

# A sinuous tumulus over an active lava tube at Kīlauea Volcano: evolution, analogs, and hazard forecasts

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## Abstract

Inflation of narrow tube-fed basaltic lava flows (tens of meters across), such as those confined by topography, can be focused predominantly along the roof of a lava tube. This can lead to the development of an unusually long tumulus, its shape matching the sinuosity of the underlying lava tube. Such a situation occurred during Kīlauea Volcano's (Hawai'i, USA) ongoing East Rift Zone eruption on a lava tube active from July through November 2010. Short-lived breakouts from the tube buried the flanks of the sinuous, ridge-like tumulus, while the tumulus crest, its surface composed of lava formed very early in the flow's emplacement history, remained poised above the surrounding younger flows. At least several of these breakouts resulted in irrecoverable uplift of the tube roof. Confined sections of the prehistoric Carrizozo and McCartys flows (New Mexico, USA) display similar sinuous, ridge-like features with comparable surface age relationships. We contend that these distinct features formed in a fashion equivalent to that of the sinuous tumulus that formed at Kīlauea in 2010. Moreover, these sinuous tumuli may be analogs for some sinuous ridges evident in orbital images of the Tharsis volcanic province on Mars. The short-lived breakouts from the sinuous tumulus at Kīlauea were caused by surges in discharge through the lava tube, in response to cycles of deflation and inflation (DI events) at Kīlauea's summit. The correlation between DI events and subsequent breakouts aided in lava flow forecasting. Breakouts from the sinuous tumulus advanced repeatedly toward the sparsely populated Kalapana Gardens subdivision, destroying two homes and threatening others. Hazard assessments, including flow occurrence and advance forecasts, were relayed regularly to the Hawai'i County Civil Defense to aid their lava flow hazard mitigation efforts while this lava tube was active.

37 **Keywords**

38 Hawaii; New Mexico; Mars; Kilauea; flow inflation; lava tube; volcanic hazards

39 **1. Introduction**

40 Pāhoehoe flow fields emplaced on low-slopes ( $< \sim 2^\circ$ ) commonly thicken endogenously via flow  
41 inflation (Nichols, 1939; Wentworth and Macdonald, 1953; Walker, 1991; Chitwood, 1994; Peterson et  
42 al., 1994; Hon et al., 1994; Cashman and Kauahikaua, 1997; Kauahikaua et al., 1998; Self et al., 1998;  
43 Anderson et al., 1999; Anderson et al., 2005; Walker, 2009; Anderson et al., 2012; Hoblitt et al., 2012)  
44 and are usually broad because flow advancement is generally accompanied by considerable flow  
45 widening. As inflation progresses, the upper surface of the flow lifts, and the separation between  
46 individual flow lobes vanishes, forming a molten core of interconnected pathways within the flow (Hon et  
47 al., 1994; Kauahikaua et al., 1998; Self et al., 1998; Anderson et al., 1999; Schaefer and Kattenhorn,  
48 2004; Anderson et al., 2005; Anderson et al., 2012; Hoblitt et al., 2012). Inflation broadly affects the  
49 entire flow because of this hydraulic connection. The result is a flat to hummocky flow surface bounded  
50 by steep, rifted margins.

51 Hummocky flow surfaces are characterized by the presence of tumuli—low, dome-like mounds,  
52 commonly 1–5 m high, but occasionally exceeding 10 m in height (e.g., Wentworth and Macdonald,  
53 1953; Walker, 1991; Chitwood, 1994). Most tumuli are crudely circular to elliptical in map view with  
54 deep axial cracks (e.g., Walker, 1991) and form in response to magmatic overpressure within the flow as  
55 the flow’s crust thickens (Walker, 1991; Hon et al., 1994; Peterson et al., 1994; Anderson et al., 1999;  
56 Anderson et al., 2012). Those areas that inflate the most form tumuli, while the lows between tumuli  
57 experience significantly less, or even no, inflation. In practice, all low mounds that define the surface of  
58 hummocky flows, and which formed by inflation, are called tumuli.

59 In some instances, inflation is focused over preferred pathways, such as incipient tubes, within a  
60 flow to form a discontinuous series of elongate tumuli (Kauahikaua et al., 1998; Glaze et al., 2005). Such  
61 chains of tumuli can also form when pāhoehoe lava on a low-slope surface fails to spread out, for instance  
62 by lateral topographic confinement (Glaze et al., 2005). In this case, the geometry of the flow alone  
63 focuses inflation within the flow’s narrow width, so that tumuli appear to be aligned. While the formation  
64 of a series of tumuli over a well-established lava tube occurs relatively rarely (Walker, 1991; Anderson et  
65 al., 2012), such occurrences have been documented (Kauahikaua et al., 1998; Duncan et al., 2004). Where  
66 tumuli form over such lava tubes, they tend to be more elongate, sometimes with a sinuosity that matches  
67 that of the underlying lava tube (Keszthelyi and Pieri, 1993; Hon et al., 1994; Cashman and Kauahikaua,  
68 1997; Self et al., 1998).

69 In July 2010, during Kīlauea Volcano’s (Hawai‘i) long-lived East Rift Zone eruption, a new lava  
70 flow reached the gently sloping southeast coast and encroached on homes within the Kalapana Gardens  
71 subdivision (Figs. 1 and 2), near the village of Kalapana. As the flow traveled across the coastal plain, it  
72 was confined by gentle topography that prevented significant spreading. A master lava tube developed  
73 quickly, and the roof of the tube evolved into a ~1-km-long, 10- to 20-m-wide sinuous tumulus (Figs. 3  
74 and 4). The tumulus grew gradually by flow inflation, but its development was punctuated by frequent  
75 breakouts from its flanks that slowly buried the tumulus and caused abrupt, irrecoverable uplift of its top.  
76 These breakouts occurred in response to recurring pressure fluctuations caused by cycles of deflation and  
77 inflation (DI events) at Kīlauea’s summit (Fig. 5; Cervelli and Miklius, 2003; Poland et al., 2011), which  
78 were transmitted through the East Rift Zone to the eruption site and manifested as days-long fluctuations

79 in vent discharge. Inflation in this latter context refers to deformation of the volcanic edifice and is  
80 different from superficial flow inflation.

81 We focus here on the development of the very long, sinuous tumulus described above and discuss  
82 the hazards posed by the breakouts that occurred in response to fluctuations in discharge. The lava tube  
83 breakouts, when they occurred, started about a day after the onset of edifice inflation during the DI  
84 events. This timing provided a means of forecasting breakouts that subsequently threatened Kalapana  
85 Gardens.

86 The appearance of the sinuous tumulus that formed along the tube at Kīlauea during July–  
87 November 2010, and the gradual inundation of the tumulus by its own breakouts, created unusual flow  
88 field morphology. This tumulus may be analogous to similar features preserved within topographically  
89 confined areas of the prehistoric McCarty and Carrizozo flow fields (New Mexico, USA), as well as in  
90 the Tharsis volcanic province of Mars. Understanding how the inflated lava tube formed provides  
91 constraints on emplacement conditions in these other environments.

## 92 **2. Eruption monitoring methods**

### 93 *2.1 Flow field mapping*

94 Lava flow hazard assessments were conducted on almost a daily basis during the study period  
95 because of the proximity of lava flows to Kalapana Gardens. We mapped the margins of the active flows  
96 simply by walking around each flow while recording a track log with a handheld Global Positioning  
97 System (GPS) device. While time-consuming, this gave us a simple way to measure flow progress and to  
98 gauge other flow properties such as vigor, flow inflation, and potential flow paths. The flow's advance  
99 rate was very slow and therefore of little immediate concern. The initial western edge of the flow as it  
100 advanced across the coastal plain was not mapped on the ground due to time constraints, nor was most of  
101 the perimeter of the August 2, 2010, breakout, which is described below. The flow edges in these cases  
102 were approximated from oblique aerial photographs taken during weekly helicopter observation flights.  
103 The mapping was compiled using ESRI<sup>®</sup> ArcGIS software. Updated flow maps, accompanied by a  
104 descriptive hazard assessment, were then transmitted via email to Hawai'i County Civil Defense (HCCD);  
105 the agency charged with disaster preparedness and response on the Island of Hawai'i) on a near-daily  
106 basis. More immediate hazards-related concerns, when present, were transmitted directly to the HCCD  
107 administrator via text message.

### 108 *2.2 Webcams and time-lapse cameras*

109 Webcams and time-lapse cameras have long played a role at Kīlauea and are now among the  
110 standard tools used by many groups, including the United States Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano  
111 Observatory (HVO), to monitor and study eruptive activity (e.g., Thornber, 1997; Poland et al., 2008;  
112 Paskievitch et al., 2010; Orr, 2011). During the activity described here, two webcams provided images  
113 (1296 × 960) of the coastal flow field in real-time. Both were Stardot<sup>®</sup> Netcam SC webcams which  
114 transmitted images via the Verizon<sup>®</sup> cell phone network using an Airlink<sup>®</sup> Raven XE cellular modem.  
115 One camera was positioned on the second-floor patio of a house in Kalapana Gardens roughly 1.6 km  
116 from the sinuous tumulus. It operated almost continuously starting on September 18, 2010, and archived  
117 an image at HVO automatically every 30 minutes. The other webcam was positioned on Pūlama Pali, the  
118 300-m-high slope overlooking the coastal flow field near Kalapana Gardens (Pūlama Pali is the common-  
119 usage name for this prominent slope, for which an official name has not been designated by the United

120 States Board on Geographic Names), roughly 1.1 km from the sinuous tumulus. It began operation on  
121 November 9, 2010, and an image was archived at HVO every 5 minutes. The webcams were programmed  
122 to automatically switch to a near-IR mode in low-light conditions. The images produced by the webcams  
123 were useful in determining the onset times of many of the breakouts, particularly those that occurred at  
124 night when the near-IR mode was functioning.

125 As many as six time-lapse cameras were deployed simultaneously along the crest of the sinuous  
126 tumulus, or adjacent to it, during the study period, specifically to document the evolution of the tumulus  
127 that we describe in this paper. The cameras were of two types—low-cost Wingscapes<sup>®</sup> time-lapse  
128 cameras mounted on inexpensive tripods and more robust (and expensive) systems custom built at HVO  
129 (Orr and Hoblitt, 2008) and mounted on heavy surveying tripods. The built-in light sensor on the  
130 Wingscapes<sup>®</sup> cameras, meant to turn the cameras off at night, was removed to allow continuous  
131 photography. The time-lapse images from both system types provided start times for some breakouts and  
132 offered a unique look at tube-roof uplift in a few instances. Both systems recorded images only on-site,  
133 requiring frequent visits to exchange camera memory cards. The Wingscapes<sup>®</sup> cameras required regular  
134 exchange of internal batteries; the batteries for the HVO-constructed cameras were charged via a small  
135 solar panel. Image sizes varied from 1600 × 1200 to 3264 × 2448, depending on deployment.

