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In life, there will always be unforeseen events - like two hurricanes in a row (almost) - that will take us by surprise. The attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, were unexpected in the worst way possible; 15 years later, we must never forget the significance of this tragic event.

At the same time, there are plenty of things that we expect to happen on a regular basis. For us college students, it's what I like to call the September Set-In, when the thrills of the new school year soon wear off and make way for an all-too-familiar pattern: eat, study, sleep, repeat. As we start getting acclimated to the semester, it is easy to be caught up in the hysteries of college life – after all, those midterms will soon be just around the corner! Notwithstanding that, we should remember that while our studies are of the utmost importance, there's no harm in trying to have fun along the way. Indeed, sometimes having fun can go hand in hand with receiving an education, and this is especially true on the Big Island.

One of our writers, Alyssa, got to do just that when she explored Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. I definitely recommend you read what Alyssa had to say about her journey into Pele's dominions. In other news on outdoor activities (sort of), our News Editor, Aspen, shares some valuable tips on how to master Pokémon Go, the hit game that's taken the world by storm.

Other examples of learning outside the classroom can be found in the array of extracurricular activities offered to students at UH Hilo, including athletics. Our sports writer, Eric, recounts his long and painstaking journey to achieve greatness as a member of our University men's baseball team. As so many of you can attest, scholar-athletes are some of the hardest working members of our student body, and Ke Kalahea takes pride in featuring their stories. Indeed, we all have our battles to win.

So if you're trying to avoid pre-midterm anxiety, or any other school-related drama, just breathe. Before you know it, it'll all be just a blur. In the meantime, cherish every moment of the things you do out of love. As the saying goes, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. So play a little. (But try to get at least some work done first! Your future self will thank you!)

Mahalo Nai,
Brian Wild
Editor-in-Chief
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Networking Options at UH Hilo
How to find work both on and off-campus
Assistant Editor-in-Chief Hannah Hawkins

Looking to get more involved on campus, or elsewhere in Hilo? There are several opportunities to do so, depending on a person’s interests.

The Board of Student Publications (BOSP) is an organization made up of students, faculty and staff at UH Hilo, as well as community representatives that have established publications collectively supported by the University’s student publication fees.

“We are also here to encourage the student body to embrace their voice, whether it be through an academic, artistic, literary, or journalistic perspective,” said Ciarra-Lynn Parinas, Chair of the Board of Student Publication. “Also, we encourage students to develop their leadership skills by working on the Board or one of our publications.”

BOSP is looking to fill the positions of secretary, webmaster, treasurer, and business manager. “The secretary would prepare the agendas and minutes of Board meetings, maintain the archive of administrative paperwork, and other in-office operations. The webmaster will be tasked with troubleshooting technological problems in order to find a solution, including website management, software, and hardware related things. Our treasurer works alongside our business manager and reviews all fiscal documents while updating our budget,” Parinas said.

BOSP is also looking for editors-in-chief for Kanilehua and Hohonu, respectively. The former refers to UH Hilo’s art and literary magazine, while the latter is UH Hilo’s journal of academic writing. The Board plans to start interviewing for these top positions soon, so those interested should obtain an application at Campus Center 210 or 214 as soon as possible.

Working for BOSP comes with many perks: “While working as a team, you get the chance to better collaborate skills as well as your personal leadership and professional development. You get to work alongside students, staff, and faculty of UH Hilo, as well as community members, which means a hearty amount of networking,” Parinas said.

If interested in a position, students can pick up an application at Campus Center 210 or Campus Center 215. Further questions may be directed to the Board at bosp@hawaii.edu, or by phone at (808) 932-7371.

If students are interested in more hands-on work, the Student Activities Council (SAC) may be just for them. According to their website, “The Student Activities Council provides programs, activities and services which serve the co-curricular cultural, social, recreational and educational interests of students of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo. The SAC contributes to the development of students’ skills and provides experience in leadership, program planning and development, volunteer management and fiscal management.”

SAC still has five vacant event planner positions, according to Danielle Marrufo, Executive Chair of SAC.

