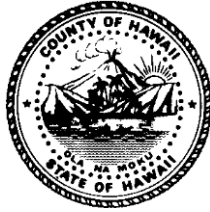


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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October 6, 2011

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

Attention: Concession Program Manager

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for The Volcano Project (TVP) as TVP competes for the Volcano House concession.

The Volcano Project has a unique proposal that would create a world-class hospitality and culinary institute at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's historic Volcano House. This institute will support and train at-risk youth and unemployed adults from across our island and our state, and will prepare them for rewarding, worthwhile careers.

Modeled after the Culinary Institute of America, the non-profit TVP promises to invest in our community by teaching our residents the skills they need to support their families and contribute to the local economy.

The Volcano Project will also promote the culture, cuisine and the people of Hawai'i, and I believe this initiative will generate new jobs by training a new class of entrepreneurs and small business people. This program will help to create a skilled workforce that will benefit private employers in the tourism sector.

I urge the National Park Service to will give every consideration to The Volcano Project and its bid for the Volcano House concession.

Aloha,

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR