

October 18, 2011

David Donald and Ann Lee  
The Volcano Project  
P.O. Box 218  
Hawaii National Park, HI. 96718

Dear David and Ann,

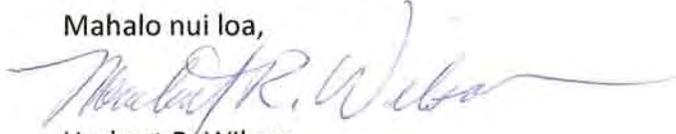
I have been reflecting on the 138 consecutive Sundays that you have manned an information table regarding "The Volcano House Project" at the Cooper Center Farmer's Market in Volcano Village. For we who frequent the market, this is undeniably a lesson in perseverance and commitment. I must admit that as a native of Molokai of Hawaiian ancestry, I am skeptical, at best, toward any new idea, concept, "improvement" that speaks to development of any kind. However, to ho`omau (persevere) and make a passionate commitment to a kuleana (responsibility) over time, as you have, is to gain trust and respect. You have become members of this community, and you have listened patiently to our dreams and needs, which we now know had always been reflected in your proposal. Your understanding of our diverse Hawaii/Volcano/Hawaiian community had preceded your familiarity with us, but precious time together has placed you on a rarely achieved level of intimacy with us. Maika`i loa!

On a personal note, it has been sad to see the now silent Volcano House sit dormant, a body without a soul. So, like you, I have waited with anticipation for the right hands to be selected to mold it into the vibrant destination that it can be. While one cannot predict the outcome, I see some key elements in the "Volcano House Project" proposal that should not be taken lightly by those who will make the final decision:

- Acknowledging a sense of place- this is a facility with a proud history of its own in a geographically rare and spiritually sacred place. Revive its dignity.
- Focusing on hospitality infused with culture and the spirit of Aloha.
- Nurturing an appreciation of the arts, ancient and new, indigenous and diverse, reflective of this unique place.
- Making a commitment to preserve the environment through the prudent, efficient, and innovative use of energy and natural sources of energy.
- Giving back to the greater Hawaii community through a relevant educational program that could conceivably evolve to international status.
- Serving the immediate cottage visitor industry as a central contact with national/international accessibility.

Whether one entity can do all of this remains to be seen, but over 138 Sundays, the seeds have been sown, and they have become our reality. Anything less would be a disappointment! Thank you for having shared with us a viable and stimulating blueprint for the revival of our once proud Volcano House.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herbert R. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Herbert R. Wilson  
Volcano, Hawaii