Those interested in applying should visit the website at https://hilo.hawaii.edu/campuscenter/sac/contact.php for specific contact information, or visit Campus Center room 301A.

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Still, other options exist for students, especially those who are interested in being connected to UH Hilo, but want more community contact. Such options can be found through the Office of Applies Learning Experiences (ALEX). As stated on their webpage, ALEX helps “engage students in real world situations requiring them to put into action the knowledge and skills they are developing through academic coursework. These experiences help students connect academic learning to the real world, enabling them to obtain and enhance the knowledge and skills required for employment, further education, and active participation in the local community.” This is a great resource for students looking to make more off-campus connections. For more information, contact Emmeline de Pillis, Director of ALEX, at uhhiloalex@gmail.com.

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Career Fair

Where: Campus Center Plaza
When: October 10th, 2016
10:00am to 2:00pm

Bring copies of your resume and dress professionally!

For Disabilities Accomodations, please contact Holly Garriques at (808) 932-7776.
I wasn't into reading Harry Potter or playing AYSO soccer. I was fortunate to have I was always a baseball player. I didn’t know anything other than baseball. I was actually too young to play.

Woman. She was very talented in her craft and in doing so, she forged my birth being able to handle all four of us as a single parent. She must have been Wonder Older brothers also playing baseball. I must give endless credit to my mother for my mother signed me up for the local little league. This is where I had three other older brothers also playing baseball. I must give endless credit to my mother for my mother signed me up for the local little league. This is where I had three other

I have played baseball since before I could remember. At the tender age of three, I was able to achieve that distinction.

If you are looking in from the outside, it may seem as though I’ve been fortunate in what I have received throughout my life - such as going to private school, from kindergarten until college. I am not going to tell you that I had a rough childhood. I was blessed to have a great family, and many friends that supported me throughout my life. You may assume that I am a privileged student-athlete who is only here on a scholarship, but there is a dark side to how I was able to achieve that distinction... I have played baseball since before I could remember. At the tender age of three, my mother signed me up for the local little league. This is where I had three other older brothers also playing baseball. I must give endless credit to my mother for

I was always a baseball player. I didn’t know anything other than baseball. I wasn’t into reading Harry Potter or playing AYSO soccer. I was fortunate to have three brothers who also loved baseball. We would be out on the lawn playing and practicing every chance we got. Of course, being the youngest I was picked on and beat up but I respect what they did I am became a tough competitor.

As the years went on I saw my skills in baseball improving ahead of a lot of the kids. I was always one of the best on the team. That is when I knew I wanted to go to high school and play baseball but not just any school. My brother Andre attended Bishop Amat High School in La Puente, California. He also played baseball and I would be at every single game no matter what level he was playing. I wanted to put that jersey on so bad. I got that opportunity a few years later.

Bishop Amat was seen as one of the top teams in the area, year in and year out. The competition level was at the pinnacle, and I was still excelling as well as my teammates. I knew the next four years of my high school career were going to be phenomenal. By my freshman year, I knew that I wanted to play baseball in college. This wouldn’t be an easy task, but I never asked for easy.

I have never been the biggest, tallest, strongest, or fastest. The one thing I had going for me was the love for the game. It was tough to get me off the field. I was so competitive and I took no challenge lightly. I have always had the mental edge. I took what talents I had and combined them into my game and found success. I was doing well and it was finally noticed. But this wasn’t before I ran into my first struggle.

I remember the day like it was yesterday. I was on the mound pitching in a scrimmage just a week before we started our season. This game did not have much significance other than a tune up before real competition. A sharp pain hits my right elbow and I immediately got nervous. But I thought I was too tough to come off the mound so I continued to throw through the pain. I was diagnosed with an elbow injury the first time I have ever had an elbow injury. This kept me out of half of the season. I finished out the rest of my freshman season with no pain after rehab and rest.

Here comes a new season, and a new attitude about baseball. My ultimate goal was to play varsity this year. I’ve worked hard for this opportunity. I spent the summer traveling to different states; I was up against tremendous competition, and I felt at the top of my game. Physically and mentally, I was on. This was the first time I heard from other colleges, telling me they were going to keep an eye on me throughout the year. I wanted it more than anything. As we got back to school and started practicing, I was moved up to practice and start playing with the varsity team. Baseball was my only focus - but that resulted in the most disappointing news. I was spending too much time focusing on baseball, and as a result my grades suffered and I was dropped from the varsity team.

That same varsity team went on to win the California Interscholastic Federation Southern-Section (CIF SS) Championship at Dodger Stadium. This was one of my biggest dreams. I cared about winning a ring more than life. But I watched from the stands while they dogpiled on the mound. It was a sickening feeling for me. But there was no one to blame for it except me. In turn, I was motivated by my failure to one day get there myself.

My junior year brought other life-changing events. I experienced another elbow injury that sidelined me; I soon started to question myself as a baseball player. I wasn’t sure if I would be the same guy once I was on the field. I worked with the athletic trainers and coaches to become healthy again and get back onto the field. I fought my way back into the rotation and had a satisfactory season. I was happy, but not truly content. Back to the drawing board.

Before I knew it, it all came down to one year. One last chance to win a championship, one last chance to show colleges what I can do, one last chance to follow my dreams. I was never a top prospect - I was never given a chance. Maybe I was overshadowed by two 6’3” teammates who had the projected size that colleges look for. Maybe that matters more than what happens on the field. This fueled my fire, and I knew I had something to prove. In my head, I was the best player on the field, not because I’m cocky but because that is just the mentality I needed to have.

I was going to get to the next level no matter what it took. But this would be tougher than I thought. I ran into yet another unwelcome road block. Times at home were extremely tough: my single mother lost her job and we started to struggle financially. Before I knew it, meals became smaller, lunch money was non-existent, and I practically scavenged to pay for basic necessities.

It was a struggle to keep my composure at school, practice, and games knowing I would have to come back to a household that was falling apart. We didn’t have enough money for the water bill, the electricity was shut off, and there was barely enough food in the refrigerator for a family of three. I found myself staying after practice to take showers in the locker room once everyone left. I would come home with a dirty uniform and have to take it down to our community pool shower at night and wash it there. I wanted to break down but I knew I had to stay strong. There were two others in my same position in the house.

I am very family-oriented, and I love them more than anything. My brothers have been there to watch me at every level of my career. Their dreams were always for me to play Major League Baseball; they always believed I was the greatest on the field. They were my greatest supporters, yet also my biggest critics. My two eldest brothers steered down the wrong path, as past generations of my family had before. Once I found out that I lost one of my brothers to the system, it was a huge blow to me and I was not sure when I would see him next. It was just added frustration to my life, all while I was chasing my dreams.

I had to stay focused on the task at hand; I was still in season and needed to perform on the field. One day at practice, my head coach asked me if I wanted to wind up, the pitch, the pain. A
DARK MOTIVATION

DARK MOTIVATION

DARK MOTIVATION

DARK MOTIVATION

DARK MOTIVATION

me hurting to keep all this emotion in. I could not talk to anyone, not even close to me when my performance was at the peak of my game. I was not about to let anyone come between me and my dreams. I stood there for a second and finally realized that my grandparents were there mourning alongside them. I was not there to say goodbye and knowing my family was hurting and I was thousands of miles away not able to comfort anyone. I felt the pain. It was a mixture of not being there to say goodbye and knowing my family was hurting and I was thousands of miles away not able to comfort anyone. I couldn’t sleep. I would stay up for days with this terrible vulnerability. I felt microscopic. I missed classes and barely got to practice. The only reason I moved was because I wanted to clear my mind playing baseball. I didn’t talk to anyone on the team. I stayed silent and did my job on the mound and walked away without a glance at anyone.

I spent my birthday talking to my family while they had a reception for my grandmother’s funeral. That was tough but somehow I got through it. That wasn’t before I received another tragic call from my father about my grandfather passing away just two weeks after. Why was I being tested like this? All those horrific feelings I just got over came rushing straight back into my body like an arrow straight through the heart. I couldn’t believe what was happening to me. This was my grandfather who I would sit down with and he would ask me how my baseball game went. It never failed, he always wanted to know. He was never able to attend but loved to hear.

