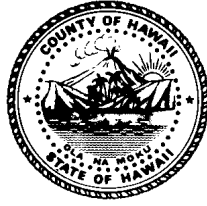


Harry Kim
Mayor



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Managing Director

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Deputy Managing Director

COUNTY OF HAWAII

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2008

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www.co.hawaii.hi.us Click on Public Works

Old Laupāhoehoe Road prohibits vehicle and pedestrian use

The County of Hawai'i is erecting barricades to prohibit use of the Old Laupāhoehoe Road, which has been deemed unsafe even for pedestrians.

A study by GeoLabs revealed active landslides with degrees of hazards ranging from dangerous to extremely dangerous. The County is installing barricades to discourage pedestrian use of the "unofficial" scenic trail.

The road has been closed to vehicle traffic for more than 20 years and has been unofficially used by pedestrians in recent years. The October 2006 earthquakes caused extensive landslides covering major portions of the one-mile stretch.

At the April 25 Laupāhoehoe community meeting, residents stressed the importance for an emergency exit. The County is considering safety improvements to the Laupāhoehoe Point Road. This road, which is a little over a mile, starts from the Old Māmalahoa Highway and ends at the Laupāhoehoe Point at the ocean. The estimated pre-construction cost is \$350,000; \$100,000 to study any potential hazards and \$250,000 to identify historical sites.

The final report is online at www.co.hawaii.hi.us on the "Projects Update" page.