



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 17, 2011

Regional Director Pacific West Region
National Park Service 1111 Jackson street
Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607
ATTN: Concession Program Manager
RE: The Volcano Project
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Concession Contract

Aloha!

I am writing in strong support of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park concession contract application that was submitted by Mr. David Donald and Ms. Anne Lee.

For the past three years, Mr. Donald and Ms. Lee have focused on assembling a team of experts in the areas of culinary arts, resort management, environmental sustainability, education, architecture, and Hawaiian culture to create a venue that will offer positive change in our community through The Volcano Project.

They have been forthright with the community about their plans, have been responsive in addressing area business and resident concerns, and intend to be inclusive and sensitive to local businesses, local suppliers, local residents, and park visitors. Their proposal also includes establishing a close relationship with park staff by creating a permanent hotel liaison position with the park.

I have spent most of my life in Hawai'i in the hotel and resort development business and have long been concerned about the direction of the Volcano House which was bought by George Lycurgus in 1865 and who was affiliated with it for about 65 years, until most recently when it was operated by Ken Direction Corporation of Hilo until 2008.

Mr. Donald and Ms. Lee have the backing of the community and I am confident that under their management the operation will reflect the history of the area, be in concert with the objectives of the National Park Service, and will be a successful endeavor.

I live across the street from the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and as an elected official of the State of Hawai'i, I offer whatever support necessary to ensure the success of the project.

Sincerely,



Robert N. Herkes

State Representative

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