I stood on the mound on the verge of tears as I prayed to God I would get through this. I stood there for a second and finally realized that my grandparents were finally able to look down on me. This was bad news for the hitters because once again, I turned into a monster. You were not just facing me, you were facing the whole family. I was not about to let anyone come between me and my dreams. I was still on my mission. I had one year to prove myself. It was kill or be killed and my performance was at the peak of my game.

I had all this motivation that I did not want. It was a lot of pain inside of me. It was me hurting to keep all this emotion in. I could not talk to anyone, not even close friends. I was in my room sitting in the dark thinking about my family and why I couldn’t be there mourning alongside them. As time went by, life mellowed out but I still kept competing with the best of them and I was earning my way into the starting pitching rotation. I was starting to see my work appreciated. But I couldn’t catch a break.

My family lost our home. The place I spent so many years in was not our’s. Being in Hawaii, I couldn’t spend one more day in California. I couldn’t stare while we drove away for the last time. It was just, gone. That was not what hurt the most. My mother, brother, and family dog were living day to day in a motel off the freeway. The pain I felt inside for them was unbearable. I broke down in my room. I hated myself for not being there to help them. I absolutely hated myself.

There I was sitting in my room depressed about the situation my family was in. I did not know why I was in Hawaii. My family is struggling back home and I am in this amazing place. I was sick to my stomach and I was ready to drop it all. I was one click away from buying a plane ticket, one call away from quitting baseball, that close to moving back home to help support my family. If it wasn’t for a close friend who stopped me and talked to me out of it, this would be the end of my story.

I had to be stronger than all this bullshit that was thrown my way. The last few years were just a train wreck but it must have been for a reason. Right? All this pain and tragedy contributed to my success. I got on the field with the heaviest of hearts and played for more than just myself. I had people looking up to me for once. I was the first brother to go to college. Being the youngest brother, I would have never thought they looked up to me. I keep a letter from my brother with me everywhere I go. I am on a mission with my whole family.

With this mission still not completed, I busted my ass on that field. I wanted my presence to be known. I did not just want to be a part of just another baseball team, I wanted to be remembered as the one of the best to ever do it. I played with that chip on my shoulder and it was finally recognized. I had a meeting with my head coach where I received the greatest news I could have possibly received. I signed my papers and was finally awarded a scholarship. I have wanted this moment since I was 13 years old. I was beyond ecstatic and ran home up to my dorm room; I sat there staring at this piece of paper. But this was more than a piece of paper, this was my life. The emotions were too strong to keep in. A tear rolled down my face and onto my paper. I called my parents to tell them the news that we’ve all been working for. It was the most amazing feeling to share with them - this moment in my life where I stuck it out and proved myself. They had my back from day one.

Through triumphs and tragedies, trials and tribulations, desperation and depression, we did it. This mission was complete.

The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.
Getting Started

After you've finished signing up and customizing your avatar, it's time to begin your journey as a Pokémon trainer. But before you jump in, you're given a choice as to which Pokémon to start off with. You can choose from Bulbasaur, Charmander, or Squirtle. Choose wisely, because after capturing one, the other two will disappear. But here's a secret: If you walk away from the trio and make them disappear three to five times (results vary between players), they'll eventually return with a fourth Pokémon member—Pikachu.

Once you've chosen your Pokémon, it's time to catch it with a Poké Ball! Activate your Poké Ball by tapping and holding it. A glowing, shrinking ring will then appear around the Pokémon. When the ring shrinks to its smallest size, you want to flick your Poké Ball directly toward the Pokémon and release your finger; if successful, you'll capture the Pokémon inside.

If you're a true Pokémon trainer, you can also throw a curveball. Curveballs increase your chance of catching a Pokémon, and give you bonus experience points (XP). To throw a curveball, spin your Poké Ball in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction. When you throw, it will then curve in the rotation you spun the Poké Ball. Don't worry if you don't get it the first couple of times, there's a learning curve to landing them (no pun intended).

