

MAZIE K. HIRONO
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

1410 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-4906
FAX: (202) 225-4987
HAWAII OFFICE
5104 PRINCE KUIHO FEDERAL BUILDING
HONOLULU, HI 96850
PHONE: (808) 541-1986
FAX: (808) 538-0233
NEIGHBOR ISLAND TOLL FREE NUMBERS
BIG ISLAND (808) 935-3756
KAUAI / NI'IHAU (808) 245-1951
MAUI (808) 242-1818
LANAI (808) 565-7199
MOLOKAI (808) 552-0160
Website: www.house.gov/Hirono



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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November 8, 2011

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

COPY

Re: The Volcano Project's proposal for the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Concession Contract

Dear Director Jarvis:

I write to bring to your attention The Volcano Project's (TVP) proposal for the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park concession contract.

As with citizens across our nation, jobs are a top priority for the people of Hawaii, particularly the residents of the County of Hawaii Island. In 2010, the USDA Economic Research Service reported 9.8% unemployment in the County of Hawaii. The county experienced the highest unemployment rate in the State of Hawaii and the lowest median household income, \$50,739 compared with the state average of \$63,741.

TVP, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, proposes to operate a hospitality and culinary institute at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park's Volcano House concession. This will provide needed training and job opportunities to the unemployed, including our 17,000 long-term unemployed workers statewide, with a focus on youth. As a non-profit, TVP will put revenues back into the concession, thus keeping all revenues in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress
2nd District, Hawaii

cc (via email): David H. Donald