### 136 **3. Tumulus geometry measurements**

#### 137 *3.1 Digital Elevation Models*

138 Accurate topographic measurements of the sinuous tumulus, such as by using kinematic GPS,  
139 were not made during the tumulus's development due to insufficient field time. However, a Digital  
140 Elevation Model (DEM) of the distal part of the tumulus was created well after emplacement from  
141 oblique aerial photographs using the Agisoft<sup>®</sup> Photoscan Professional software package. The aerial  
142 photographs were captured from helicopter in July 2014 with a Canon EOS 60D digital SLR camera (18  
143 megapixel image resolution). Photo registration is based on targets (white crosses) visible within the  
144 photographs and located by kinematic GPS (vertical and horizontal accuracy empirically determined to be  
145 ~5 cm). Target heights were transformed from ellipsoidal coordinates to orthometric coordinates using the  
146 National Geodetic Survey GEOID12a model. The horizontal and vertical accuracy of the resulting DEM  
147 is estimated at 10 cm.

148 The pre-eruption surface was taken from a June 2006 Federal Emergency Management Agency  
149 (FEMA) coastal LiDAR survey with a horizontal accuracy of 30 cm and a vertical accuracy of 14 cm.  
150 The LiDAR data were transformed into a DEM using ArcGIS 10.1, which was also used to perform DEM  
151 calculations and differencing between pre- and post-emplacement surfaces.

#### 152 *3.2 Crack and tumulus measurements*

153 The width and depth of the axial (or dominant) crack on or near the crest of the sinuous tumulus  
154 were measured using a metal carpenter's tape at 20 locations along the part of the tumulus still exposed in  
155 2014. The crack width was measured between piercing points; the crack depth that was measured is a  
156 minimum because the metal tab at the end of the tape prevented full insertion into the crack, as did  
157 roughness and rubble at the base of the crack. ArcGIS 10.1 was used to measure the width of the tumulus  
158 at each location from a rectified aerial image mosaic created using Agisoft<sup>®</sup> Photoscan Professional.

## 159 4. Description of eruptive activity

### 160 4.1 Eruptive setting and historical overview

161 Kīlauea's eruptive activity has been dominated since 1983 by effusion from vents within the  
162 volcano's East Rift Zone during a single prolonged eruptive sequence—the Pu'u 'Ō'ō eruption (Fig. 1)  
163 (e.g., Heliker and Mattox, 2003; Orr et al., in press). This activity is fed ultimately by basaltic magma  
164 thought to rise from depths of 60 to 90 km in the mantle (e.g., Eaton and Murata, 1960; Wright, 1984;  
165 Wyllie, 1988; Sen and Jones, 1990) and collects within storage reservoirs ~1–5 km beneath Kīlauea's  
166 summit (e.g., Fiske and Kinoshita, 1969; Ryan, 1987). From the summit, magma is transported ~20 km  
167 through the volcano's East Rift Zone at a depth of ~3 km (e.g., Klein et al, 1987; Montgomery-Brown et  
168 al. 2010; Lundgren et al., 2013) to the eruption site.

169 During its first 3 years, the eruption was dominated by episodes of lava fountaining that built the  
170 Pu'u 'Ō'ō pyroclastic cone (Wolfe et al., 1988; Heliker and Mattox, 2003; Heliker et al., 2003). Since  
171 1986, however, the eruption has been characterized by nearly continuous effusion from a series of vents at  
172 and near Pu'u 'Ō'ō (Mattox et al., 1993; Mangan et al., 1995; Heliker et al., 1998; Kauahikaua et al.,  
173 1996; Heliker and Mattox, 2003; Orr et al., in press). This includes six years of effusion from the  
174 Kupaianaha vent 3 km northeast of Pu'u 'Ō'ō (1986–1992), 15 years of effusion from a succession of  
175 vents on the southwest flank of Pu'u 'Ō'ō (1992–2007), four years of effusion from the “episode 58” vent  
176 between Pu'u 'Ō'ō and Kupaianaha (2007–2011), two years of effusion from a vent on the northeast flank  
177 of Pu'u 'Ō'ō (2011–2013), one year of effusion from a vent within Pu'u 'Ō'ō (2013–2014), and most  
178 recently by effusion from a vent on the northeast flank of Pu'u 'Ō'ō (2014–ongoing). Several other short-  
179 lived (days-long) eruptions, from other nearby vents, also occurred during these periods. This study  
180 focuses on the eruptive activity that occurred from June to November 2010, while the episode 58 vent was  
181 active.

### 182 4.2 June–July 2010 eruptive activity

183 The lava tube transporting lava from the episode 58 vent to the Pacific Ocean ruptured at an  
184 elevation of ~600 m in early June 2010, and the new breakout captured the entire East Rift Zone eruptive  
185 output (Fig. 1). At first, the surface flow advanced slowly across gently sloping (2–3°) terrain near the  
186 breakout point, sequentially constructing six low rootless shields over the developing lava tube.

187 The front of the lava flow reached the upper slope of Pūlama Pali in early July, at the eastern end  
188 of the Hilina fault system that cuts Kīlauea's southeastern flank. Following the eastern margin of older  
189 episode 58 lava flows, the active flow gained speed and began traveling southward down the ~6° slope of  
190 Pūlama Pali. As it neared the base of the slope, the flow split into two branches—a more rapid western  
191 branch and a slower, broader eastern branch (Fig. 2). The western branch reached the base of the slope at  
192 an elevation of ~40 m on July 14. Blocked by older, inflated episode 58 flows to the south, the active flow  
193 turned sharply to the east, seeking the easiest path across the gently sloping (<2°) coastal plain (Fig. 2).

194 Traveling 400–500 m day<sup>-1</sup>, the western branch of the flow advanced in a sheet-like fashion  
195 following the margin of an inflated flow (generally less than 2 m high) emplaced a few months earlier  
196 (Fig. 2a). The northern side of the advancing flow abutted a gentle slope (≤1°) with mostly small-scale  
197 (<1 m-high) flow features. Confined by low topography on both sides, the flow remained narrow (Fig. 2),  
198 rarely exceeding a width of 80 m. In a few places the entire flow was less than 30 m across. The flow  
199 thickness after its initial emplacement was ~1 m but locally may have been as much as 2 m along its axis.  
200 Assuming an average thickness of 1 m and the area of the coastal flow as mapped each day, we calculate

201 a bulk discharge for the advancing lobe of  $\sim 0.6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The average void space fraction for the upper  
202 meter of the flow was measured after emplacement at 40%, which yields a dense rock equivalent (DRE)  
203 discharge that rounds to  $0.4 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This is an order of magnitude less than Kīlauea's long-term East Rift  
204 Zone DRE discharge of  $\sim 4 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (converted from  $\sim 0.13 \text{ km}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; Sutton et al., 2003). Based on field  
205 observations, the discharge of the eastern branch appeared to be comparable to (or slightly less than) that  
206 of the western branch. Together, the eastern and western flow branches constituted the entire output from  
207 the episode 58 vent—the only active vent. This calculation implies that the East Rift Zone eruptive output  
208 at that time was  $\sim 1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , or roughly a quarter of the long-term rate.

209 On July 17, the flow reached a low ( $\sim 6$ -m-high), south-facing embankment, on the southern side  
210 of State Highway 130 (Fig. 2), and spilled down into a shallow graben bounded to the south by the  
211 Hākuma horst. The flow moved slowly eastward, filling the graben and destroying one home while  
212 threatening others in Kalapana Gardens. This same subdivision was inundated previously by lava in 1990  
213 (Mattox et al., 1993), and about 30 houses had since been built—or rebuilt—upon the 1990 lava flows.  
214 On July 25, lava topped the Hākuma horst and flowed into the ocean. The flow's eastward advancement  
215 stopped within a few days, having reached within  $\sim 50$  m of two other homes.

216 We calculate the volume of lava accumulated within the graben between July 17 and July 25 by  
217 subtracting the underlying topography from the new flow surface, assumed to form a level plain with an  
218 elevation of 15 m (the elevation of the Hākuma horst at the point where it was topped). Flows emplaced  
219 outside the bounds of the graben during this period were assumed to have a thickness of 1 m, based on  
220 field observations, and a time span of 192 hours was used (mapping was completed on both days at about  
221 1100 HST). Using these values yields a bulk discharge of  $\sim 0.7 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and a DRE discharge that rounds to  
222  $0.4 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , consistent with our earlier calculation.

223 A relatively well-developed lava tube had formed as early as July 26, establishing a subsurface  
224 connection between the episode 58 vent and the Pacific Ocean (Fig. 1). Part of the tube's path, extending  
225  $\sim 1.5$  km from the buried trace of Highway 130 to the base of Pūlama Pali, was well expressed by a  
226 distinct line of fume easily followed on the ground. The lava tube approximately followed the centerline  
227 of the flow and crudely traced the shape of the older underlying episode 58 flow margin through much of  
228 this zone. Over the following  $\sim 10$  days, lava from the eastern flow branch crossed and buried most of the  
229 lava tube within  $\sim 0.5$  km of the base of the slope.

### 230 *4.3 Sinuous tumulus formation and morphology*

231 By late August 2010, the lava tube roof had begun to arch up in response to flow inflation. This  
232 formed a 1-km-long tumulus with a pronounced sinuosity (Fig. 3). The tumulus was a single continuous  
233 feature, not a series of adjacent or overlapping tumuli. Where the lava flow was very narrow, nearly its  
234 entire width was involved in the inflation, and in a few places one edge of the tumulus coincided with the  
235 edge of the flow. In one location, buried early in the study period, patches of the older flow  $\sim 20$  m apart  
236 bounded both sides of the tumulus, showing that the entire width of the flow at that location had evolved  
237 into the tumulus.

238 The tumulus was covered by a network of cracks (the most pronounced sub-parallel to the trend  
239 of the tumulus) that appeared to have largely evolved from early-formed cooling joints (Figs. 3 and 4;  
240 Peck and Minakami, 1968; Hon et al., 1994; Rossi and Gudmundsson, 1996; Schaefer and Kattenhorn,  
241 2004). As a result, the axial crack was not simply a single linear feature, but instead jogged sharply along  
242 its trend, especially where it adjusted to bends in the tumulus (Fig. 4a), and in some places was divided  
243 into sub-parallel en echelon segments (Fig. 4b). Where narrow, the tumulus was topped by a relatively

244 well-developed axial crack (Figs. 3 and 4a) that exposed textures indicative of inflation (Hon et al., 1994;  
 245 Anderson et al., 1999). The axial crack widened and deepened as inflation progressed and the tumulus  
 246 evolved, and was up to ~0.7 m wide and ~2.9 m deep after activity ceased (Table 1). In places where the  
 247 tumulus was broad, the axial crack was much narrower or even non-existent, with flexure of the tumulus  
 248 apparently accommodated by a few sub-parallel cracks (Fig. 4b).

