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Students will explore communicating ideas central to geological thinking through the cinematic lens in the vibrant setting of Hawaii's volcanic islands. Geological thinking in this location will allow us to recognize and explore the dual nature of ongoing earth processes of creation and destruction, and how those processes persist and change over time; all while figuring out how to communicate these ideas visually. The experience of telling the story of the earth through observation and interpretation of the natural world is empowering, and it represents the best possible opportunity to affect profound shifts in thinking, reframing our existence in interesting and important ways.

Learning geology illuminates the dynamic, dual nature of things – creation and destruction in an ever-moving cycle of change. It leads one to think in the complex web that we call 'systems thinking,' understanding the connectedness of all the parts of the earth system – the rock, water, air, and life. The task of a non-fiction filmmaker is to help us see anew, or a different perspective on, some aspect of the world, by starting with a question, gathering sound and images as evidence, reimagining ideas about that question, and then presenting this as an impactful visual statement.

Exploring geology through the cinematic lens – across both their formal, material, and temporal dimensions – can highlight some of the representational and perceptual issues surrounding the ecological crises of the world today. Geologic wonderlands like Hawaii put all these dynamic geologic processes on vibrant display, creating an ideal space to explore these ideas through film. No prerequisites or prior geology or filmmaking experience is required.