



*Hālau Hula Kalehuaki'eki'eika'iu*

September 28, 2011

*Aloha mai kākou,*

*'O Ab Kawainohoikala'i Valencia keia, o ke kumu hula o Hālau Hula Kalehuaki'eki'eika'iu ma Honolulu a me Kīlauea.*

I am Ab Kawainohoikala'i Valencia, kumu hula of Hālau Hula Kalehuaki'eki'eika'iu, a native Hawaiian, hula teacher and cultural practitioner of Hawaiian protocol and practices. I am a resident of Volcano, Hawai'i and I also travel to Honolulu on the island of O'ahu where I teach hula. I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised in Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i. My grandparents originate from Hilo, Hawai'i and from the island of Maui. My wife and I moved to Volcano in 2004 to settle, build a home and I continue to teach and share Hawaiian cultural practices and values. My wife works for the Hawai'i Natural History Association in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. I am a volunteer in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and we are both active in community services in Volcano Village and in the National Park. As such, I would like to say that we both feel very strongly about our commitment to our community, our island, our native culture and especially, our Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The spiritual connection to our *'aina* is strong!

We have met with and talked to both David Donald and Anne Lee of the Volcano Project for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and we feel very strongly that their particular vision for the concessioner use of the Volcano House is a fine example of community awareness and business savvy. Not only is their proposal for the innovative restructuring of the Volcano House essentially good for our community in a business sense, it also shows a deep understanding and appreciation of the connection of our native culture with this very special, spiritual place that is Kīlauea. Their concessioner vision for Volcano House brings together the community, visitors, local businesses, students, professionals, families, scientists --- the list goes on and on. It is an innovative, positive and challenging proposal. Their vision is one that the National Park Service should reflect deeper upon that goes beyond the dollars and cents of a typical park concessioner.

As a native Hawaiian, cultural practitioner, Volcano resident and park user, I feel that David Donald and Anne Lee's concessioner proposal for the Volcano House is first and foremost a very strong commitment to our community, it will provide wonderful visitor experiences and it connects all of us together with the park through the inherent integrity of their proposal that fits the ideas and ideals of the stated missions for all our national parks, but more importantly, for this special place: *ka wahi kapu o Kīlauea, i ka lua o Pele.*

I strongly support their bid for concessioner of Volcano House.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ab Valencia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ab Kawainohoikala'i Valencia  
Kumu hula  
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