

October 11, 2011

As a longtime Volcano and Hilo resident, I fully support David Donald and Anne Lee as concessionaires of the Volcano House (Volcano Project) for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. I believe that their plans for the use of the Volcano House fit our Volcano community, our culture and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

I was born in Hilo, Hawaii in 1933 and have spent much of my life in Volcano. My great-uncle, Jack Atkinson, designed the Chain of Craters (Crater Rim Drive) Road. I have been a volunteer for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park for 24 years, mostly with the Divisions of Natural Resources, Interpretation, Cultural Resources and Maintenance. I have over 10,000 volunteer hours with the Park, not counting the hours devoted to the Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. My father, Charles W. Atkinson, a research chemist, knew Dr. Jagger and the superintendents during his lifetime, giving assistance when asked, as did his father, Robert Atkinson, and his mother Alice Makee Atkinson. We were quite familiar with the Volcano House and the family of George Lycurgus. In fact, one of his granddaughters was one of my bridesmaids.

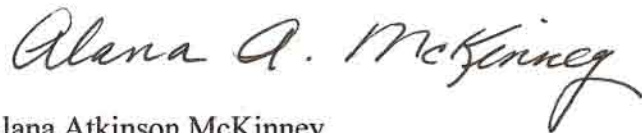
When I began as a volunteer with the Park in 1987, I was the first (and very longtime) Vice President of the Friends of Ho 'Aloha 'Ainahou. We were dedicated to save the 'Ainahou ranch house built by Herbert Shipman on the southeastern slope of the Volcano near Mauna Ulu. We put the ranch house on the state and federal registers of historic homes for the use of visitors in the Park. After several years, the Superintendent asked our group to become the Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. He stated that many groups had requested that honor over the years, but he felt that the Friends of Ho 'Aloha 'Ainahou was most deserving because of its vision and diligence.

My husband, Dr. Lynn B. McKinney (a veterinarian), and I moved back to Volcano in 1983 where we built our home. Dr. McKinney, himself, put in over 5000 volunteer hours in the Park. He helped with the care of animals in the Park, eventually building the Volcano Winery on Keauhou Ranch land near the Volcano Golf Course sub-division. My husband and I helped to start the Rotary Club of Volcano. He was a member of Rotary for 44 years and had extensive business knowledge.

David Donald and Anne Lee have been volunteering with our 'Ainahou Ranch house group since last June. I have realized how dedicated they are and I would be proud to have them as the new concessionaire of our Volcano House. They have Hawaiian vision, professional business wisdom and dedication for a finer Volcano House.

Every single member of our family, including all of our grandchildren, have been volunteers with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and join me in truly supporting the Volcano Project (David Donald and Anne Lee) as the new concessionaire of the Volcano House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alana A. McKinney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Alana Atkinson McKinney  
Post Office Box 486  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785