249 The flanks of the tumulus expressed no significant inflation rifts as is seen on the sides of inflated  
 250 sheet flows (Hon et al., 1994; Hoblitt et al., 2012). However, long cracks with minor vertical offset  
 251 formed along the lower flanks of the tumulus in response to local breakouts. There was also no apparent  
 252 vertical asymmetry in the growth history of the two flanks of the tumulus anywhere along its length  
 253 (Anderson et al., 2012), nor did the axial crack contain lava squeeze-ups, as is often seen on other tumuli  
 254 (Walker, 1991; Duraiswami et al., 2001; Anderson et al., 2012). The upslope end of the sinuous tumulus  
 255 was buried early on by other flows, and the tumulus there emerged from beneath this younger cover,  
 256 indicating that it extended farther upslope. Indeed, short sections of the tumulus farther upslope were  
 257 visible through holes within this younger cover up to the base of Pūlama Pali. The terminus of the  
 258 tumulus, roughly coincident with the buried trace of Highway 130, sloped down and merged with the  
 259 surrounding flow surface in a fashion typical for tumuli (Walker, 1991; Rossi and Gudmundsson, 1996).

260 The tumulus stood up to ~4 m above the surrounding lava surface. This was, however, an  
 261 apparent height because the flanks of the tumulus were partly inundated by breakouts from the tumulus  
 262 itself (described below). Differencing of the pre- and post-emplacement surfaces show that the sinuous  
 263 tumulus had a maximum height of nearly 8 m (Table 1).

264  
 265 Table 1. Table showing width and depth of dominant crack on or near crest of sinuous tumulus, width of  
 266 exposed tumulus, tumulus height determined by differencing pre- and post-emplacement DEMs, and  
 267 tumulus aspect (height/width) ratio at 20 locations spaced sub-equally along tumulus shown in Figure 4.  
 268 Tumulus widths measured from rectified photo in direction approximately perpendicular to tube direction;  
 269 crack width measured between piercing points; crack depth limited by depth to which metal carpenter's  
 270 tape could be inserted.

Station	Crack width (m)	Crack depth (m)	Tumulus height (m)	Tumulus width (m)	Aspect ratio
1	0.32	1.5	5.6	9.7	0.58
2	0.30	2.9	5.5	13.5	0.41
3	0.72	1.6	5.6	9.4	0.60
4	0.55	1.9	4.8	11.2	0.43
5	0.33	1.6	4.6	13.5	0.34
6	0.41	1.9	5.1	12.1	0.42
7	0.59	1.7	5.0	7.0	0.71
8	0.40	1.9	5.6	10.7	0.52
9	0.31	2.2	5.6	10.6	0.53
10	0.55	1.8	4.0	6.9	0.58
11	0.09	1.4	5.0	19.7	0.25
12	0.21	2.0	5.6	44.9	0.12
13	0.22	1.8	6.4	30.8	0.21
14	0.30	1.4	6.6	28.6	0.23
15	0.40	1.4	6.7	28.4	0.24
16	0.26	1.6	6.4	12.6	0.51
17	0.36	1.5	7.5	16.6	0.45
18	0.50	2.4	7.7	16.9	0.46
19	0.36	1.8	7.5	18.5	0.41
20	0.30	1.9	6.9	14.0	0.49

272 4.4 DI events and breakouts: August–November 2010

273 During 2010, cycles of deflation and inflation (DI events) at Kīlauea’s summit (Fig. 5; Cervelli  
 274 and Miklius, 2003; Poland et al., 2011), recorded across the summit tiltmeter network, deformed the  
 275 edifice and caused variations in discharge from the episode 58 vent. Generally, within a few hours of the  
 276 onset of summit deflation, a tiltmeter on the north flank of Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō likewise recorded the onset of  
 277 deflation. This was followed, over the next day, by a decline in the abundance and vigor of surface flows  
 278 as well as a pronounced diminution in the steam plume created by lava entering the ocean. These  
 279 decreases in flow field activity were observed repeatedly and reductions in discharge are inferred to have  
 280 accompanied all DI events.

281 Deflation at Kīlauea’s summit switched invariably to rapid inflation, usually within a day or two  
 282 (Fig. 5). After a few hours, Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō likewise began to inflate, and discharge from the episode 58 vent  
 283 increased soon after that. In most cases, recovery of the magmatic system resulted in a surge in output  
 284 from the vent, which commonly resulted in short-lived breakouts from points along the lava tube between  
 285 the top of the Pūlama Pali and the ocean, where the carrying capacity of the tube was exceeded. In some  
 286 instances, the delay between the onset of the inflation phase of a DI event and its related breakout was  
 287 such that, by the time the breakout started, the deflation phase of the next DI event had already begun.

288 Starting in August 2010, breakouts driven by DI events began to occur repeatedly from the  
 289 sinuous tumulus that extended ~1 km inland from the buried trace of Highway 130 (Figs. 3 and 6). In all,  
 290 22 breakouts occurred from various locations along the tumulus in our study area from August through  
 291 November (Table 2; Figs. 5 and 6). In addition, several other breakouts associated with DI events  
 292 occurred outside the study area, both upslope and downslope. Thirteen of the breakouts from the tumulus  
 293 can be related directly to DI events, and five others accompanied a general increase in tilt during the  
 294 second half of November, after the repeated DI events ceased temporarily (Fig. 5). The correlation  
 295 between the remaining four breakouts and DI events is not obvious. Specifically, a breakout on October 9  
 296 followed several days without a DI event, and may have been related to the inflated condition of the  
 297 volcano at that time. A breakout on October 12 began just a few hours after the start of the inflation phase  
 298 of a DI event, but it may have been related to the earlier inflated condition of the volcano to which the  
 299 October 9 breakout possibly responded. Two breakouts occurred several hours apart on October 15.  
 300 Though both were probably related to the same DI event, the 17-hour delay between them makes the  
 301 relation ambiguous. For this reason, only the earlier breakout is counted as being related to a DI event.  
 302 Finally, a breakout on October 31 occurred just before the trough of a DI event. Because of the nearly 2-  
 303 day delay between the onset of the previous inflation and the start of the breakout, the cause of the  
 304 breakout is uncertain and it is not counted as being related to a DI event.

305  
 306 Table 2. Table showing start date and time for each sinuous tumulus breakout (precision in parentheses),  
 307 dates and times that bracketed end time of breakouts, and final area of breakouts. Date and time also  
 308 shown for onset of summit inflation for DI events associated with breakouts, except where noted. Final  
 309 column shows delay between onset of summit inflation and onset of breakouts where applicable.

No.	Start Date/Time	End Date/Time (Bracketed)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	DI Event Inflation Start	Delay (hours)
1	Aug 2, 0200 (±4 hr)	Aug 4, ~1330 – Aug 5, ~1030	0.028	Aug 1, 1004	15.9
2	Aug 16, 0300 (±15 min)	Aug 17, ~2000 – Aug 18, ~1000	0.033	Aug 14, 2248	28.2
3	Aug 18, 0300 (±5 hr)	Aug 18, ~1000 – Aug 19, ~1000	0.037	Aug 16, 1112	39.8
4	Aug 21, 1500 (±3 hr)	Aug 22, 1000 – Aug 23, 1045	0.028	Aug 20, 1014	28.8
5	Sep 15, 1800 (±6 hr)	Sep 15, Night – Sep 16, Morning	0.009	Sep 14, 1814	23.8
6	Sep 26, 0445 (±5 min)	Sep 28, 1200 – Sep 28, 2000	0.043	Sep 25, 0844	20.0
7	Sep 30, 1430 (±1 hr)	Oct 4, 1200 – Oct 5, 1030	0.030	Sep 28, 1356	24.6



8	Oct 4, 1600 ( $\pm 2.5$ hr)	Oct 10, 1330 – Oct 11, 1100	0.039	Oct 3, 1508	24.9
9	Oct 9, 1040 ( $\pm 5$ min)	Oct 11, 1400 – Oct 13, 1000	0.035	(no related DI event)	—
10	Oct 12, 0215 ( $\pm 5$ min)	Oct 13, 1200 – Oct 15, 1030	0.036	(uncertain relation)	—
11	Oct 15, 0045 ( $\pm 5$ min)	Oct 15, 1250 – Oct 16, 0830	0.004	Oct 14, 0553	18.9
12	Oct 15, 1740 ( $\pm 30$ min)	Oct 19, 1130 – Oct 20, 1300	0.066	(uncertain relation)	—
13	Oct 20, 1033 ( $\pm 2$ min)	Oct 21, 1530 – Oct 22, 1145	0.016	Oct 19, 1851	15.7
14	Oct 27, 0007 ( $\pm 2$ min)	Oct 28, 1100 – Oct 29, 1330	0.027	Oct 25, 2214	25.9
15	Oct 31, 1435 ( $\pm 15$ min)	Nov 1, 1400 – Nov 2, 1100	0.016	(uncertain relation)	—
16	Nov 1, 1839 ( $\pm 2$ min)	Nov 2, 1300 – Nov 2, 1800	0.007	Oct 31, 1810	24.5
17	Nov 6, 1646 ( $\pm 5$ min)	Nov 8, 0550 – Nov 8, 1800	0.013	Nov 5, 2053	19.9
18	Nov 15, 1314 ( $\pm 2$ min)	Nov 18, 1115 – Nov 19, 1030	0.028	(no related DI event)	—
19	Nov 17, 0555 ( $\pm 1$ min)	Nov 25, 1030 – Nov 27, 0930	0.076	(no related DI event)	—
20	Nov 20, 0458 ( $\pm 1$ min)	Nov 29, 1530 – Nov 30, 1000	0.162	(no related DI event)	—
21	Nov 24, 1642 ( $\pm 2$ min)	Nov 29, 1530 – Nov 30, 1000	0.143	(no related DI event)	—
22	Nov 26, 2018 ( $\pm 1$ min)	Nov 28, 1515 – Nov 29, 1000	0.017	(no related DI event)	—

310

311 Several of the breakouts were composed of multiple breakout points along the length of the  
312 sinuous tumulus and from both flanks (e.g., Aug 21 breakout; Fig. 6a). Many of these additional  
313 breakouts were small (hundreds of square meters or smaller), and we group all the individual breakouts  
314 associated with a particular event together. The areas of coverage shown in Table 2 reflect this. We  
315 suspected but were not able to confirm directly that, during instances when there were multiple breakout  
316 points from the sinuous tumulus during a single event, the breakout point farthest upslope occurred first,  
317 suggesting a pulse of lava traveling through the tube and causing breakouts progressively downslope as  
318 the pulse advanced. This was certainly the case in a broader sense, with breakouts upslope, on Pūlama  
319 Pali, starting before breakouts on the coastal plain. That this also occurred on a smaller scale is supported  
320 by the fact that the breakout point farthest downslope (when there were multiple breakouts along the  
321 sinuous tumulus) was always the most voluminous and longest lived. Had it opened first, the other  
322 breakouts upslope would probably not have occurred. We were not able to determine the volume of each  
323 breakout, but the area covered by each breakout might be an adequate proxy for comparing the relative  
324 sizes of the breakouts because all breakouts were erupted onto similar terrain. However, the area covered  
325 by each breakout from the tumulus within our study cannot be used to gauge the size of the pulse of lava  
326 traveling through the tube system because other breakouts from the tube corresponding with DI events  
327 often occurred outside the study area.

