

## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## **News Release**

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

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## DLNR CLOSES SELECTED CAMPING AREAS AT KALALAU BEACH AS A PRECAUTION FOR POTENTIAL ROCKFALLS

LIHU'E -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will close a portion of the Kalalau campground in the Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park starting today, April 1, 2008, to protect park users, visitors, hikers and campers from potential rockfall hazards in this area.

The campground remains open, but for the safety of the park users, a portion will be closed indefinitely. Campers will be accommodated in the rest of the campground.

Rockfall warning and area closed signs have been posted in the Kalalau trail segment between the self-composting toilet facility and Kolea Falls. The closure will affect 16 campsites along the trail and areas mauka (to the mountain side) of the trail.

The DLNR will keep the toilet facility open by identifying an alternate access route. In addition, camping areas will be identified to accommodate park users for the upcoming spring and summer recreation period. During the summer season, May 15 through Labor Day weekend (first Monday in September), 60 campers are allowed to camp per day. During other times of the year, only 30 campers per day are allowed.

"Kalalau Beach offers unique recreational opportunities and environmental resources that are enjoyed by numerous visitors and residents. We are taking these actions to ensure the safety of park users now and in the future." said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson. The camping area closure is based upon an evaluation done by geotechnical consulting firm Earth Tech of high hazard rockfall areas that could affect the camping area near the waterfall. DLNR is planning to conduct a detailed rockfall assessment to guide relocation of facilities (such as the composting toilets and additional campground areas) and design of mitigation measures, which could include future rock scaling of critical areas, installation of Land Board-approved natural hazard rockfall warning signage and area closures.

DLNR will provide updates to the public on the status of these steps.

For more information on Kalalau Beach camping permits call the Division of State Parks Kaua'i district office at (808) 274-3444.

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For more information news media may contact: Deborah Ward DLNR Public information specialist Phone: (808) 587-0320