HAWAII OBSIDIAN SOURCES

Located on the Big Island, Pu'uwa'awa'a - the prominent cinder cone left of center in the image above - is Hawaii's only source of obsidian.

PU'U WA'AWA'A

ALTERNATE NAMES: Puuwaawaa, Puu Waawaa.

LOCATION - COUNTY: Hawaii (Big Island).

ACCESS: The gated access to the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve trailhead (bear left at the first Y in the road) is open from 6AM to 6PM daily. The gate is locked at 6PM. See *www.puuwaawaa.org* for details.

GEOLOGIC BACKGROUND/SETTING: Pu'u Wa'awa'a, located on the north slope of Hualalai Volcano, is a 1.6 km diameter cone composed of trachyte pumice and obsidian. The cone consists of crudely bedded layers of pumice and obsidian blocks. A lava flow issued from a breach in the southeast side of the horseshoe-shaped cone and flowed about 9.7 km towards the north and northeast. The flow forms a prominent ridge (up to 275 m high) downslope from the cone and is overlain in places by later basalt flows from Hualalai and Mauna Loa volcanoes. Cross (1904), in the first detailed description of the source area, suggested that additional sources of obsidian might also be located elsewhere on the Island of Hawaii. Nearly a century later, however, it appears that the Pu'u Wa'awa'a source is the lone example.

The geology and chemical compositon of the Pu'u Wa'awa'a cone and flows has been discussed by Clague (1987), Clague and Hazlett (1989), Clague and Bohrson (1991), Cross (1904), Leach and Warren (1981), Olson (1983), Macdonald et al. (1972), Powers (1920), Stearns (1985), Stearns and Macdonald (1946), Stevenson and Mills (2013), and Washington (1923).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The archaeological significance of the source is most recently discussed by McCoy et al. (2011).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: --.

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