328 The larger breakouts had a vigorous start, with lava usually flooding from the tube as a sheet for  
329 tens of minutes to a few hours. These starts were easy to spot if they were in view of the webcams or  
330 time-lapse cameras, and they were often observed (and start time noted) by Kalapana Gardens residents  
331 and sightseers. Thus, the start times of most of the breakouts are relatively well constrained, often to a  
332 few minutes (Table 2). The breakouts waned quickly (tens of minutes to a few hours), but weak activity—  
333 identified only because of our detailed daily mapping—sometimes continued for days. Because of this,  
334 the stagnation time of each breakout (Table 2) is poorly constrained, being bracketed by sequential field  
335 visits. Fig. 5 shows the timing of the breakouts and their estimated duration compared to the tilt record  
336 from station UWE, one of Kīlauea’s summit tiltmeters.

337 The breakouts were sourced from cracks flanking the lower sides of the tumulus and widened the  
338 flow dramatically, burying the lower ground on both sides of the sinuous tumulus and slowly inundating  
339 it (Figs. 3, 4 and 7). Flow inflation, at least early on, caused progressive growth of the tumulus so that  
340 much of it remained a topographic high and was not buried by these subsequent breakouts (Fig. 3). The  
341 locations of these breakouts were not obviously related to the sinuosity of the tumulus (i.e., they did not

342 preferentially occur either at bends or along straight sections of the underlying lava tube). At the onset of  
343 the breakouts, the tube roof was abruptly and irrecoverably pushed up (Online Resource 1). This may be  
344 the dominant way in which the tube roof lifted after flow inflation seems to have stopped. Inelastic uplift  
345 likewise helped the tube roof remain higher than the slowly thickening (by burial) flow field on both  
346 sides. Both mechanisms (inflation and inelastic uplift) permitted much of the early-formed emplacement  
347 surface to remain uncovered while the surrounding terrain was repeatedly buried by breakouts.

348 Because growth of the tumulus over the tube was more rapid in some areas than in others, the  
349 height of the tumulus varied along its length so that elongate, dark-colored whaleback structures were  
350 formed (Figs. 3 and 4). The lower saddles between the whaleback structures were places that never hosted  
351 a breakout, and thus did not experience inelastic uplift. Some of the lows were eventually buried,  
352 subdividing what was originally a single long tumulus into an apparent chain of shorter tumuli (Fig. 4).  
353 The vertical evolution of the tumulus was not obviously related to its sinuosity, with higher parts of the  
354 tumulus just as likely to occur over straight sections as over bends in the tube.

355 Breakouts corresponding to the effusive surges caused by DI events occurred until mid-  
356 November. At that time, the DI events temporarily stopped happening, and the summit began a gradual  
357 inflationary trend. Along the studied section of the tube, this was manifested as a series of longer-lasting  
358 breakouts that covered correspondingly larger areas. Moreover, as many as three of these breakouts were  
359 active simultaneously, perhaps owing to an increase in discharge through the tube. Eventually, the tube  
360 upslope near the top of Pūlama Pali was unable to transmit the amount of lava it was carrying and, on  
361 November 29, it ruptured. The tube downslope from that point was abandoned thereafter, and the  
362 breakouts on the coastal plain subsequently stagnated. The November 29 breakout advanced downslope  
363 and eventually reached the coastal plain, where it buried most of the sinuous tumulus, leaving a few short  
364 segments partially exposed.

## 365 5. Discussion

### 366 5.1 Development of an inflated lava tube

367 Coastal flow emplacement during the Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō eruption has generally followed a common  
368 pattern. The flows usually spread out upon reaching the gently sloped coastal plain, after traveling down  
369 the steeper slopes of Pūlama Pali, and advance by the progressive extension of pāhoehoe lobes (e.g.,  
370 Peterson et al., 1994; Hon et al., 1994; Hoblitt et al., 2012). When fed at an eruption rate near or above the  
371 long-term average for the Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō eruption, it usually takes one to three weeks for the leading tip of a  
372 flow to cross the coastal plain. Significant flow thickening via inflation and overplating occurs during this  
373 advance. On the other hand, when a flow is fed at an eruption rate well below the long-term average, or  
374 when a flow near or above the average rate is subdivided into smaller branches, the lava may stall on the  
375 hummocky surface of the coastal plain and make little forward progress. In such situations, it may take  
376 months before lava completely crosses the coastal plain, if it does so at all. In either case, once a flow tops  
377 the sea cliff, the inflating flow probably experiences a sudden drop in fluid pressure. Thereafter, the fluid  
378 core of the flow inland of the sea cliff chills quickly as lava is focused preferentially into the most energy  
379 efficient pathway between the base of Pūlama Pali and the ocean. Flow inflation and lateral spreading  
380 slow and stop, usually within a day or two, and a well-developed lava tube forms quickly.

381 The flow we studied during July–November 2010 evolved in a slightly different fashion, in that it  
382 was easily confined by low topography because of its low discharge. As a result, the flow failed to spread  
383 out and crossed the coastal plain quickly despite its relatively low flux. Little inflation occurred before the

384 flow poured over the low embankment on the south side of Highway 130. This embankment provided the  
385 same sort of topographic break that the sea cliff affords in other circumstances. Because of the inferred  
386 drop in fluid pressure, lava beneath the surface crust of the flow upslope from Highway 130 became  
387 concentrated along the thickest part of the flow. Thus, flow advance and lava tube formation occurred  
388 more rapidly than is typical for low discharge flows at Kīlauea and did not involve significant lateral  
389 spreading. Initial inflation across the entire width of the flow was minimal, and the flow failed to  
390 resurface itself as it usually does during flow emplacement through pāhoehoe lobe extension (Peterson et  
391 al., 1994). Morphologically, the flow had a relatively flat surface characteristic of sheet flows (Hon et al.,  
392 1994). The section of the lava tube between the base of Pūlama Pali and the Highway 130 embankment  
393 was, in a sense, isolated, and it evolved somewhat independently from other parts of the tube.

394 The inflation that occurred subsequently was focused along the axis of the incipient lava tube,  
395 which, when it began to form, was correspondingly thinner than the total thickness of the flow and  
396 probably had with a wide, elliptical cross-section (Kauahikaua et al., 1998). Conduction of heat through  
397 the roof, floor, and sides of the tube caused crustal growth and thickening. The subsequent corresponding  
398 pressure increase within the tube, due to decreasing cross-sectional area without a decrease in flow rate,  
399 forced the tube roof to arch up (Fig. 7; Hon et al., 1994; Kauahikaua et al., 1998). The result was a low,  
400 but well-defined, sinuous tumulus above the axis of the lava tube that meandered as a continuous feature  
401 across the coastal plain for a distance of ~1 km (Fig. 3). The height of the sinuous tumulus was further  
402 enhanced by irrecoverable uplift caused by the many breakouts from its flanks.

403 Peterson et al. (1994) describe another process by which an arched tube roof can form—accretion  
404 of lava onto levees during channelized flow. If the channel is sufficiently narrow these levees can grow  
405 together, forming an arched roof over the channel. While morphologically similar, the formation process  
406 is different from that which we describe, and the tube roof that forms in each case should be easily  
407 distinguishable in the field setting.

408 Inflation was possible only while the tube was completely full and lava was in contact with the  
409 tube roof. The depth of the axial crack on top of the tube gives an estimate of the time elapsed to develop  
410 a crust of that thickness. The empirical formula of Hon et al. (1994),

$$411 \quad t = 164.8 C^2 \quad (1)$$

412  
413 where  $t$  is time in hours and  $C$  is crustal thickness in meters, yields a total duration of ~57 days to form a  
414 2.9-m-thick crust. The flow on the coastal plain at the measurement location, however, was active for a  
415 total of ~137 days, suggesting that the lava stream was in contact with the tube ceiling slightly less than  
416 half the time. Keszthelyi (2012) modified the formula of Hon et al. (1994) to better account for  
417 emplacement and environmental conditions appropriate for Kīlauea's south coast. Using the Keszthelyi  
418 (2012) formula,

$$420 \quad t = 323.5 C^2 \quad (2)$$

421  
422 yields a duration of ~113 days for formation of a 2.9-m-thick crust. This result indicates that the lava  
423 stream was in contact with the tube ceiling most of the time. Regardless, both results suggest periods  
424 during which head space separated the lava stream and tube ceiling.

425 The sinuous tumulus we describe does not fit into any tumulus classification scheme defined  
426 previously, though it is most similar to the flow-lobe tumuli of Walker (1991) and Rossi and Gudmunsson  
427 (1996). Walker (1991) and Rossi and Gudmunsson (1996) classify flow-lobe tumuli by height/width and

428 width/length aspect ratios. However, partial burial of the flanks of the sinuous tumulus by its own  
429 breakouts, combined with the extreme length and sinuosity of the tumulus, prevent a meaningful  
430 comparison with these parameters. For example, Rossi and Gudmunsson (1996) found that the flow-lobe  
431 tumuli that they measured had an average aspect ratio of  $0.17 \pm 0.06$ , while we find the aspect ratio of the  
432 sinuous tumulus varies from 0.12 to 0.71, depending on where along the tumulus's length the  
433 measurement is made (Table 1, Fig. 4).

434 No relation has been established between axial crack width and other geometrical tumulus  
435 parameters. In general, though, the width of the axial crack in the sinuous tumulus (Table 1) is much  
436 narrower than the axial cracks in similarly sized flow-lobe tumuli as described by Walker (1991) and  
437 Rossi and Gudmunsson (1996). This is consistent with our model that the sinuous tumulus was formed in  
438 part by inelastic uplift of the lava tube roof during breakouts, when the tube was overfilled by increased  
439 flux, and not entirely by inflation.

440 Anderson et al. (2012) found that some tumuli form over horizontal bends in the underlying flow  
441 pathways. Variations in height along the length of the sinuous tumulus we studied showed no obvious  
442 correspondence to bends in the tube. In our case, height variations reflect the presence or absence of  
443 breakouts—the lowest areas along the tumulus were those that experienced no breakouts and, thus, little  
444 or no inelastic uplift. What controlled the location of the breakouts along the tumulus, however, is not  
445 known, but may have been related to local variations in other factors, such as tube width, tube slope, or  
446 flow thickness.

