

February 19, 2026 Message from the Board of Directors

Annual Meeting: March 28, 2026 9:30 AM

Our next annual meeting is scheduled on March 28 at the Volcano Art Center, Nialani Campus in Volcano Village. This year's new board nominees will be there along with the current members of the Board of Directors, three of whom will be ending their terms: Steven Brantley, Jody Fergestrom, and Rose Acevedo.

You can read brief bios of the nominees and read the 2025 Annual Meeting notes on the MLERMI website (<https://mlermi96785.wixsite.com/mlermi/annual-meeting>). Also on the same webpage is the 2026 Treasurer's Report for 2025 and account ledger.

Invoices for the 2026 road fee will be mailed or emailed February 23-25

The board decided to keep the 2026 road fee the same as last year: \$138. For those lot owners who paid their 2025 road fee electronically the invoice will be sent via email. For lot owners that have not requested their invoice by email, you may still opt to receive the invoice and pay this year's fee electronically – the mailed newsletter will contain information on how to request invoices by email. We encourage owners to receive invoices electronically because it saves mailing and account processing costs.

The board has decided to lower the amount of outstanding balances of unpaid road fees for applying a lien on properties from \$2,000 to \$1,000. MLERMI's road fee is low and we strive to keep it that way, but it only works if everyone pays their share of the costs to maintain the roads and roadsides. Letters will be sent to lot owners for which MLERMI will apply liens in October 2026.

Upcoming road repairs and work

We are currently in the process of seeking quotes for specific road repairs and paving, painting of the badly-faded white lines at stop signs in the subdivision, and replacing missing center-line reflectors. We are currently looking at repairs on Pearl between Highway 11 and 2nd Street, the lower end of 7th Street, and on 4th Street between Jade and Ruby. An early estimate of paving costs from Loeffler Construction, Inc. suggests paving costs will be in excess of \$70 per ft compared to just over \$50 per ft in 2025.



Pearl Avenue center line near 1st St 7th St below Jade Avenue

Cleanup of Tephra Fallout from Kīlauea's Episode 41

The tephra fallout from Episode 41 on January 24 in the Volcano area, including Mauna Loa Estates (MLE), left lot owners and the MLERMI board with significant cleanup challenges. There was no backup plan in place for the board to call upon for what to do to for removing rock debris from the subdivision's roads. The board received a few calls from lot owners to at least clear the new speed tables of tephra, which was done a couple days after the fallout. We note that many lot owners used leaf blowers or water to clear roads in front of and adjacent to their lots immediately after the eruption ended.

