

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 1128
Kīlauea, HI 96754
Phone: (808) 828-1413
<http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint>



October 14, 2015

Dear Interested Parties:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to stabilize the walking trail between the Visitor Center and Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse at the Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (KPNWR). The KPNWR is located off Kīlauea Road at the northern most point of Kaua'i. The project is needed to stabilize the walking trail for public safety along trail sections that have experienced slope erosion, undermining, and settling.

The USFWS has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) which describes the proposed alternatives for the project and their associated potential impacts to the environment. **You are invited to provide comments and attend a public open house** where your input is encouraged.

Draft EA Public Comment Period

Open: October 14, 2015
Close: November 12, 2015

Draft EA Open House

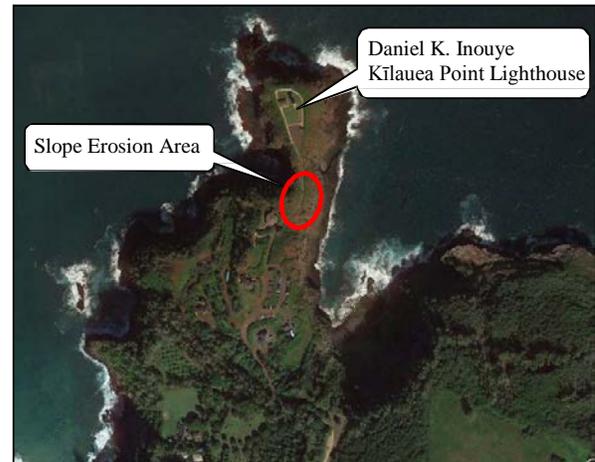
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015
Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Place: Kīlauea Elementary School Cafeteria
2440 Kolo Road
Kīlauea, Kaua'i, HI 96754

Electronic and hard copies of the Draft EA will be available for review from **October 14, 2015 - November 12, 2015** at:

- Līhu'e Public Library, 4344 Hardy Street, Līhu'e, HI 96766
- Princeville Public Library, 4343 Emmalani Drive, Princeville, HI 96722
- Koloa Public and School Library, 3451 Po'ipū Road, Koloa, HI 96756
- Hanapēpē Public Library, 4490 Kona Road, Hanapēpē, HI 96716
- Kapa'a Public Library, 4-1464 Kuhio Highway, Kapa'a, HI 96746
- Waimea Public Library, 9750 Kaumuali'i Highway, Waimea, HI 96796
- KPNWR, 3500 Kīlauea Road, Kīlauea, HI 96754
- Online at <http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint>

Environmental Assessment Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The project requires an environmental analysis, and the environmental impacts have been documented in the Draft EA for the project.



Vicinity map



Existing Damaged Walking Trail

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to stabilize the walking trail to the Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse. The need of the project is to provide slope stability for public safety concerns along trail sections that have experienced slope erosion, undermining, and settling.

Three alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EA: No Action, Trail Stabilization with East Slope Discharge, and Trail Stabilization with West Ravine Discharge. A preferred alternative has not yet been selected for the project.

Potential for Refuge Closure

Selection of an action alternative would require heavy equipment to work along the pedestrian pathways, blocking access to the Visitor Center, Lighthouse, and Point. The existing parking lot would need to be utilized for storage of equipment, materials, and supplies. Visitation would not be safe for the public, and the Refuge and Lighthouse would be closed during that time, from approximately January 1 through April 31, 2016.

The Service will do its best to reduce the length of the closure to the absolute minimum, but addressing safety issues that are quickly escalating along the pathway to the Point is critical for the future of public visitation at the Refuge.

During a possible closure, the Kīlauea Overlook will still be accessible; staff and docents will provide information to visitors Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm (except on Federal holidays). The Refuge Friends group, Kīlauea Point Natural History Association, would establish a temporary Nature Store at the Kong Lung Center in Kīlauea Town.

Public Participation

The participation of the public is a vital component of the project providing those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed project an opportunity to share their comments, ideas, and concerns regarding actions during the Draft EA stage of the NEPA process. You are encouraged to attend the public meeting and express your comments, ideas, and concerns. Comments can be submitted via email, fax, or mail anytime during the Draft EA comment period.

Additional information regarding the proposed project and the Draft EA can be accessed online at <http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint> or by contacting:

Greg Allington (McMillen Jacobs Associates) 208-985-1499 (primary) or
Michael Mitchell (USFWS) 808-828-1413 (secondary).

For comments to be considered and become part of the public record for the project, **they must be received by close-of-business on November 12, 2015.**

Please email or fax your comments to:

Email: kpnwrtrail@mcmjac.com

Fax: (208) 342-4216

You may also submit comments by **mail** to:

Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Michael Mitchell, Acting Project Leader
P.O. Box 1128
Kīlauea, HI 96754

After receiving comments, the USFWS will begin reviewing them for consideration into the Final EA. To check on the status of the project and download project-related documents during the course of the NEPA process, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint>. The project team values your feedback and encourages you to comment during the Draft EA comment period.

Sincerely,

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

The USFWS is committed to providing access to the public open house for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs at the public open house to Greg Allington, kpnwrtrail@mcmjac.com, 208-985-1499 with your request by close-of-business on Friday, October 23, 2015.