## 447 *5.2 Earth and Mars examples*

448 Very long sinuous tumuli aligned with a lava tube, like that which we describe here, have not  
449 been described before from Hawai'i, though they have been observed both before and since (authors'  
450 unpublished data). Very long tumuli, with no mention of sinuosity or tube relationship, are mentioned by  
451 Wentworth and Macdonald (1953), who call them “pressure ridges”. However, they lump together ridge-  
452 like features formed by inflation as well as those formed by lateral compression. Hon et al. (1994)  
453 mention “long sinuous ridges” that form over blockages in major lava tubes, but provide no additional  
454 description. Cashman and Kauahikaua (1997) also mention “sinuous tumuli” forming over lava tubes, but  
455 likewise provide no additional description. The large tumulus they studied (the Woodchip tumulus) did  
456 form over a lava tube, but it was a single elongate whaleback structure, about 230 m long and weakly  
457 sinuous, that formed in a large sheet flow. Kauahikaua et al. (1998) describe “a train of inflating, elongate  
458 tumuli” that developed over a Pu'u 'Ō'ō lava tube on the gently sloping coastal plain during 1996–1997.  
459 These tumuli were a source of breakouts during pulses of lava through the tube following eruptive pauses.  
460 The tumuli, however, were smaller and more equant than the tumulus we describe, though their positions  
461 followed the sinuous trace of the tube over which they developed (J. Kauahikaua, personal  
462 communication, 2013).

463 Glaze et al. (2005) describe a chain of very large tumuli on the 1843 flow from Mauna Loa  
464 (Hawai'i). While those tumuli cluster along a linear trend, they are not shaped like the sinuous tumulus,  
465 and Glaze et al. (2005) found no evidence for a long-lived tube beneath the tumuli. Some elongate,  
466 crescent-shaped tumuli are present on the coastal plain portion of the 1859 Mauna Loa flow (F. Trusdell,  
467 personal communication, 2013), but they are no more than about 100 m in length. Their relation to a tube  
468 system is not known, and they are not mentioned by Walker (2009) who conducted a detailed study of  
469 tumuli and lava rises in the same area. Chitwood (1994) describes inflated lava fields in central and  
470 southeast Oregon, USA, and indicates that long narrow tumuli can form over lava tubes but provides no

471 discussion of tumuli dimensions and points to no specific examples. Finally, the Undara lava field in  
472 north Queensland, Australia, contains a 40-km-long sinuous inflation ridge (“The Wall”; Atkinson et al.,  
473 1975; Stephenson et al., 1998) which has been suggested as an analog for lunar rilles (Atkinson and  
474 Atkinson, 1995). This 200-m-wide, flat-topped feature has been demonstrated to be a narrow, inflated  
475 sheet flow (J. Kauahikaua, personal communication, 2013), much like similar inflation ridges on the  
476 much younger Toomba basalt flow of north Queensland, Australia (Whitehead and Stephenson, 1998).

477 Only a few sinuous tumuli like the one we observed forming in Hawai‘i have been described  
478 world-wide. While many examples probably exist, the two we are aware of are found on the prehistoric  
479 Carrizozo and McCartys flows, New Mexico, USA. These are among the youngest and best preserved  
480 basaltic flow fields in the continental United States (Zimbelman and Johnston, 2002). The proximal and  
481 distal regions of both flows display evidence for flow inflation and were presumably linked by lava tubes  
482 (Keszthelyi and Pieri, 1993; Zimbelman and Johnston, 2001; 2002; Crumpler et al., 2007). The medial  
483 section of each flow is comparatively narrow due to confining topography and contains an elongate ridge  
484 that is, in some places, more than 10 m high. If the model presented here explains the formation of these  
485 ridges, then they are capped by lava emplaced early in each flow’s history, and pāhoehoe flows that flank  
486 and partly inundate the ridges were sourced from the ridges themselves. Testing these expected  
487 relationships should help to determine if these sinuous ridges formed as described above, and will help  
488 constrain the emplacement conditions.

489 Sinuous ridges similar in size to those we identified in Hawai‘i and New Mexico are observed  
490 within the plains flows of the Tharsis volcanic province of Mars (Fig. 8). Here, low shields and fissure  
491 vents erupted flows that coalesced to form a gently sloping plain. The sinuous ridges within the flows are  
492 up to 10 m in height and are the sources for small, local surface flows. Similar ridges found elsewhere  
493 across the surface of Mars have been interpreted as inverted fluvial channels (e.g., Burr et al., 2009;  
494 Williams et al., 2009; Burr et al., 2010; Zimbelman and Griffin, 2010; Lefort et al., 2012), eskers (Baker,  
495 2001; Head and Pratt, 2001; Bleacher et al., 2003; Ghatan and Head, 2004; Banks et al., 2009), or eroded  
496 remnants of subsurface dikes (Head et al., 2006). The development of inverted fluvial channels and eskers  
497 involves flowing water, and all three of these proposed processes require significant erosion and regional  
498 deflation.

499 Although the plains units of the Tharsis region do not display obvious confining topography to  
500 drive localized tube-related inflation, lava flow thicknesses across Mars are suggested to be on the order  
501 of tens of meters (Keszthelyi et al., 2008; Mougini-Mark and Rowland, 2008; Hamilton et al., 2010;  
502 Hamilton et al., 2011), comparable to the confining topography described above and sufficient to enable  
503 this process on Mars. The interpretation of sinuous ridges on Mars as elongate tumuli over lava tubes  
504 provides new insight into such ridges. While alternative (e.g., regional deflation or fluvial) hypotheses are  
505 viable for some martian sinuous ridges, the hypothesis that these features are inflated lava tubes is the  
506 most likely in volcanic terrains that do not show evidence of regional erosion. The tube formation  
507 processes described by Greeley (1987) and Peterson et al. (1994) may apply to flow fields on the flanks of  
508 much larger (hundreds of km in diameter) martian shield volcanoes (Bleacher et al., 2007a,b) where  
509 slopes are several degrees or higher and distinct ridges, as shown in Fig. 8, are not observed.

### 510 *5.3 Forecasting lava tube breakouts*

511 Forecasting volcanic activity is a driving motivation for volcano research and monitoring.  
512 Generally, forecasts for impending eruptive activity, especially the larger changes, improve as the time of  
513 the eruption approaches. During ongoing eruptive activity, though, there is a myriad of small changes that

514 occur with little or no warning. During August–November 2010, however, activity at Kīlauea behaved in  
515 such a way that we were able to forecast the occurrence, and to some extent the location and timing, of  
516 lava tube breakouts that threatened houses in the nearby Kalapana Gardens subdivision. This information  
517 was disseminated in daily volcanic activity updates on the HVO webpage and was transmitted directly to  
518 HCCD to improve their preparedness in the event that homes were threatened.

519 The correlation between the inflationary phase of DI events at Kīlauea’s summit and the  
520 subsequent increase in eruptive activity along Kīlauea’s East Rift Zone has been seen in hundreds of  
521 instances over more than a decade of observation, and the period discussed here was no exception. The  
522 occurrence of breakouts from the active tube system hours after the onset of summit inflation became  
523 apparent shortly after the flow was emplaced. It was not a perfect correlation with regard to our study  
524 area—33 DI events occurred from the beginning of August to mid-November, but only thirteen were  
525 associated with breakouts from the sinuous tumulus (Table 2). However, the DI events also often resulted  
526 in breakouts from other parts of the tube system, both upslope and downslope from the sinuous tumulus.  
527 Thus, those DI events that were not followed by breakouts from the sinuous tumulus were typically  
528 associated with breakouts elsewhere along the tube system. We also noticed that, on a few occasions (in  
529 particular September 30 and October 15), a coastal plain breakout spanned two DI events. In the  
530 September 30 case, the breakout waned quickly and was nearly inactive by October 2, but its activity had  
531 increased again by October 3, following another DI event. We infer the same for the October 15 case,  
532 though a gap in observation prevented confirmation. Finally, the effusive surge following some DI events,  
533 in particular those of the smallest magnitude, may have been completely accommodated by the tube  
534 system without a breakout.

535 Despite these shortcomings, our hazard assessments were predicated on the assumption that every  
536 DI event was capable of producing a breakout on the coastal flow field near Kalapana Gardens. The delay  
537 between the onset of the inflationary phase of the DI events and the start of the related breakouts ranged  
538 from 15.7 hours to 39.8 hours (Table 2), with an average delay of 23.9 hours. Our goal when  
539 communicating with Hawai‘i County Civil Defense authorities was to provide an assessment of potential  
540 activity for the following 24 hours. The delay between the inflation onset and subsequent breakouts fit  
541 well within this scheme.

542 Each breakout from the sinuous tumulus partly inundated the adjacent flank of the tumulus while  
543 leaving other sections unburied. Not surprisingly, we found that later breakouts were more likely to occur  
544 in areas that had not previously hosted a breakout, where the flank of the tumulus was not partly buried.  
545 With this in mind, we made a few attempts, with marginal success, to forecast the most likely points  
546 along the sinuous tumulus for the next breakout. Based on our visual inspection of the neighboring  
547 landscape, we could also make a rough estimate of the presumed flow direction for each of these potential  
548 breakout locations. However, there were simply too many spots along the tumulus from which breakouts  
549 could potentially occur for each DI event, and the breakouts did not always emerge from parts of the  
550 tumulus that were not covered, so we abandoned this part of our assessment. Moreover, because the  
551 distance from the tumulus to the nearest house was too great for breakouts to pose an immediate hazard,  
552 there was ample time once a breakout began to assess its probable flow path.

553 Destruction of Kalapana Gardens and neighboring communities in 1990 was controlled, in part,  
554 by eruptive pauses and subsequent restarts (Mattox et al., 1993). These pauses caused the flow that was  
555 active on the coastal plain to stall, and resumption of activity through the tube system resulted in new  
556 breakouts that followed the inflated margins of the existing flow (Mattox et al., 1993). Repeated  
557 breakouts led to flow field widening and further destruction. While modern tiltmeters like those

558 monitoring Kīlauea in 2010 were not in use at that time, other deformation tools showed a pattern of  
559 deflation and inflation similar to the DI events that caused variations in discharge in 2010. The 1990  
560 events, however, were probably more akin to the “DID events” that occurred during 2000–2004 (Cervelli  
561 and Miklius, 2003; Poland et al., 2011). Regardless, the unsteady supply of lava through Kīlauea’s East  
562 Rift Zone conduit, both in 1990 and in 2010, directly controlled the occurrence of lava tube breakouts  
563 near Kalapana, and these breakouts could be reliably forecast hours in advance using deformation data  
564 recorded at Kīlauea’s summit.

