

Regional Director Pacific West Region
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607

September 13, 2010

Dear Concession Program Manager,

I am writing in support of the bid for the operation of the Volcano House concession by David Howard Donald and the Volcano community. I first came to Hawaii in 1968 and first visited the Island of Hawaii in 1970. Then after years of working on the US Mainland I retired here in Volcano on the Island of Hawaii in 2006. The Volcano House has been a landmark for so many including me. I look forward to having it back in operation again and I hope that it will be as described in the application by Mr. Donald.

We have such a need here on this island for the kind of establishment which includes hospitality training as well as hospitality for the many people from around the world who come to see our volcano. Having been involved in student training for many years, I know that REAL learning does not take place until an individual begins to actually practice what they have learned in classes. Our plan for Volcano House would offer exactly this sort of opportunity.

Our community would greatly benefit from the jobs that the establishment of this particular concession would offer. This fits with the goals that this national administration has for increasing jobs. These would not be temporary as some infrastructure jobs are, but would continue for many years.

I have just gone through the process of finding a place for an annual luncheon meeting for an Island-wide civic group. This made me very aware of the paucity of such places for similar community events. Volcano House as described in the above mentioned bid would provide this for us. I hope you will consider these issues in making your decision.

Yours,



Margaret Drake PhD, OTR/L, ATR-BC
Retired Occupational Therapist, Art Therapist & Volcano Community Member