



## Kīlauea Eruption: Ongoing Activity, Health Impact, & Hawaiian Culture

By: DD

Since Kīlauea volcano began erupting again on December 23, 2024, it has been captivating onlookers with its spectacular volcanic activity. Nearly two months after its eruption, the lava continues to fountain, reaching impressive heights of 330 feet, painting the sky with an awe-inspiring natural display. Kīlauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is once again showing its power, as lava flows cover the crater floor.

At present, around 15 to 20% of the crater floor is covered with active lava, a dramatic reminder of Kīlauea's dynamic nature. While the eruption is visually striking, it has not threatened nearby residential areas, offering a measure of relief to local communities.

For those eager to witness this phenomenon firsthand, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has become a hub for visitors. Overlook sites within the park provide safe vantage points for viewing the eruption, and people from all over have been flocking to these locations to get a glimpse of the molten lava. The experience is especially mesmerizing at night, when the glowing lava creates a fiery spectacle against the dark sky.

Despite the thrilling visual display, Kīlauea's eruption also brings with it potential health risks, particularly from volcanic gas emissions. The volcanic smog, or "vog," produced by Kīlauea, can have serious implications for human health, particularly for individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions. The gases, including sulfur dioxide, can cause irritation to the eyes and lungs, leading to breathing difficulties. For those with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or chronic lung and heart disease, exposure to vog can worsen symptoms and lead to more severe health issues.

Kīlauea holds deep spiritual significance in Hawaiian culture as the home of Pele, the Goddess of Volcanoes. Hawaiian legends say that eruptions are caused by Pele's powerful emotions, particularly her anger. Respected and feared, Pele's immense power is reflected in ancient songs and chants, where she can cause earthquakes with a stamp of her feet and volcanic eruptions with her magic stick, the *Pa'oa*. Kīlauea's eruptions are seen as expressions of Pele's strength, reminding Hawaiians of the balance between creation and destruction in the natural world.

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Kīlauea Eruption: Ongoing Activity, Health Impact, & Hawaiian Culture

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# Molokai Reopens Its Movie Theater After 16 Years

## By: Chadlyn Hirata



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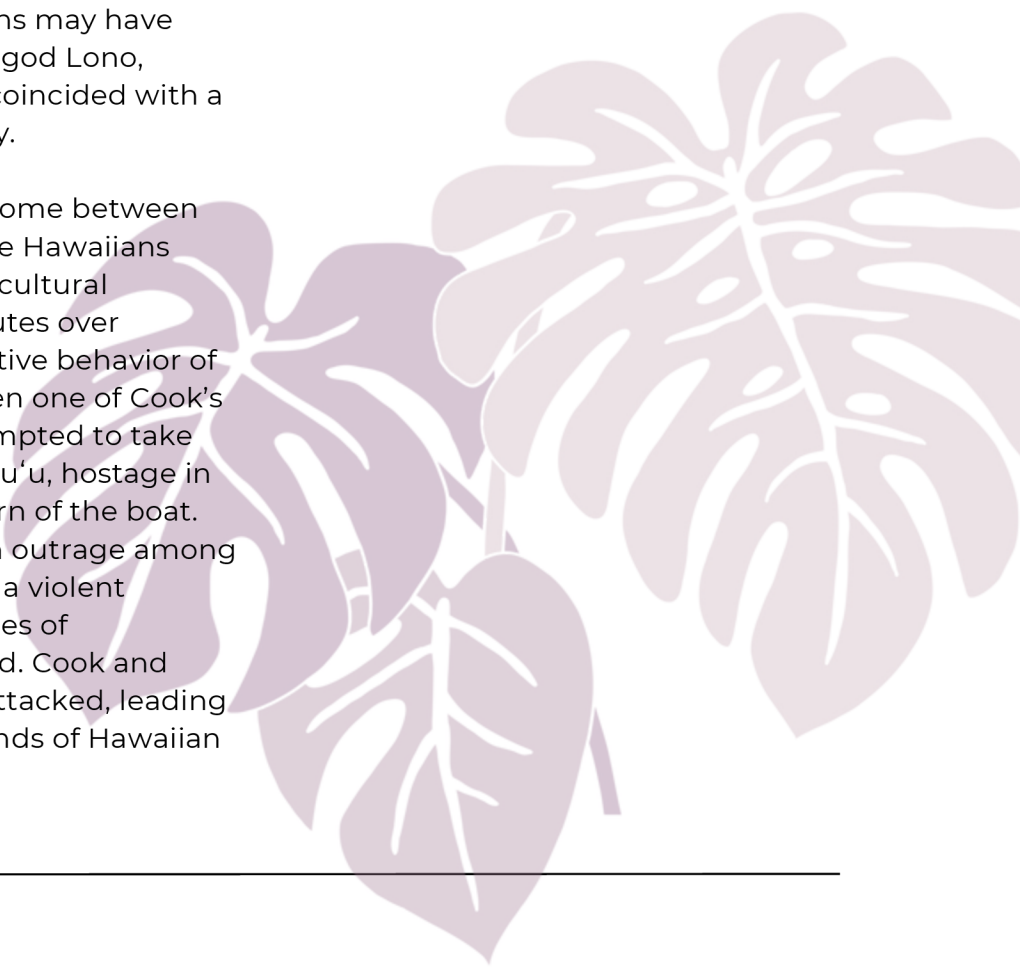
Valentine's Day, celebrated every February 14th, is a time for love, romance, and heartfelt gestures. Flowers, chocolates, and sentimental cards dominate the occasion, as couples express their affection for one another. But this same date also marks a significant and violent moment in the Hawaiian history — the death of British explorer Captain James Cook in Hawaii on February 14, 1779.

