

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

Trail Stabilization Project Update – February 25, 2016



Above: Stabilization of the trail leading to the Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse is well underway as crews install a stormwater drainage system, drill foundation pilings, and build forms for new concrete. Below: A Nēnē watches from a safe distance away from the trail work.

This is the second in a series of updates about a trail stabilization project at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the project is to stabilize the walking trail between the visitor parking area and the Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse.

Trail stabilization work continues this month at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, part of an extensive project to reinforce the Refuge’s popular pedestrian walking trail that has deteriorated due to slope erosion, undermining, and settlement.

The trail work includes both reinforcing the foundation as well as improving drainage to reduce future damage from runoff water. Kīlauea Point receives an average

of approximately 70 inches of precipitation per year.

Construction crews have spent the past few weeks installing a stormwater drainage system, which includes storm line pipe, drop inlets, and manholes. This past week, crews completed backfilling the pipe trench between the newly-installed manholes. The new drainage system will redirect stormwater from the trail to a new infiltration basin, or shallow artificial pond, in order to better manage runoff. Crews are also preparing to build an embankment around the infiltration basin by compacting fill material at the site.

Meanwhile, other efforts have focused on stabilizing the trail route. A portion of the existing wall and shotcrete was

removed and the trail realigned along the narrow corridor. Structural Systems Inc., a Hawaii-licensed





A crew from Structural Systems, Inc. builds forms for a concrete curb in front of the Refuge bookstore and visitor center.

engineering firm, verified and approved concrete testing of the foundation pilings that will be installed along the trail.

The project contractor, McMillen Jacobs Associates, has installed temporary construction fencing in work areas as one of several wildlife safety precautions built into the project. Prior to the start of the work, the Refuge staff addressed all environmental compliance related to sensitive plant and animal species found on-site, including the endangered Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose, *Branta sandvicensis*) which are endemic to the area.

The Refuge remains closed to the public during the work because of the use of heavy equipment and storage of materials in the limited areas generally open to visitors. However, the Visitor

Services staff continues to greet guests at the Refuge overlook, point out the trail work from the scenic vantage point, and help identify the visible, abundant wildlife. Visitors have delighted in seeing Mōlī (Laysan Albatross, *Phoebastria immutabilis*), Nēnē with goslings, and several humpback whales this month.

Overall, the weather has been accommodating for the work to stay on schedule. Initially, high surf conditions delayed the delivery of materials, but since then, there has been very little rain to stall the work. The project is still expected to be completed by the end of April.

More information on the trail stabilization project, including planning documents and an earlier project update, can be found at <http://1.usa.gov/1ZBZuEi>.



The Kīlauea Point Natural History Association has begun selling interpretive products at the Refuge overlook in order to generate funding for research and educational projects and programs at the Refuge.