



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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#### **WILDFIRE ON MAUNA KEA REMAINS AT 70 PERCENT CONTAINED**

HILO – After a week, state, county and federal fire fighting teams have made good progress in fighting the Mauna Kea fire along Saddle Road. Fire weather conditions also improved with less smoke and improved visibility.

The fire has burned since August 22 in the Pohakuloa Training Area, the Mauna Kea forest reserve -- and the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area, which is still closed until further notice.

Burn area acreage has remained at 1,387 acres and 70 percent contained. Today 90 firefighters were on scene along with nine fire engines and two helicopters to continue water drops and “mop up” of burned areas by extinguishing or removing burning material along or near the control line.

Due to high elevation and steep slopes to the north, crews on foot in rough terrain worked with a technique known as “cold trailing, which is a method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot, and trenching any live edge. This technique is different from establishing a fire “line” which is a linear fire barrier that is scraped or dug to mineral soil.

DLNR fire crews from other islands will demobilize from the island tomorrow. DLNR Hawaii island fire crews along with Pohakuloa Training Area crews will remain until the fire is declared contained, with Hawaii County Fire Department available for response.

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