

# News Release



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## KĪLAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CHANGES DAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN 2014

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will reduce the days Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge is open to the public, from seven to five days-a-week. The refuge will be closed each Sunday and Monday throughout the year starting February 2-3, 2014. Visitors will be able to visit the refuge Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., except most major holidays.

Due to flat and declining budgets, the refuge cannot maintain the staff necessary to support a seven days a week visitor program and conduct conservation work necessary for the wildlife that depends on the refuge. After a trial period of one year, the visitation days will be reassessed to see if it is possible to reopen on a six or seven day a week schedule.

“There are many facets to operating a visitor services program at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Our staff is dedicated to managing the wildlife, cultural, historical, and other natural resources while providing a safe, high-quality opportunity for visitors. We can better serve both wildlife and visitors by moving to a reduced schedule,” said Refuge Manager Shannon Stutzer-Smith.

The refuge was established to preserve and enhance seabird nesting colonies and is home to some of the largest populations of nesting seabirds in the main Hawaiian Islands. Visitors also have a chance to view spinner dolphins, Hawaiian monk seals, native Hawaiian coastal plants and Hawaii’s state bird - the endangered nēnē or Hawaiian goose. The refuge is also home to the historic Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse which sits on the northernmost point of Kaua‘i allowing visitors to view a piece of history as well as the many birds congregating around the cliffs.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfws](http://www.twitter.com/usfws), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws>*

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