted pursuant to sections 13-209-4.5 and 13-209-4.6. Hunting is a permitted activity pursuant to hunting rules of the department. [Eff 6/29/81; am 1/26/07] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-4 Prohibited activities. The following activities are prohibited within a natural area reserve:

- (1) To remove, injure, or kill any form of plant or animal life, except game mammals and birds hunted according to department rules;
- (2) To introduce any form of plant or animal life, except dogs when permitted by hunting rules of the department and service animals accompanying their handlers;
- (3) To remove, damage, or disturb any geological or paleontological features or substances;
- (4) To remove, damage, or disturb any historic or prehistoric remains;
- (5) To remove, damage, or disturb any notice, marker, or structure;
- (6) To engage in any construction or improvement;
- (7) To engage in any camping activity or to establish a temporary or permanent residence;
- (8) To start or maintain a fire;
- (9) To litter, or to deposit refuse or any other substance;
- (10) To operate any motorized or unmotorized land vehicle or air conveyance of any shape or form in any area, including roads or trails, not designated for its use;
- (11) To operate any motorized water vehicle of any shape or form in freshwater environments, including bogs, ponds, and streams, or marine waters, except as otherwise provided in the boating rules of the department;
- (12) To enter into, place any vessel or material in or on, or otherwise disturb a lake or pond;
- (13) To engage in commercial activities of any kind in a natural area reserve without a written special-use permit from the board or its authorized representative;
- (14) To have or possess the following tools, equipment, or implements: fishing gear or devices within Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve, including but not limited to any hook-and-line, rod, reel, spear, trap, net, crowbar, or other device that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of marine life; cutting or harvesting tools or gear, including but not limited to chainsaws, axes, loppers, any mechanized or manual sawtooth tool, seed pickers, or machete, that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of plant life; and hunting gear or tools that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of wildlife, except as permitted by the hunting rules of the department;
- (15) To hike, conduct nature study, or conduct any activity with a group larger than ten in size;

- (16) To be present in an area closed pursuant to section 13-209-4.5 or after visiting hours established pursuant to section 13-209-4.6;
- (17) To anchor any motorized or nonmotorized water vehicle of any shape or form in the marine waters of Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve;
- (18) To enter into any cave, as defined in section 6D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or any portion thereof;
- (19) To conduct any other activity inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the natural area reserves system. [Eff 6/29/81; am 12/9/02; am 7/3/03; am 1/26/07](Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-4.5 Closing of areas. The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission, may close or restrict the public use of all or any portion of a natural area reserve for up to two years, when deemed necessary by the commission for the protection of the natural, geological, or cultural resources of the area or the safety and welfare of persons or property, by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the duration, extent, and scope of closure. Closures may be renewed with the approval of the board or its authorized representative and the commission. All persons shall observe and abide by the officially posted signs designating closed areas. [Eff 1/26/07] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-4.6 Visiting hours. The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission, may establish a reasonable schedule of visiting hours for all or portions of a natural area reserve by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the hours during which the natural area reserve may be accessed. All persons shall observe and abide by the officially posted signs designating visiting hours. [Eff 1/26/07] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-5 Special-use permits. (a) The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission or its authorized representative, may issue permits to conduct activities otherwise prohibited by section 13-209-4 for research, education, management, or for any other purpose consistent with chapter 195, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

(b) No permit may be valid for more than one year from date of issuance. The board may waive this restriction for permits issued to other governmental agencies where the board determines such a waiver to be in the best interest of the State.

(c) All special-use permits shall be subject to standard conditions, as approved by the board, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The permittee shall adhere to specifications given in the permit application;
- (2) Disturbance of vegetation and wildlife shall be avoided as much as possible;
- (3) Precautions shall be taken to prevent introductions of plants or animals not naturally present in the area. The permittee is responsible for making sure that participants' clothes, equipment, and vehicles are free of seeds or dirt to lessen the chance of introducing any non-native plants or soil animals. Should an infestation develop attributable to permittee, the permittee is responsible for eradication by methods specified by the department;

- (4) This permit is not transferable;
- (5) This permit does not exempt the permittee from complying with any other applicable rule or statute;
- (6) The State of Hawaii shall be released and held harmless from any and all liability for injuries or death, or damage or loss of property however occurring during any activity related to this permit.

(d) The board or its authorized representative may attach special conditions on the special-use permit, including but not limited to reporting requirements, limitations on the size of groups or the length of time for which the permit is valid. Failure to comply with any of these conditions shall render a permit void.

(e) All permittees shall carry the permit with them at all times while in the reserve and shall, upon request, show the permit to any law enforcement officer or the board or its authorized representative.

(f) Permits are not transferable. If the permittee is a partnership, joint venture, or corporation, the sale or transfer of 25 percent or more of ownership interest or stocks by dissolution, merger, or any other means, shall be deemed a transfer for purposes of this subsection and subject to the right of the department to terminate this permit effective the date of the sale or transfer.

(g) The board or its authorized representative may revoke or cancel a permit without prior notice when an emergency is declared by the department or other proper authority or when the special-use poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public or natural, geological, or cultural resources of the reserve.

(h) The board or its authorized representative may revoke or cancel any permit with thirty days written notice:

- (1) For any infraction of the terms and conditions of the permit;
- (2) Upon a finding that the special-use threatens to damage the integrity or condition of the natural, geological, or cultural resources in the reserve;
- (3) Upon a finding that the special-use poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public or otherwise negatively impacts the general public's use and enjoyment of the reserve; or
- (4) Upon closure of a reserve pursuant to section 13-209-4.5.

