



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

For Immediate Release: August 1, 2008

08-67

STATE ANNOUNCES NEW VOG HELP LINE

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) announces the introduction of the new Hawai'i Volcano Helpline where the public can obtain up-to-date information on vog and volcanic emissions. The public is encouraged to call the Helpline at the toll-free number **(866) 767-5044**.

The help line is staffed by trained professionals who will answer questions from Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The call center staff consists of health information providers who have been trained in public health emergency service information. In addition, recorded messages (updated daily at 7 a.m.) are accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day including holidays.

The Hawai'i Volcano Helpline offers an automated system with updated recorded messages on daily sulfur dioxide and particulate levels on the Island of Hawai'i. The system provides an additional and alternate source of information for people seeking current conditions due to recent increased volcanic emissions from Kilauea volcano.

"The Volcano Helpline was established to provide immediate information for residents and visitors to Hawai'i," said Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health. "With the recent increased emissions from Halema'uma'u Crater and Pu'u O'o vent, getting accurate and real time information to the residents and visitors in Hawai'i is a priority."

(more)

The DOH continues to work closely with county, state and federal agencies in dealing with this emerging and ever-changing public health issue. The Volcano Helpline is sponsored by the Department of Health and operated by the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center.

Additional information on vog can be found at <http://hawaii.gov/gov/vog>.

###

For more information, contact:

Janice Okubo
Communications Office
Phone: (808) 586-4442

Barbara Brooks, PhD
Hazard Evaluation & Emergency Response Office
Phone: (808) 586-4249