## 565 **6. Summary**

566 Lateral confinement of a non-channelized basaltic lava flow by topography provides an important  
567 control on the flow’s subsequent evolution. Rather than developing into a broad, inflated flow field, flow  
568 inflation may be focused directly over the tube, to form a long tumulus axial to the tube. The sinuous  
569 tumulus that we described here is one of a few examples known worldwide, and is the only one to have  
570 been observed throughout its formation. Its morphology and mechanism of formation was different than  
571 typical tumuli and, as such, it does not fit into any of the previously published tumuli classification  
572 schemes (Walker, 1991; Rossi and Gudmundsson, 1996). Its presence also shows conclusively that tumuli  
573 can form over major lava tube systems, a process questioned in the past (e.g., Walker, 1991).

574 Temporary increases in discharge pressurized the lava tube and caused inelastic uplift of the  
575 sinuous tumulus and breakouts from its flanks. The abrupt, forced uplift of the tube roof was in addition  
576 to flow inflation that occurred while the lava stream was in contact with the tube roof. The result was a  
577 sinuous tumulus composed of an early-formed lava surface surrounded by younger flows that emerged  
578 from the sides of the tumulus itself and buried the surrounding landscape. Eventually, low parts of the  
579 tumulus were buried by breakouts from adjacent areas of the tumulus itself. This subdivided the tumulus  
580 into a chain of shorter, elongate tumuli. We would not have known these were all part of a single, very  
581 long sinuous tumulus if we had not observed its entire evolution.

582 The ability of topography to confine a flow must be closely tied to the discharge. While all flows  
583 will be confined by sufficiently high topography, flows fed by progressively lower discharge can be  
584 confined by correspondingly lower topography, even down to the centimetric-scale (Hon et al., 1994;  
585 Rossi and Gudmundsson, 1996; Hamilton et al., 2013). We contend that the failure of the flow emplaced  
586 on Kīlauea’s south flank during July–November 2010 to spread, thus causing its evolution into a sinuous,  
587 elongate tumulus, was controlled in part by its low discharge in this instance. A higher discharge,  
588 matching the long-term average at Kīlauea, would have likely resulted in a wider flow, more distributed  
589 inflation, and no tumulus above the axis of the tube that would have eventually formed. Sinuous tumuli  
590 found within narrow, topographically confined sections of the prehistoric McCartys and Carrizozo flows  
591 (New Mexico, USA) probably formed in an equivalent fashion, and we propose that these examples on  
592 Earth may be analogs for at least some sinuous ridges found within the Tharsis volcanic province and  
593 elsewhere on Mars.

594 Cycles of edifice deflation and inflation (DI events) at Kīlauea’s summit cause decreases and  
595 increases in East Rift Zone output respectively. During the July–November 2010 study period, the  
596 decreases were manifested on the active flow field as diminutions in eruptive activity, while the increases  
597 led to breakouts from the active lava tube. As we described above, many of these breakouts came from  
598 the section of the lava tube topped by a ~1-km-long sinuous tumulus. Though imperfect, we used the

599 correlation between DI events and lava tube breakouts to forecast the possibility of new, potentially  
600 hazardous flows, which we communicated to Hawai'i County Civil Defense.

### 601 **Endorsement disclaimer**

602 Any use of trade, product, or firm names herein is for descriptive purposes only and does not  
603 imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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821 Fig. 1. Map showing extent of flows erupted from Kīlauea's East Rift Zone since 1983 (one small flow erupted in  
822 2007 falls outside area shown here). Brown, flows erupted from 1983 to 2007. Yellow, episode 58 flow erupted  
823 2007–2010. Red, phase of episode 58 flow described here, erupted June–November 2010. Dashed black line, active  
824 lava tube. Black open circles, rootless shields (not to scale) constructed over tube in June 2010. Contour interval, 50  
825 m. Box shows map area for Fig. 6. (Inset) Island of Hawai'i and its five volcanoes. Dashed black lines, Kīlauea's rift  
826 zones.

827 Fig. 2. Infrared images (uniformly transparent) overlaid onto simultaneous visible-wavelength photographs showing  
828 flow advancement across coastal plain. Warmer colors indicate higher temperatures; areas of bright yellow to white,  
829 active or very recently active flows. (a) Abrupt eastward turn in flow direction at base of Pūlama Pali on July 14,  
830 2010. White dotted line, active flow margin. Flow surface at lower left with mottled violet coloration, previously  
831 emplaced episode 58 flows. Dashed white line, trace of lava tube formed later. (b) Flow butted against Hākuma  
832 horst and filling in adjacent graben on July 23, 2010. White dotted line, active flow margin. White arrow, study area  
833 at narrow part of flow. White circles, houses labeled in Fig. 6a. House 1 destroyed July 25.

834 Fig. 3. Photographs of sinuous tumulus in study area. (a) October 19, 2010, photograph showing distant perspective  
835 of sinuous tumulus. Dashed white line, lava tube trace; arrowhead denotes flow direction. Partly transparent white  
836 line, buried trace of Highway 130. White boxes, approximate area of coverage of b and f. Dark lava surface along  
837 and adjacent to tube trace, early-formed lava surface emplaced July 2010. Lighter-colored lava surfaces, younger  
838 tube breakouts. (b) October 14, 2010, photograph of sinuous tumulus. Dashed white line, approximate trace of lava  
839 tube beyond ends of pronounced tumulus. Three most recent breakouts prior to October 14 labeled. White box,  
840 approximate coverage area of c, d, e, and g. (c) August 23, 2010, photograph and (d) November 16, 2010,  
841 photograph demonstrating inflation and tumulus uplift. White arrows, same point in photographs c and d. (e)  
842 October 5, 2010, photograph showing NE flank of sinuous tumulus. Movie in Online Resource 1 captured by time-  
843 lapse camera at right. September 30 breakout in foreground. Photograph by WB Garry, NASA. (f) August 23, 2010,  
844 photograph showing ~4-m-high tumulus in contact with underlying 1986–1992 lava surface. Note tiny breakout  
845 which leaked through tumulus side ~3 m above base on August 18. (g) October 1, 2010, photograph showing  
846 breakouts from flank cracks (dashed white lines; arrows show breakout flow direction) parallel to tumulus trend.  
847 Exposed tumulus ~2.5 m high. Note August 21 breakout surface not buried by September 30 breakout.

848 Fig. 4. (a–b) Rectified aerial image mosaics showing part of sinuous tumulus (outlined with dotted yellow lines) and  
849 related breakouts (demarcated by dashed yellow lines; labeled with start date) in study area. Numbered locations  
850 correspond to measurements recorded in Table 1. Flow direction in tube from left to right.

851 Fig. 5. Plot showing onset times for breakouts from sinuous tumulus (red lines) compared to DI events and other tilt  
852 changes recorded by tiltmeter (UWE) at Kīlauea's summit (black line). Gray boxes, approximate breakout durations.  
853 Darker gray shows where boxes overlap, indicating multiple active breakouts.

854 Fig. 6. Maps showing breakouts from sinuous tumulus. Pacific Ocean at lower right; Kalapana Gardens subdivision  
855 at upper right. Heavy red line, State Highway 130; thin red line, main entrance road into Kalapana Gardens; brown,  
856 flows emplaced 1986–1992; yellow, older episode 58 flows; light gray, lava from active flow emplaced July 15–31,  
857 2010; white, areas not covered by lava (forested); light red, lava emplaced in July and early August 2010 (eastern  
858 branch of active flow), which originated farther upslope and buried part of active tube; dotted yellow line, trace of  
859 active lava tube; heavy black lines, normal faults that define Hākuma horst and adjacent graben (ball–bar symbols  
860 on down-dropped side); black squares, houses shown in Fig. 2b. (a–e) Final extent of various tube breakouts shown  
861 with different colors and labeled by start date. Lava tube (dotted yellow line) shown on top to highlight breakout  
862 source location. Dark gray area in each successive map b–e shows area covered by breakouts shown in previous  
863 panel. (f) Dark gray, composite of all tube breakouts erupted in study area August 1–November 30, 2010. Lava tube

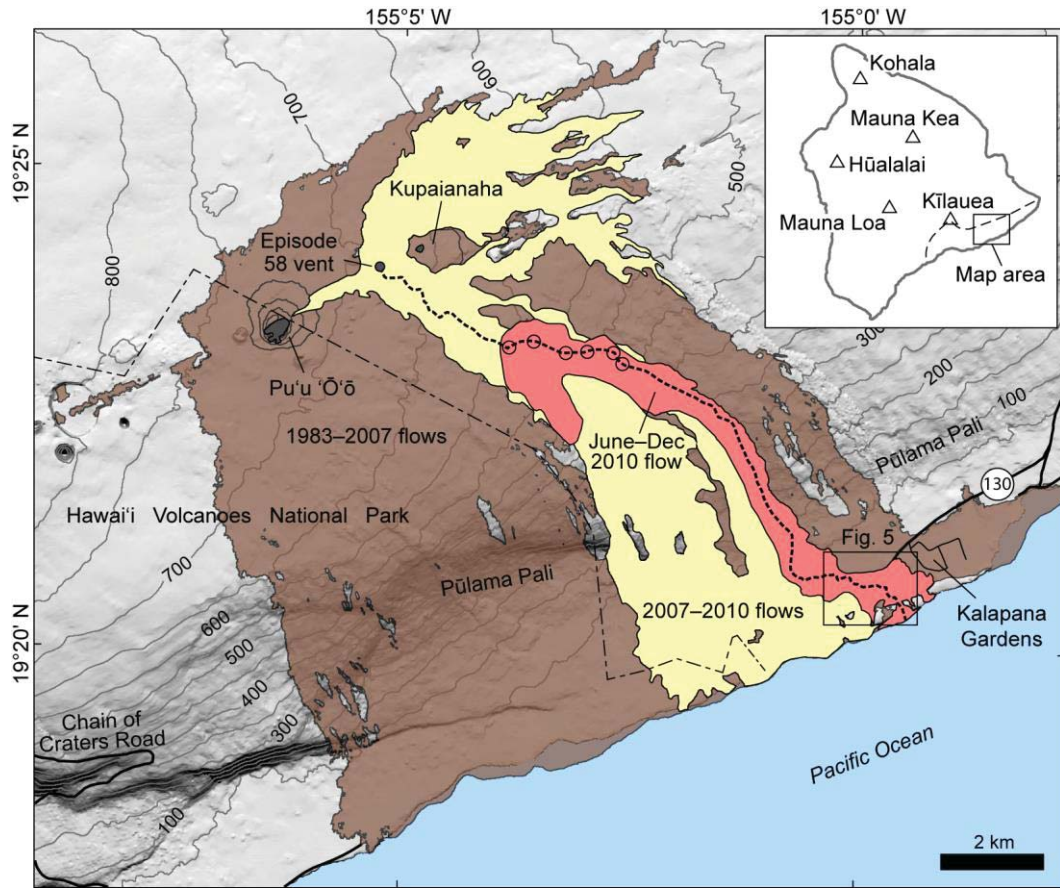
864 shown beneath breakout composite to highlight tumulus where lava surface not reburied after emplacement.  
865 Breakouts on lava delta at lower right not shown. Dotted black lines, bounds of sinuous tumulus studied.