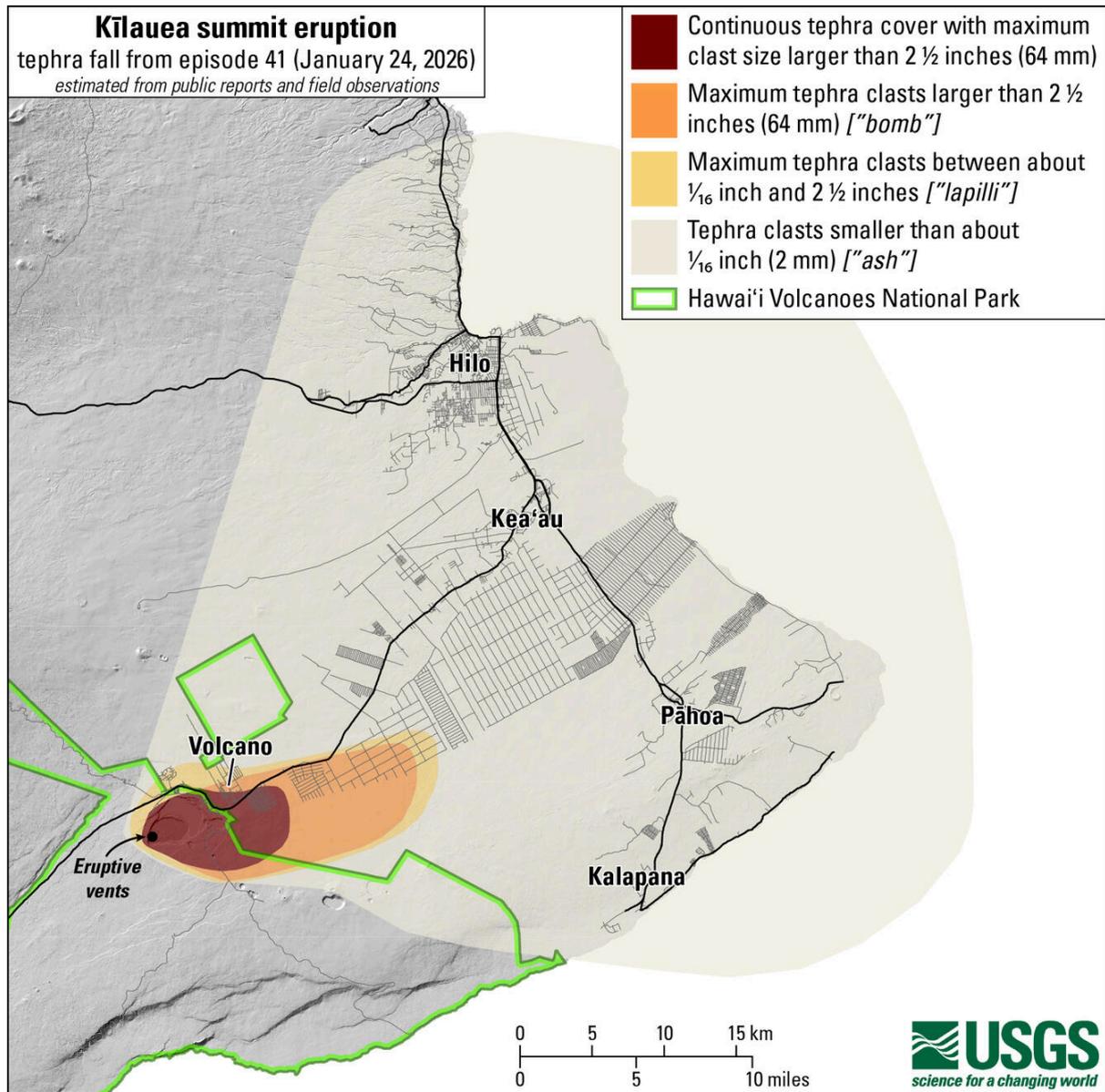
Fortunately, Hawaii County began cleaning Highway 11 the day after the event and then cleaned most of the roads in MLE within a few days. The board called the Hawaii County Department of Public Works after their cleanup operation and was told that the decision to clean our roads with water was made by Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency and the Department of Public Works.



Hawaii County's Civil Defense Agency and Department of Public Works are responsible for washing the Episode 41 tephra from roads in Mauna Loa Estates subdivision because of health concerns of the fine airborne tephra fragments.

From the U.S. Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory website:

(<https://www.usgs.gov/maps/january-29-2026-summary-map-tephra-fall-after-episode-41-lava-fountaining-summit-kilauea>)



This map shows the tephra fall associated with episode 41 of Kīlauea's episodic summit eruption, on January 24, 2026. Tephra is a generic word for any material erupted by a volcano that travels through the air before landing on the ground. Most tephra fall from past lava fountaining episodes has landed in the closed area of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, southwest of the eruptive vents, with several instances of tephra fall documented at communities in the District of Ka'ū. During episode 41 on January 24, lava fountains from the north and south vents in Halema'uma'u at the summit of Kīlauea reached up at least 450 m (1475 feet). Weak surface winds in combination with stronger upper-level winds blowing to the east and

north resulted in widespread tephra fall in communities to the northeast and east within the Districts of Ka'ū, Puna, and South Hilo.