2013 Volcano Awareness Month
Talks in Ka‘ū, South Kona, and Puna

For more information about these talks, email askHVO@usgs.gov or call (808) 967-8844.

Monday, January 21

*Ka‘ū location to be determined ▪ 6:30 p.m.

Mauna Loa: How Well Do You Know the Volcano in Your Backyard?

Mauna Loa, the largest volcano on Earth, comprises more than half of the surface area of Hawai‘i Island. Mapping and dating show that 95% of this active volcano is covered with lava flows less than 10,000 years old. Since 1843, it has erupted 33 times. When Mauna Loa erupts, fast-moving and voluminous lava flows can reach the sea in hours, severing roads and utilities, repaving the flanks and building new land. The growth of Mauna Loa is far from complete as this huge volcano will undoubtedly erupt again. Join USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory volcanologist **Frank Trusdell** as he talks about Mauna Loa’s eruptive history and current status.

Wednesday, January 23

*South Kona location to be determined ▪ 6:30 p.m.

Kīlauea’s Volcanic Gases and Their Environmental Impact

As magma rises from the Earth’s mantle to the surface, the expansion of volcanic gases drives the spectacular lava fountains and flows erupted by Hawaiian volcanoes. But, in addition to lava flows, Kīlauea’s current eruption also releases large amounts of volcanic gases. **Jeff Sutton and Tamar Elias**, USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geochemists, will offer an update about these gases, especially those related to the 2008-2012 activity at Halema‘uma‘u Crater, and will talk about volcanic pollution (vog)—how it forms and what we’ve learned about its effects on our island environment.

Wednesday, January 30

*Puna location to be determined ▪ 6:30 p.m.

Kīlauea's East Rift Zone: Its Resources and Hazards

Kīlauea's East Rift Zone, the most active of the volcano's two rift zones, currently hosts a 30-year-old continuous eruption. This rift zone extends through the southern half of the Puna District and poses a significant eruption hazard that must be balanced with its attractive hydrothermal resources. HVO scientist **Jim Kauahikaua** will summarize what is known about Kīlauea's East Rift Zone—its volcanic history, structure, and hydrothermal system.

*** Exact locations for the talks are pending, and will be posted as soon as they are confirmed. Dates, times, topics, and speakers are confirmed.**