Where to find different types of Pokémon

There are over 100 different species of Pokémon currently available to catch (with more to come), and each Pokémon is one of 18 different “types,” which include Normal, Fighting, Flying, Poison, Ground, Rock, Bug, Ghost, Steel, Fire, Grass, Water, Electric, Psychic, Ice, Dragon, Dark and Fairy.

You'll have to do some real life exploring to catch different species, because each geographical area is home to a specific type of Pokémon. For example, you'll have a better chance of finding Water type Pokémon when you're around a beach, and a better chance of finding Grass type Pokémon at a park.

According to Tech Insider, four of the 151 Pokémon appear to be confined to certain regions. Mr. Mime is exclusive to Europe, Tauros is exclusive to North America, Farfetch'd is exclusive to Asia, and Kangaskhan is exclusive to Australia. Fortunately, all four can be hatched from Pokémon Eggs, so you don't have to travel the world just yet!
**Pokémon Eggs**

As your journey continues through Pokémon Go, you'll eventually stumble upon Pokémon Eggs. Pokémon Eggs will hatch into a random Pokémon, but you'll have to work for it—they won't hatch for just love or money. When you pick up an egg, you need to place it in an incubator to start the hatching process. Once the egg is incubated, you'll need to physically walk a certain distance—and this can be anywhere from two to ten kilometers—before the egg will hatch.

Sorry cheaters, but driving to hatch eggs won't work. The game knows what you're up to, and if you're going anywhere between 10-15 mph or faster, Pokémon Go will think you're driving and won't count your movement towards hatching an egg.

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**Pokémon Traits**

All Pokémon—even the same species—have a variety of traits that make them unique. You might have already noticed, but each Pokémon has different “CP” and “HP.” CP is short for “Combat Power,” and it represents how strong a Pokémon’s attacks are. HP is short for “Hit Points,” and it represents the health of a Pokémon, or how much damage a Pokémon can take.

As you progress through the game, you’ll start encountering stronger types of Pokémon with higher CP and HP, and these Pokémon will be increasingly harder to catch. If the ring surrounding a Pokémon is green, it’s a sign that it should be easy to catch. If the ring is yellow, you have a fifty-fifty chance, and when you see a red ring, you will need to use multiple Poké Balls, stronger Poké Balls, or Razz Berries to successfully catch these Pokémon.

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**PokéStops**

PokéStops are designated places around the world that serve as an easy way to gain items and experience. PokéStops are usually significant or iconic places around your local area, such as historic landmarks or art installations. (UH Hilo has multiple PokéStops.)

PokéStops appear on your map as tall poles with a blue cube. You can tap one even if you’re not in range to find out which landmark they’re associated with, but you won’t be able to get items until you’re close to the PokéStop.

When a PokéStop is within range, the blue cube will turn into a spinning disc, which you can tap on to visit. When you swipe the disc, you’ll receive a variety of items such as Pokémon Eggs, Poké Balls, and more.

Lure Modules are items that can be used on PokéStops, and they increase the spawn rate of Pokémon—for all Pokémon Trainers—at that specific PokéStop for 30 minutes. Active Lure Modules can be indicated on the map by a shower of pink petals at the PokéStop.

Here in Hilo, Liliuokalani Park and Gardens and Coconut Island appear to be popular spots for Pokémon Go players. The combination of beautiful scenery and closely linked together PokéStops attracts dozens of players to the park on a regular basis.
Teams, Gyms, and Battling

Gyms are where you can battle other players’ Pokémon. Gyms, like PokéStops, represent actual landmarks out in the real world, but on the map they’re much bigger and stand out far more than PokéStops do. When you reach level five and visit a Gym, you’ll be asked to join Team Instinct, Team Mystic, or Team Valor. You can claim Gyms for your chosen team, or help level up a Gym already controlled by your team to build up its “prestige.” If your team is in control of a Gym, you can train your Pokémon inside. If a Gym is held by an opposing team, you’ll need to battle their Pokémon to lower its prestige and take over.