Captain Cook was one of the world's known explorers in the 18th century, known for charting the vast regions of the Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii. During his third voyage, he returned to the Hawaiian Islands, where he had been initially welcomed by the native population. Some historians suggest that the Hawaiians may have associated Cook with the god Lono, particularly as his arrival coincided with a festival honoring the deity.

However, the initial welcome between Cook and his crew and the Hawaiians soon deteriorated due to cultural misunderstandings, disputes over resources, and the disruptive behavior of some of Cook's men. When one of Cook's boats was stolen, he attempted to take the ruling chief, Kalani'ōpu'u, hostage in an effort to force the return of the boat. This attempt provoked an outrage among the Hawaiians, leading to a violent confrontation on the shores of Kealahou Bay, Big Island. Cook and several of his men were attacked, leading to Cook's death at the hands of Hawaiian warriors.

So, while Valentine's Day is now a day filled with affection and romance, it also serves as a reminder of Hawaiian history's darker moments. The contrast between the loving sentiments of the "holiday" and the brutal reality of Cook's demise highlights the complexity of historical narratives. One event is rooted in emotional connection and devotion, while the other event reflects the consequences of colonial encounters and cultural clashes.

This unusual historical coincidence offers a moment for reflection. It reminds us that February 14th is not only a day for celebrating love but also a day that saw the end of an era for one of history's well-known explorers. Whether you are commemorating love or remembering the lessons of the past, Valentine's Day holds a unique significance.





# MOLOKAI EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS SURVEY



Your voice is vital in ensuring that our youngest residents—prenatal to 5 years old—have the resources and support they need to thrive. We're conducting a survey to identify gaps in the services available to our keiki and their families on the island.



**Need a paper copy?**

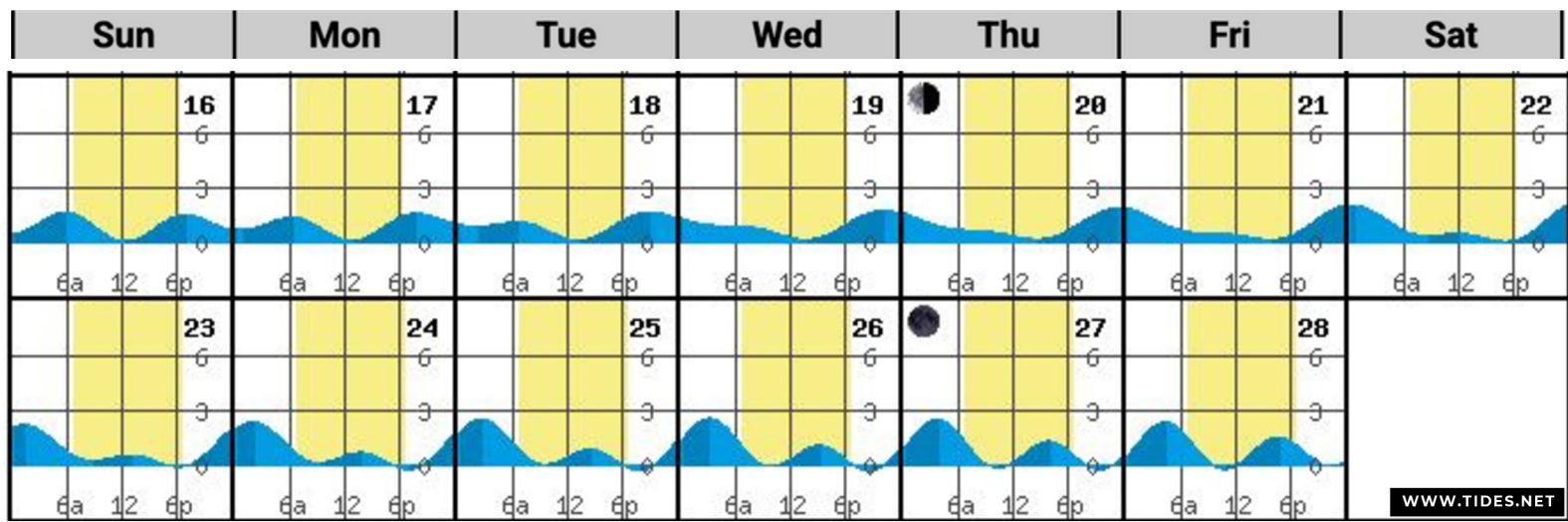
Go to Offices of Tylor Tanaka at  
40 Ala Malama Avenue Unit A108  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

