

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY

HAWAII NATIONAL PARK  
P. O., HAWAII

Feb. 25, 1950

VIA	
TO	14 / J
COPY	

Mr. Grote Reber.  
In Charge  
Radio Astronomy, Upper Air Research Section  
Central Radio Propagation Laboratory,  
National Bureau of Standards  
Washington 25 D C

Dear Mr. Reber:

Your letter of Feb, 3, 1950 concerning activity at Mauna Kea and Haleakala was received yesterday.

Mauna Kea, whose elevation is 13,784 feet has not been active for several thousand years, in fact the last activity probably occurred shortly after the disappearance of the glacier that once topped its summit. The glacier may have disappeared 10 or 12 thousand years ago. A few earthquakes still originate under Mauna Kea but they are for the most part only slight.

Haleakala, elevation 10,000 feet had a lava flow about 250 years ago but no activity at the surface since that time. Small earthquakes are not uncommon at Haleakala and one that did some damage occurred in 1938.

The history of Mauna Loa eruption you have. Earthquakes of slight or moderate intensity with origins under Mauna Loa (13,680 feet) and Kilauea are of frequent occurrence but the only one in recent years that caused widespread damage occurred in 1868.

There is a road to the summit of Haleakala. One is being built to the summit of Mauna Loa. A road on Mauna Kea reaches an elevation of 9,300 feet. There are several small houses near the road terminus. A cinder cone near the terminus overlooks the sea in one direction only.

There is less cloudiness around the summit of Mauna Loa than at Haleakala or Mauna Kea but its summit is so broad that one can not see the ocean there except on one side. The summits of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea are subject to blizzards. Snow falls on Haleakala but usually lasts for but a few days.

I wish that I could make Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea look more attractive. If above is not complete enough for you please say so. In the library of the U S Geological Survey, Washington there are bulletins on the Geology and Water Resources of Maui (No 7) and Hawaii (No 9) that tells much of these islands and contain good maps.

Sincerely

*R.H. Finch*

R H Finch, Volcanologist

FEB 28 1950

MAR 1 1950