Gyms earn prestige when you train your Pokémon in one that your team controls, and lose prestige when opposing teams win battles against the Pokémon inside. Earning prestige is essentially the same as “leveling-up” a Gym. As its levels increase, so do the number of Gym Leaders. The more Gym Leaders there are, the harder it will be for opposing teams to take control of your Gym. When you control a Gym, you’re also rewarded with PokéCoins. Every 20 hours, you can visit the Shop and redeem your coins. The more Gyms you control, the more coins you earn.

To take control of a Gym that is already occupied by an opposing team, you must win in battle against all of the Gym Leaders’ Pokémon. As mentioned earlier, there are different “types” of Pokémon. Each type has its individual strengths and weaknesses. For example, Fire type Pokémon are strong against Grass, Ice, Bug, and Steel type, but are weak against Water, Ground, and Rock type Pokémon. If you can take advantage of a Pokémon’s weaknesses, taking down Gyms will be a breeze.

Remember: These are only the basics to Pokémon Go! The game is still fairly new, and there’s plenty to look forward to. As the game updates and expands, there’s only going to be more to do. In fact, Niantic (Pokémon Go’s game developer) already has plans to incorporate trading, rare and legendary Pokémon, as well as a “buddy” system. In the meantime, happy Pokémon hunting!

Game Features

**Player icon:** Your player icon is at the bottom left corner of the screen. It shows your level, as well as information about your character.

**Backpack:** Where your items are stored. (Note: You start with a bag capacity of 350 items, but you can use upgrades to increase your storage to a max of 1000)

**Pokédex:** An index of Pokémon that gives you information on species you’ve already caught.

**Pokémon:** Enables you to see all the Pokémon that are in your possession. (Note: You start with a Pokémon storage capacity of 250 Pokémon, but you can use upgrades to increase your storage to a max of 1000)

**Sighting box:** Tap on the grey box in the bottom right corner of the screen to see nearby Pokémon.
**Items**

**Pokéballs:** Use these to capture Pokémon. More advanced versions—Great Balls and Ultra Balls—become available as your level increases.

**Razz Berries:** Use Razz Berries to make Pokémon easier to catch.

**Incense:** Use an Incense to increase the number of wild Pokémon you find for a minimum of 30 minutes.

**Lure Module:** Similar to Incense, Lure Modules increase the encounter rate for Pokémon for 30 minutes. However, they’re used at PokéStops, and they affect all players in the area—not just you! You can spot active Lure Modules on the map by the falling pink petals around PokéStops.

**Potions:** Potions restore hit points (HP) to wounded Pokémon. More advanced versions—Super Potions and Hyper Potions—become available as your level increases.

**Revive:** Use a Revive to bring a Pokémon that “fainted” in a Gym Battle back to life with half its max HP. A Super Revive restores full HP.

**Pokémon Eggs:** Obtained from Pokéstops, these will “hatch” into random, full-grown Pokémon based on how far you walk.

**Egg Incubator:** Use these to hatch Pokémon Eggs. You get an unlimited-use one at level five, and you can also buy incubators that “break” after three uses.

**Lucky Eggs:** Unlike Pokémon Eggs, these don’t hatch. Use them to double your XP gain for half an hour.

**PokéCoins:** Bought with real money and used to purchase in-game items. You can also earn it by taking down Gyms in-game.

**Candy:** Dropped by Pokémon you capture, it’s used to evolve your Pokémon and make them stronger. Candy is unique for each species of Pokémon. You can also “transfer” (i.e. get rid of) Pokémon that you don’t want in exchange for one candy.

**Stardust:** Used to level up your Pokémon and make them stronger.

**Tips n’ Tricks**

**Leveling up:** One of the fastest ways to level up is to use a Lucky Egg (which doubles all experience points earned for 30 minutes), then evolve as many Pokémon as you can, for 1,000 XP each. You get a free Lucky Egg at levels 9 and 14.

**Stayin’ Alive:** Pokémon Go can be a huge battery drainer! Turning off the AR function will help you conserve battery life, and picking up an external battery pack will let you charge your phone while you catch ’em all.