## ‘Ōlelo No’eau

*‘A’ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia*

“No task is too big when done together”

## FEBRUARY 16-28



# Maui Nui Digital Equity Project

## Maui Nui Digital Equity Coalition Molokai Chapter

### Who We Are

#### Background

Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance partnered up with Maui Nui Digital Equity Coalition to bridge the gap between digital divide that Molokai as a rural community struggle with,

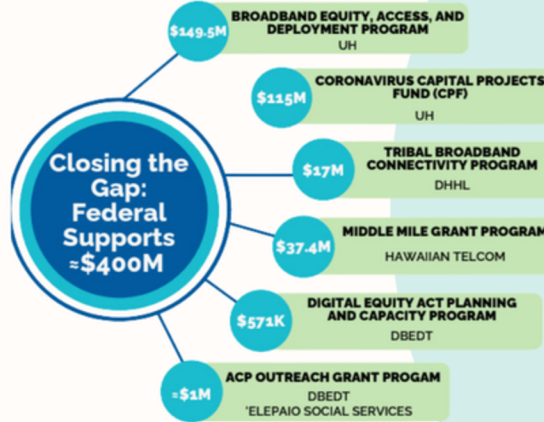
#### Goals

To share the critical importance of digital equity & literacy in our community

Identify the biggest connectivity needs specific to our community

Identify & connect spaces that promote meaningful use of high-speed internet & technology use

Help connect those who aren't well connected digitally



In Partnership With



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII



MOLOKAI HOMESTEAD — FARMERS ALLIANCE —  
FARMERS HELPING FARMERS



## Past

### BEAD Challenge Process Dates

August 19 - September 18 - Challenge Phase

September 30 - October 30 - Rebuttal Phase

November 1 - November 30 - Adjudication Phase

### Community meetings

We have organized meetings to inform everyone about how we can assist with their broadband needs. This will also address any challenges related to inadequate infrastructure or instances where internet requests have been declined.



## Present

### Recent Developments

The Department of Hawaiian Homelands, in partnership with Maui Nui Digital Equity, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, is actively assessing the next steps to effectively support our community.

## Future



- High-Speed Internet Access
- Basic Computer Skills Training
- Scanning, Printing, and Faxing Services
- Assistance with Online Employment Applications
- & Much more

Any Questions or Concerns:

Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of our Broadband consultants:

- Chadlyn Hirata: (808) 646-1025
- Rosie Davis: (808) 646-9037
- Kapono Fulton: (808) 855-8389



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# The Silversword: Challenges and Conservation

By: Kapono Fulton

The 'Āhinahina, or Silversword (*Argyroxiphium sandwicense*), is an endemic plant found only on the high-altitude slopes of Maui's Haleakalā and Big Island's Mauna Kea, it's more than just a botanical curiosity. This unique species, with its shimmering silver leaves arranged in a dense rosette, has become a symbol of resilience and adaptation, though its future remains uncertain.

Adapted to the harsh environment, the 'Āhinahina thrives in cool, dry conditions characterized by intense sunlight and strong winds. Its specialized physiology allows it to withstand significant temperature fluctuations and limited water availability. The plant's distinctive appearance has likely contributed to its presence in Hawaiian oral traditions, though specific documented uses within the culture are limited. Further research into traditional ecological knowledge may shed light on its precise cultural significance.

Currently, the 'Āhinahina faces several challenges. Climate change, with its potential to alter temperature and rain patterns, poses a significant threat to the plant's already restricted habitat. Competition from introduced plant species and the impacts of increasing tourism, including habitat disturbance and direct damage to individual plants, also contribute to the pressures on 'Āhinahina populations.

Conservation efforts are underway to protect this iconic species. These initiatives include ongoing population monitoring, control of invasive species, and public education campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding the 'Āhinahina and its fragile ecosystem. Scientists are also exploring propagation techniques, though replicating the plant's specific habitat requirements in controlled environments remains a significant hurdle. The delicate balance of the high-altitude ecosystem and the unique adaptations of the 'Āhinahina underscore the need for continued research and conservation efforts to ensure its survival for future generations.

