



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 20, 2011

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

Aloha e Director,

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer my strong support for The Volcano Project's (TVP) bid on the Volcano House concession management contract.

The concept of having a local community-based 501(c)3 non-profit, staffed by industry professionals, indeed some world famous, to run the historic Volcano House in an elegant, old world and truly Hawaiian manner is welcome to all. However, most appealing is that 100% of all profits will be kept in the Park, the community and Hawai'i.

During these most difficult economic times, it is refreshing to see a proposal which addresses job training and job creation by providing educational and economic opportunities in a rural area where both are most needed, and sustainably funded by the profits of the operation.

I agree that in such a sacred place as Kilauea, it is more appropriate for the monies made to be used for the greater good of all. Both Puna and Ka'u will benefit greatly from The Volcano Project's hospitality and culinary school, as well as, the 110 full time jobs created.

By having an information table at the Volcano Farmers Market for 139 weeks in a row, sharing their concept and receiving feedback from residents, many of whom work in the Park, Anne and David have clearly demonstrated successful community outreach. Overwhelming support is reflected in the wonderful and diverse comments and opinions in their many letters of support bridging political, cultural, social, economic and ethnic divides.

Our National Parks are "outdoor classrooms". The Volcano Project is a wonderful opportunity for the National Park Service to turn Volcano House into an indoor one.

I wholeheartedly support The Volcano Project in their bid for concessioner for the Volcano House.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Chang
State Representative – 2nd District