



Volcano Community Association

PO Box 600, Volcano, HI 96785 • www.VolcanoCommunity.org • vca@VolcanoCommunity.org

October 11, 2011

Regional Director Pacific West Region
National Park Service
111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607
Attention: Concession Program Manager

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the Volcano Community Association (VCA) has unanimously voted to send another letter of support for The Volcano Project (TVP) to The Director of the Pacific Region National Park Service. VCA has supported The Volcano House Project's bid since it began and sent an official support letter in 2009. TVP represents the ideals and values of the Volcano Community. We are very hopeful that The Volcano Project's third bid will finally prevail and allow local community input to "Our Park". It is critical that local Hawaiian cultural values and the environment be a priority in managing this historic property at this sacred area.

For too long private profit has been the driving force behind management of The Volcano House instead of the community, the environment and Hawaiian cultural interests. The over 400 households that VCA actively represents are excited about the innovative and sustainable focus of The Volcano Project's proposal. Sustainable plans to educate and involve local citizens to learn valuable, transferable skills in the hospitality industry will keep resources in Hawai'i. Jobs and salaries will stay within Hawai'i and create a multiplier effect to support local businesses, farmers and citizens. The quality of experiences for visitors will be greatly enhanced and revenues will be returned to the Park for further improvements.

Private for-profit corporations take funds outside of the State instead of strengthening and supporting our local economy. Local community involvement has been a part of TVP's innovative non-profit plan from the beginning. Their professional approach and the team of experts they have assembled are unsurpassed.

We acknowledge The Volcano Project (TVP) for its innovative, multifaceted approaches designed to reestablish Volcano House as a viable facility. To us, definitive points worth highlighting on the TVP website, <http://www.volcanoproject.org/index.html> for both the Volcano community and the Park itself are:

- Fostering economic independence and self sufficiency
- Culinary Institute
- Non-profit
- Job training and employment initiatives
- Superior experience
- Affordable world-class menu
- Use of green technologies; ecological sensitivity
- Fresh produce from around State of Hawaii with emphasis on food grown on Big Island
- Zero waste
- Hawaiian culture



Volcano Community Association

PO Box 600, Volcano, HI 96785 • www.VolcanoCommunity.org • vca@VolcanoCommunity.org

No other entity can even come close to representing the Volcano community and the County and State of Hawai'i. We are proud to be a part of returning the Volcano House to the people instead of corporations and outside interests. Past concessionaires have not respected the Volcano House and its historical value to the Big Island of Hawai'i. Their focus has been private profit at the expense of the buildings, culture and economic sustainability of this unique property.

The Kilauea volcano is a sacred site to the people of Hawai'i and millions of visitors who come to visit each year. It is inappropriate to allow this fragile site to be misused for private enrichment of our tax payer supported National Park.

The Volcano Project's proposal is unique and will provide training, educational opportunities and jobs on the Big Island. Revenues generated by the improved facilities will stay in Hawai'i and benefit local citizens and visitors alike. We urgently request that their bid be accepted. The Volcano House has been closed to the public for too long and we need to reopen the facility without further delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary M. Brewer".

Mary M. Brewer, President
Volcano Community Association
(808) 985-9595