**The perfect Eevee:** There’s a secret way to evolve your Eevee Pokémon into the evolution you want—whether that’s Flareon, Vaporeon, or Jolteon. In the Pokémon TV series, Pyro, Sparky, and Rainer are known as the Eevee Brothers, and they each had their own unique evolution of Eevee. To get the Eevee evolution you desire, you just need to rename your Eevee to the name of the Eevee brother that corresponds to the evolved form you want.

Rainer = Vaporeon
Sparky = Jolteon
Pyro = Flareon

That’s all for this guide! Good luck trainers!
61G, the name of the month-old lava flow named by Volcanoes National Park, has been expanding the Big Island bit by bit; it’s been spilling into the ocean since late July. Currently, the flow is “Two thirds of a mile wide and 6.7 miles long starting at Pu’u ‘Ō’ō,” said a park ranger monitoring the flow on August 27.

If you’re interested in visiting the lava, you’re in luck. Located in Volcanoes National Park, 61G crossed the emergency road in Kalapana the day before it entered the ocean - thus, the walk, though 4.2 miles one way, is all gravel. If you lived here three years ago, you’ll remember that viewing the last flow meant hiking across old lava fields. While you can actually get to 61G by either Volcano side or Kalapana, “The view from Kalapana is better,” said the ranger, who declined to be identified for this story.

Visitors must also take into account the possible dangers of choosing one side over another. “When the lava hits the ocean, it turns into hydrochloric acid and tiny shards of glass... can get into your lungs and be very harmful,” the ranger said. “The tropical tradewinds blow this smoke toward the volcano side. We trust that people can make their own informed decisions [when choosing where begin their hike].”

Weather isn’t the only thing that fluctuates on a daily basis. “The lava itself changes dramatically, sometimes even within a few hours: One month ago, the surface flows of 61G were closer to the emergency road, so visitors did not have to walk very far on the freshly cooled lava to view the sight up close.

A couple weeks ago, however, the surface flows were much further up the mountain and only steam leaked out from the crevices that lined 61G; it then dropped down to a shelf of active lava, not safe for viewing any closer. “I spend a lot of time telling people to stay back from the lava,” the ranger said. Regarding the lava’s development, “As lava flows become more mature, the tube becomes more developed and there isn’t as much surface flow. Deflation of the pu’u also means less surface flows.”

Lack of surface flow doesn’t make walking on the newly cooled lava any less dangerous. “When I see people walk out [on the lava] in their slippers, I’m like ‘Oh no!’” said Trevor Keliihoomalu, a guide for Kalapana Cultural Tours. “Even though the lava has cooled now, the surface can still be hot and can melt slippers. During the last flow three years ago, a few people lost their lives but so far people right now are careful.”

As for any common incidents, “Sometimes we get kids who ride with our bike tours and get little scrapes on their hands or feet. But we treat them right away with our own first aid kits,” Keliihoomalu said. “There was also a lady who didn’t bring enough water and fainted on her way back.” Keliihoomalu said, “An ambulance had to come and grab her. It was crazy. Then there was a time where a guy on a bike with no flashlight ran into a lady with no flashlight and they were both rushed to the hospital. It was pretty bad.”

When asked how to prepare for hiking to the lava, Keliihoomalu said “Flashlights are important if you’re hiking at night, and phone lights don’t count. You can also wear glow sticks. We don’t have them for the tours yet, but it’s a good idea. Bring water, adequate footwear - not slippers! - long pants and a first aid kit.”

Also, there are things you shouldn’t bring, depending on what your reasons for hiking. Visitors to the lava are often seen with long sticks, but Tiana Bunn, the office manager for Kalapana Cultural Tours, says “You shouldn’t poke the lava. Because the lava is Pele, the sacred goddess. Be careful, cautious, and respect the lava from a safe distance. Pictures and videos are fine. Just stay behind the ropes.”

Keliihoomalu said “Lava is like the body form of Pele. So poking the lava is like poking the [Hawaiian] goddess Pele with a stick and the same goes for throwing rocks and leaving rubbish. Roasting marshmallows and any food at all is disrespectful.”

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