

Regional Director Pacific West Region  
National Park Service  
111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, California 94607

Attn: Concession Program Manager

October 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

As an anthropologist and as a taxpayer, I have watched the development of THE VOLCANO PROJECT almost from its inception and feel that David Donald and Anne Lee have exactly the right approach to the problem of being a money changer in one of the temples of the National Park System.

As an anthropologist, I find their low key, in tune with the Native Hawaiian Culture and sensitivity to the environment, remarkable and sorely lacking in most National Parks. As I watched their progress (my husband and I winter in Hawaii and I worked with the NPS in a ground breaking effort to get more native Hawaiians training and jobs in HAVO), I was pleased to note the care with which THE VOLCANO PROJECT addressed Hawaiian cultural issues and their respect in collaborating with the Hawaiian People. As in the case with my own project with Ranger Naturalist Kaponu McDaniel, THE VOLCANO PROJECT provides not sentimental lip service to Hawaiian culture and people, but hard nosed economic opportunities in the form of well paying, full time careers provided by THE VOLCANO PROJECT in the form of a Culinary Institute that will provide training in the park for the future chefs of Hawaii.

As a taxpayer, I am amazed that ANY park concession is "For Profit" with the profit going out of the park, often out of the state and sometimes even out of the country! As far as I know, THE VOLCANO PROJECT is the only local State of Hawaii based non-profit entity that is seeking this contract. I hope you will join me in voting for a local non-profit company based on and for the people and environment.

Yours in John Muir,

Dr Joan Rubin  
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