

P. O. Box 408  
Pahoa, HI 96778  
August 1, 2010

Regional Director Pacific West Region  
National Park Service  
111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607

Attention: Concession Program Manager

Dear Sir:

I am writing to endorse the bid of the Volcano Project for the Volcano House concession in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. I am a resident of Kalapana, in Puna, located at the southeastern boundary of the park, whose family was one of the original inhabitants of this segment before it became part of the national park. I am also a retired teacher of the Ka`u area, which is in the southwestern area of the park. Both Puna and Ka`u are individually larger than the island of O`ahu, but hold a small fraction of its population. They are rural areas with no higher education opportunities for their young people. Young people who want to further their education after high school have to leave home and most never return.

The Volcano Project's projections for the Volcano House impress me in two areas—their efforts to present the spirit that makes Hawai`i unique and their plans to incorporate training for the young people of the area. As a native Hawaiian I am admittedly sensitive to tourist promoters who pay lip service to the aloha spirit that separates Hawai`i from other tourist destinations. The aloha spirit is a way of life with us. It is about family, food, sharing, and caring for the land. The principals of the Volcano Project, David Howard Donald and Anne Lee, have taken the time to live in the Volcano Village and to immerse themselves in the Hawaiian culture with great sincerity. It is not just a project with them; it is a commitment. I find that very impressive.

I do recommend that you give great consideration to their proposal which present a unique opportunity to provide training for the young in an educational underserved area and to convey to all visitors the high sacred regard Hawaiians hold for land on which the Volcano House is built.

Sincerely yours,

Maile Moulds-Carr