(i) The provisions of this section shall not exempt the applicant from complying with any other applicable rule or statute. [Eff 6/29/81; am 1/26/07] (Auth: HRS § 195-5)(Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-5.5 Applications for special-use permits. (a) All applications for special-use permits shall be submitted in writing to the board or its authorized representative on the form prescribed by the department. The application shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant, and if relevant, affiliation and title;
- (2) Contact information, including name of primary contact, mailing address, phone number, and if available, email address;
- (3) The period of time for which the permit is requested, not to exceed one year unless seeking a waiver pursuant to section 13-209-5(b);
- (4) The reserve(s) involved;

- (5) A map illustrating the reserve and the location within the reserve of the proposed special-use;
- (6) A description of the proposed special-use;
- (7) A discussion of how the proposed special-use satisfies subsections (b)(1) through (b)(6);
- (8) An assessment of the potential environmental impact the special-use may have on the reserve or the surrounding area;
- (9) Signature of the applicant;
- (10) An application fee of \$50, however, the board or its authorized representative may waive the application fee if, in their opinion, the waiver is in the public interest or benefits the State; and
- (11) Any other information as determined by the department.

(b) In evaluating the merits of an application for a special-use permit, the board or its authorized representative shall apply the following criteria:

- (1) The proposed special-use cannot be conducted elsewhere;
- (2) The proposed special-use is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the natural area reserve system;
- (3) The proposed special-use is consistent with the management plan developed for the reserve;
- (4) The proposed special-use provides a benefit (direct or indirect) to the natural area reserve system or to the individual reserve(s) or both;
- (5) The proposed special-use will not damage or threaten to damage the integrity or condition of the natural, geological, or cultural resources in the natural area reserve and adjacent area or region;
- (6) The proposed special-use complies with provisions and guidelines contained in Chapter 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, entitled "Coastal Zone Management", where applicable; and
- (7) The applicant shall have complied with, or be in compliance with, the conditions of any previously approved permit.

(c) The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the proposed special-use is consistent with the criteria in subsection (b).

(d) The board or its authorized representative may hold a public hearing on an application where determined by the chairperson that the scope of the proposed special-use or the public interest requires a public hearing on the application. Notice of the hearing shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the date set for the hearing. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be published at least once in a newspaper in the county where the natural area reserve is located.

(e) If within two hundred seventy days after the department's acceptance of a completed application, the board or its authorized representative shall fail to render a decision thereon, the application for a special-use permit shall be automatically approved with the standard conditions outlined in section 13-209-5(c), provided that the board may revoke this approval pursuant to section 13-209-5(g) and (h). The two-hundred-seventy-day time period provided shall not commence until a completed application is accepted by the department. Physical receipt of an application by the department does not constitute

acceptance. The two-hundred-seventy-day time period for decision may be another one hundred eighty days at the request of the applicant to give the time to review and make a decision on the application. [Eff 1/26/07] (Auth: 91-13.5) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5, 91-13.5)

§ 13-209-6 Any person violating any of the provisions of these rules shall provided in section 195-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes. [Eff 6/29/81] (Auth: HRS § 195-8)



Monthly Activity Report

10/01/2013 To 10/28/2014

EMIS
Enforcement
Management
Information
System

Branch: Hawaii

Status: Entered;Submitted;Rejected;Approved

Hawaii Summary

Activity	Type of Activity Conducted	Hours	Miles	Citations	Inspections	Warnings	Contacts	Arrests
1000	Training/Research/Planning	48.00	398	-	-	-	-	-
1020	Community Relations / I&E	8.00	20	-	-	-	1,500	-
1080	Outside Assist (other agencies)	51.00	147	-	2	1	915	-
1100	Marine Protected Areas (MPA)	121.00	590	4	25	17	161	-
1120	Fisheries Resource Mgmt	91.50	413	1	40	-	197	-
1130	Protected Fisheries Resources	51.00	377	-	45	3	141	-
1200	Forestry	174.00	1,326	-	27	1	116	-
1210	Wildlife	85.00	458	1	32	1	95	-
1220	Na Ala Hele	14.00	202	-	1	1	6	-
1230	Natural Area Reserves(NARS)	184.00	1,002	-	4	6	88	-
1300	State Parks	453.00	2,052	4	137	4	950	-
1400	Land Management	74.25	576	-	101	83	183	-
1450	Conservation & Coastal Lands	9.00	65	-	2	-	3	-
1600	Historic Sites/Preservation	5.00	59	-	1	-	-	-
1700	Small Boat Harbors	20.50	88	-	1	-	35	-
1730	RBS - Recreational Boating Safety Grant (Water)	49.75	229	-	14	6	108	-
1830	CWRM	13.00	40	-	3	-	16	-
1850	Emergency/Disaster Assistance	24.00	211	-	4	-	30	-
2020	Staff Meeting	18.00	19	-	-	-	-	-
2040	Branch Support Services	168.50	435	-	-	-	15	-
HR001	Meal	0.00	10	-	-	-	7	-
HR009	Compensatory Time	12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR010	Vacation	208.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR011	Sick Leave	120.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR012	Leave - Other	8.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
NOAA1	NOAA / JEA Protected Species (Land)	146.00	839	-	9	1	100	-
NOAA2	NOAA / JEA Bottom Fish Species (Water)	13.00	35	-	5	2	11	-
Hawaii Total		2,169.50	9,591	10	453	126	4,677	0