



May 17, 2018

I'm sure you have been hearing about our Hawai'i Island on the local and national news with the coverage on the volcanic and seismic activity occurring with our beloved Kilauea volcano. The volcanic activity has not affected the operations of our College or the safety of our students, faculty and staff. Our 2018 Spring Semester final exams and graduation events were completed without any hindrance. The upcoming summer months on campus are relatively quiet and we will continue to fully function as expected.

If you are not familiar with the geography of Hawai'i Island or with the history of Kilauea volcano, one naturally might be concerned. Kilauea volcano's current eruption has actually been ongoing for over 30 years since 1983. What you have been seeing in national news is the current eruption outbreak that unfortunately occurred in a remote residential area located directly on Kilauea volcano. Our charming town of Hilo is not in a Kilauea volcano lava zone and is located on the east side of the island 23 miles away from the eruption activity which is occurring on the more southeastern side. There is no imminent possibility of the lava reaching our campus. There has been some seismic activity, however, being an island, this type of activity is fairly routine and expected. Our facilities and buildings were constructed with this in mind and have not experienced any structural damage. Wind flow in Hawaii, known as trade winds, typically flows from a northerly to easterly direction. In other words, rest assured that although the wind direction could possibly bring light volcanic smog (vog) into our area, we are in no danger of any strong toxic fumes that are emanating from the eruption site.

We will also be posting updates on our website and on our Facebook page as they may be needed. Please be sure to visit those sites for the latest updates on how the eruption may be affecting our college.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to call our Student Services Office at (808) 932-7140 for an update. The safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority and we will keep everyone informed should there be any changes to this status.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
Dean