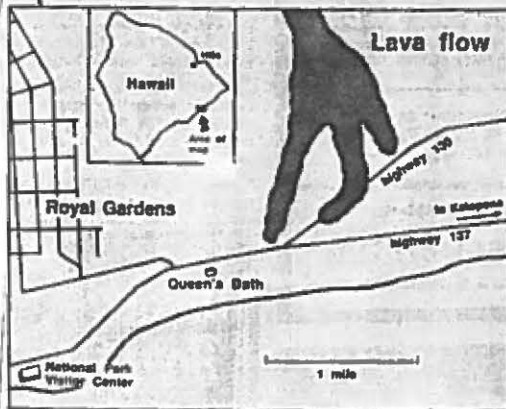




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Traffic stopper: U.S. Geological Survey workers Dan Johnson (left), George Ulrich (right), and Frank Trusdell yesterday examine the scene where Kilauea Volcano lava flowed across the Kalapana Highway.

Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato



9 Puna homes reported destroyed by lava flow

By Hugh Clark
Advertiser Big Island Bureau

KALAPANA, Hawaii — Thanksgiving 1988 left a mixed blessing on the Puna coast yesterday as more homes went up in flames from a lava flow spawned by Kilauea Volcano. No injuries or deaths were reported.

By nightfall, various reports indicated that nine residences had been destroyed,

on the inside:

• The Thomas A. Jaggar Museum at the Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park will give a visitors a chance to "read" the volcanoes. Page A-12.

ed by the spreading lava. Two buildings were burned to the ground. Any number of other homes remained

endangered, with estimates ranging from four to as high as 17.

The Kilauea Volcano eruption ended its 19th week of phase 48 in a flurry of damage as three distinctive lobes, or flow fronts, emerged during the course of the day. The molten rock continued to pour from an underground tube system above

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Lava overruns nine homes

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the Kalapana coast.

Will Tangawa of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said there were three flow fronts as darkness fell last night. One, traveling mostly due south, threatened Queen's Bath, a freshwater pool makai of the highway. It was closest to the ocean, about 690 feet away. Another was moving southwest down the roadway. A third, to the Hilo side of the other flow, was headed south toward the highway.

Police continued to maintain roadblocks on either side of the activity.

National Park officials at the Volcano headquarters said traffic was normal for a holiday. "It's too far for most people," said a ranger.

The seven-mile stream of lava began overrunning buildings and homes Wednesday after a pre-invasion of the Kalapana Highway that had been crisscrossed several times by the cooling rock.

"This is a real surprise. I can't believe what I see on

the map," said a scientist at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

Precise information continued to be difficult to obtain. Telephone service into the lower Puna area was cut off by the flow. Officials were stranded on one side or other of the main flow that severed the Kalapana highway about 3 miles east of Wa-ha'ulu Visitors Center on Wednesday morning.

Police and fire officials continued to refuse any comment on damage in the area, referring inquiries to the Civil Defense Agency. Administrator Harry Kim was out of contact yesterday and his office in Hilo was closed because of the holiday.

National Park rangers reported the most active part of the flow was on the southwestern or Ka'u side with material moving for a distance of about 800 yards along the damaged state roadway that was opened in 1979.

An estimated 60 persons were left homeless. No evacuation center had been set up as of last night; most

of those evacuated moved in with family or friends. Many are of Hawaiian descent and have extended family members living elsewhere on the Puna coast.

One of the destroyed homes belonged to Auntie Emma Kauh, mother of actor and entertainer Gilbert Kauh, who performed in the television show "Hawaii Five-O."

Her son, known now as "Zoulo," was consoling Auntie Emma yesterday after her home was destroyed late Wednesday night.

There was no official estimate of the value of the loss from the two days of destruction. Informal estimates have put the damage at more than \$1 million.

The battle was Wednesday between Big Island firefighters and the flow near the Louis Pao home continued to be a probable win for the firefighters yesterday. The flow approaching the house was held in check by fire department water hoses.

The Pao house was the first threatened by the flow. *Advertiser* staffer Key Lynch contributed to this report.