

October 20, 2011

Aloha Kakou.

I'm writing to you as a 30-year Hawai'i resident, a 7-year resident of Volcano, a former board member of the Hawaii Natural History Association, a person concerned with the quality of life around our village, and a tax payer who wants to see our amazing Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park maximize its potential.

I wholeheartedly support The Volcano Project.

I have carefully studied the proposal as explained on <http://volcanoproject.org>. As a freelance reporter by trade, **I am a natural skeptic**, so at first I feared that the project might be merely an idealistic dream that looked great on paper, but would be impractical to develop in the real world. Since then I have spoken numerous times with the prime movers behind the project, Dave Donald and Anne Lee. Yes, they are idealists. But pragmatists too, with an impressive track record. **I am always impressed by their grasp of the complex details upon which the success of their project will depend.** I'm also impressed by the favorable opinions of numerous Hawaii movers and shakers who have voiced their support for The Volcano Project.

I strongly urge you to choose The Volcano Project as the next host of the Volcano House. To me the choice is clear: If you choose a conventional vendor, the park will get just a commercial hotelier which may or may not do a good job.

If you choose The Volcano Project, the park will get a self-supporting non-profit organization that gives vocational training to youth at risk, supports local farmers and ranchers, and promotes indigenous culture, all while giving visitors a wonderful experience of Hawai'i cuisine and hospitality.

Please consider the opinions of so many of us who dearly love Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and our surrounding community. Please choose The Volcano Project for the next hosts of Volcano House.

Respectfully and with Aloha,

Bill Harby