866 Fig. 7. Cartoon showing idealized cross-section through lava flow at different development stages. (a) Time step 1:  
867 Shortly after emplacement; well-developed tube not yet formed and inflation is minimal. (b) Time step 2: Tube has  
868 developed and tumulus has begun to form; pressurization of tube has resulted in breakout from tumulus flank. (c)  
869 Time step 3: Tumulus has undergone additional growth; breakouts, no longer active, have emerged from both flanks  
870 of tumulus, partly inundating it; head space has formed between lava stream and tube ceiling. (d) Time step 4: 3D  
871 perspective of tumulus showing active breakouts from several places along tumulus flanks in response to re-  
872 pressurization of lava tube.

873 Fig. 8. Images of sinuous ridges within Tharsis volcanic province of Mars. (a) Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO)  
874 Context (CTX) Camera image P07\_003673\_1774 (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS) showing  $\leq 10$ -m-high ridge (Solar  
875 Incidence Angle  $53^\circ$ ; Sun  $\sim 37^\circ$  above horizon). Arrow points to one example of small breakout sourced from ridge,  
876 but many are visible. (b) MRO High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) Camera image  
877 ESP\_027289\_1790 (NASA/JPL/University of Arizona) showing low shield volcano in Tharsis plains (caldera at  
878 upper left; Solar Incidence Angle  $54^\circ$ ; Sun  $\sim 36^\circ$  above horizon) with two sinuous ridges that appear to be source of  
879 small surface flows. In both cases, ridge morphology appears where slopes decrease to  $< 0.5^\circ$  on lower flank of  
880 volcano.

881 Online Resource 1. Time-lapse movie showing abrupt uplift of sinuous tumulus (i.e., tube roof) correlated with  
882 October 9, 2010 breakout. Breakout emerged from lower flank of tumulus directly to right of camera, but traveled  
883 away from camera. Flow appears in camera view several hours later, after time period shown by movie. Camera  
884 capture interval is one image per minute; movie playback speed is 6 frames per second. Final movie frame shows  
885 lava tube trace and flow direction.

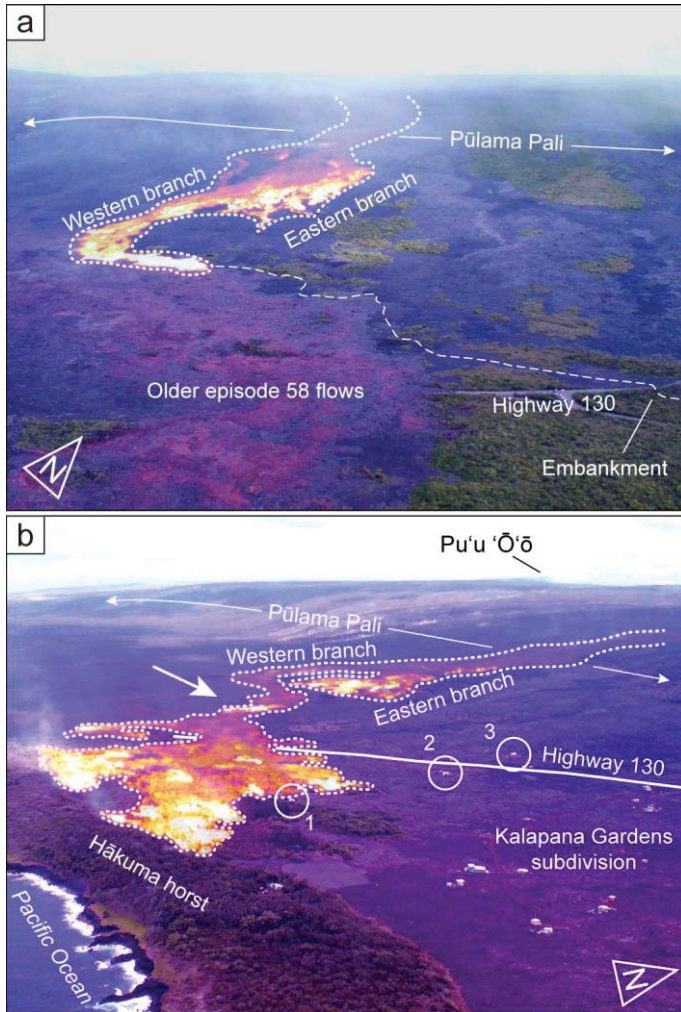
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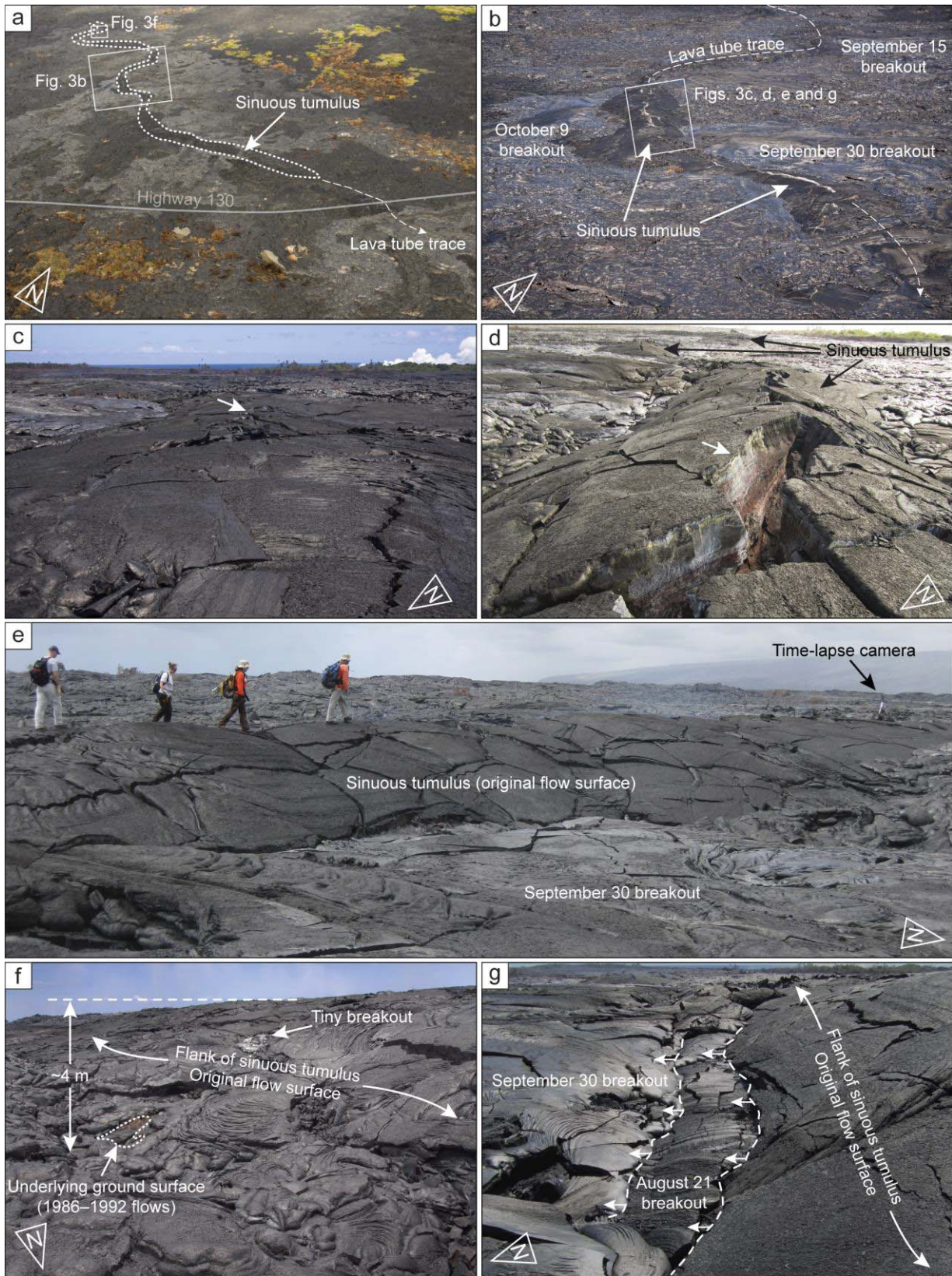
888 Fig. 1





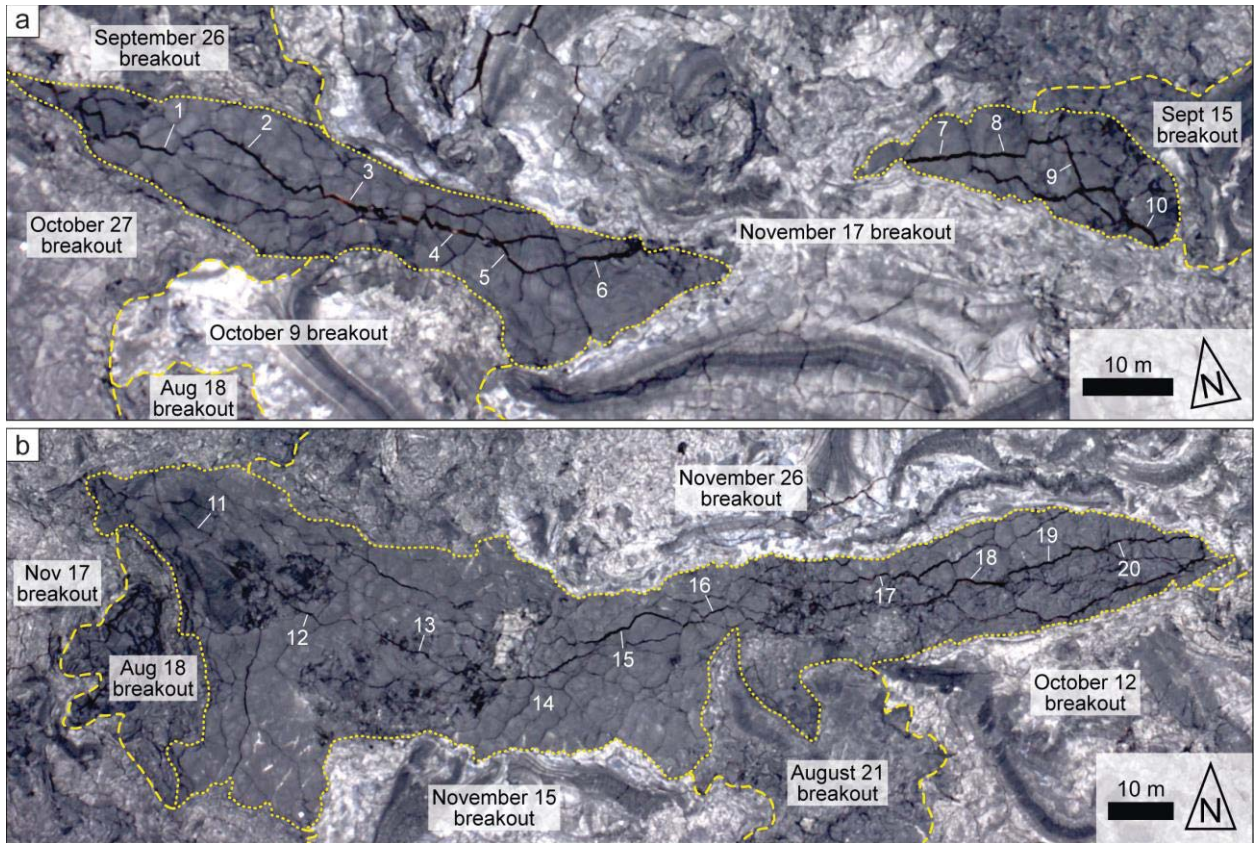
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890 Fig. 2



