



August 4, 2010

Regional Director Pacific West Region
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607
Attention: Concession Program Manager

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of David Howard Donald and Anne Lee of The Volcano Project, a non-profit group that is bidding for the Volcano House concession management contract, with whom I have spoken personally regarding their proposal.

To the Hawaiian people and all others who respect and revere the Hawaiian culture, the Volcano area is indeed one of the most sacred areas of our islands. This opportunity for you to select a contractor to manage the Volcano House will greatly impact what the Hawaiian people consider hallowed ground.

The Volcano Project is offering a long-term vision of not simply managing the Volcano House, but considering the ripple effect they (or any other concession) can have on the Volcano House, the Volcanoes National Park, the surrounding areas and communities, the young people of Hawaii, Hawaii's economy, and beyond.

It is a simple concept for a concessionaire to provide food and lodging for the more than 1.5 million visitors to the area. Typically, the only concern would be to make a profit and keep the tourists happy. But the Volcanoes National Park is a unique place. Without cultural sensitivity and an understanding of the deep spiritual connection that the Hawaiian people have to their land, and especially to the Volcano area in particular, a vendor could face enormous challenges to establish a successful business that will thrive.

The Volcano Project proposal includes consultants that will assist them with following proper protocol to honor and respect the sacred beliefs and practices of the Hawaiian people, teach visitors about and introduce them to authentic Hawaiian culture, and care for the land and wildlife of the area. I especially like the educational/training component they are proposing where they will create an affordable hospitality and culinary institution for local students and complement that with international students who can subsidize the tuition while also enriching the experiences of the local students as they interact and share their own cultures.

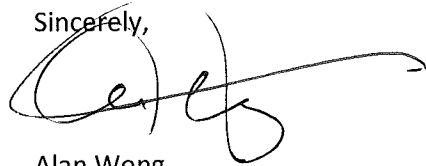
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The Volcano Project proponents seem to understand that the Volcano House concession is an opportunity to strengthen the economy of this rural area where many indigenous people reside while also perpetuating the important traditions of a truly special culture. Their plans to collaborate with entities such as the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, The Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service are truly visionary. Their promotion of local sustainability, both at the Volcano House and in the area, is a practice that I fully support.

I ask you to please consider The Volcano Project's proposal. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Wong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Wong
Chef/Owner