HVO updates Kīlauea Volcano’s webcam network

HVO has updated its Kīlauea webcam network, adding new cameras and decommissioning old ones that are no longer useful for monitoring purposes. The current webcams are listed on the Kīlauea webcam page. Each camera provides static webcam images, as well as a timelapse loop of the past 24 hours.

To track the growing water lake at the summit of Kīlauea, HVO set up a temporary webcam, K3cam, several months ago. Last week, in cooperation with Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, K3cam was replaced with two permanent cameras on the west rim of the caldera—KWcam and F1cam. In addition to tracking the lake, these two cameras “see” most of the Halema‘uma‘u crater and down-dropped caldera floor that collapsed in 2018.

The new KWcam is a wide-angle visual camera that replaces the former KWcam, which is now called KW2cam. F1cam is co-located with the new KWcam to provide accompanying thermal imagery.

KW2cam, located in the observation tower of HVO’s former building on Kīlauea’s caldera rim, will continue to provide live images until it is decommissioned.

The K3cam was relocated 500 m (547 yds) farther south on Kīlauea caldera’s west rim to provide a better view of the crater lake within Halema‘uma‘u.

A team of USGS geologists, field engineers, and information technologists maintains HVO’s summit and East Rift Zone webcam networks, which include fixed-view, thermal, and time-lapse cameras to monitor and observe changes on Hawaiian volcanoes. Some webcams are permanent installations, whereas others are deployed temporarily for research or response purposes. For example, a temporary webcam deployed to monitor fissure 8 shortly after the 2018 lower East Rift Zone eruption ended was recently decommissioned due to lack of volcanic activity.

HVO will continue to adjust its webcam networks as needed to provide maximum benefit to monitoring Hawaiian volcanoes. We hope you continue to enjoy “looking over our shoulders” through the webcam images posted on our website.