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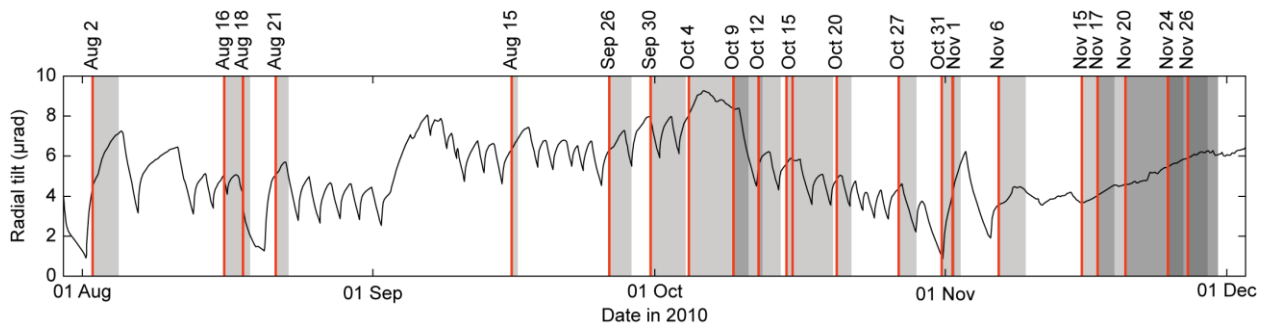
892 Fig. 3



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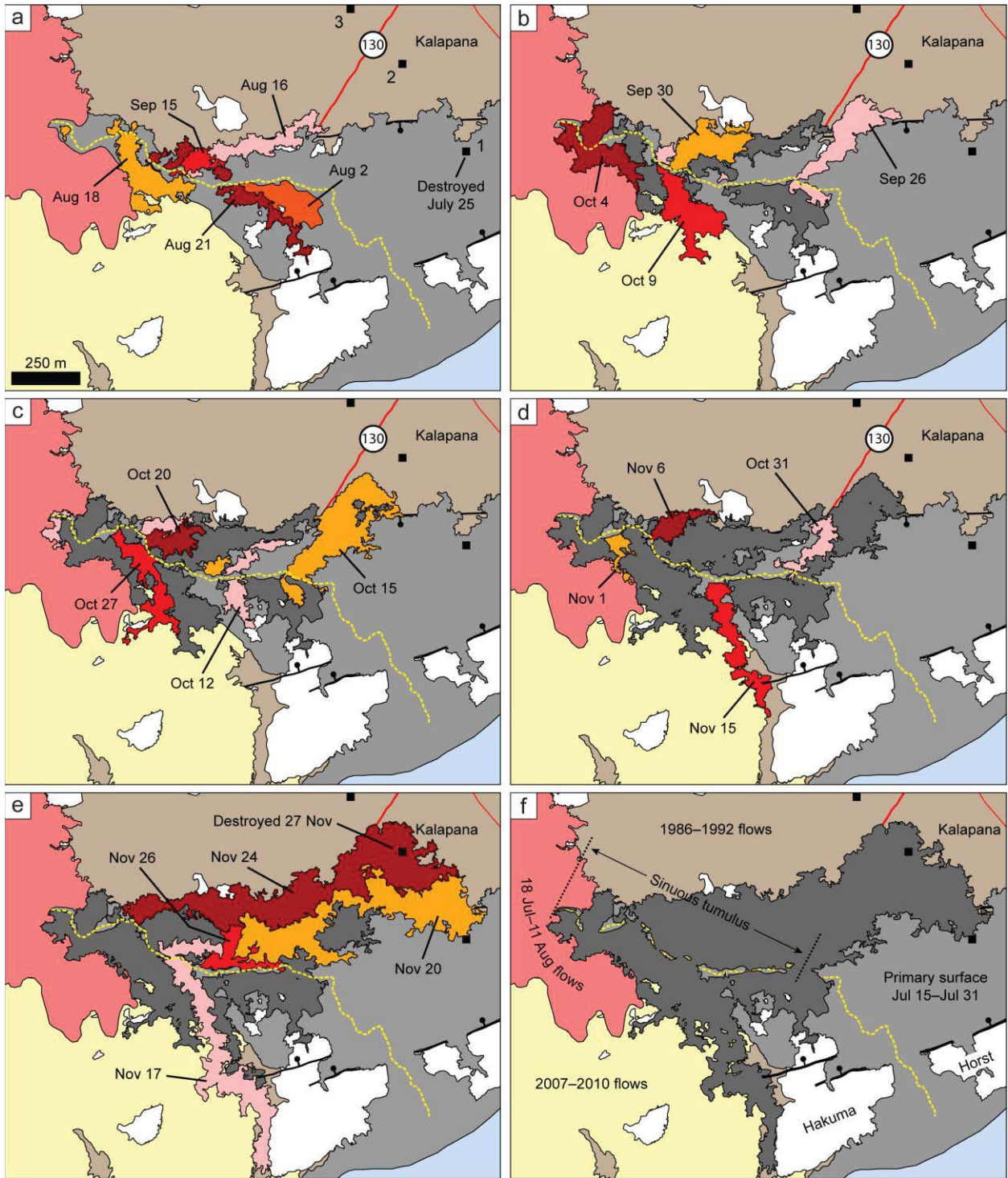
894 Fig. 4

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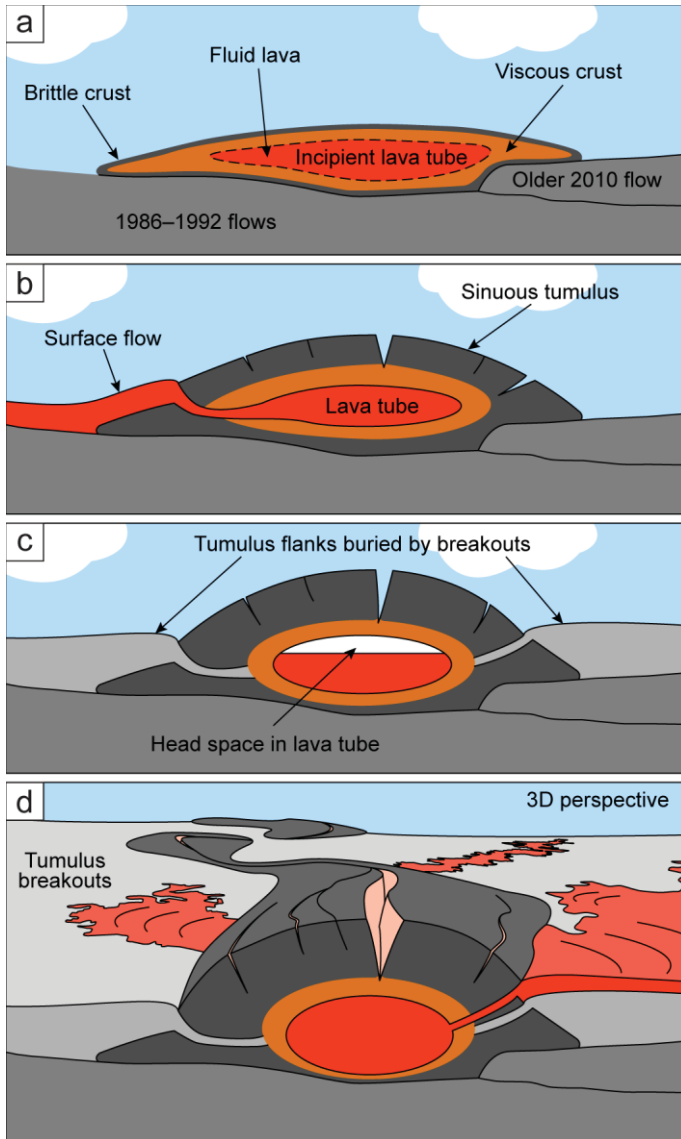
897 Fig. 5



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899 Fig. 6

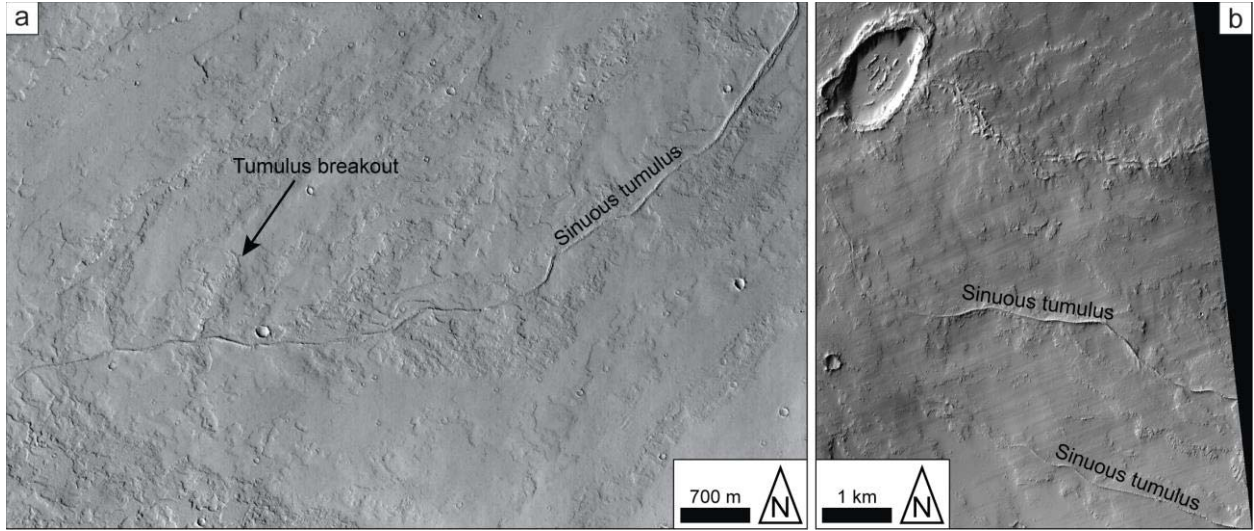
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902 Fig. 7

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904

905 Fig. 8