



**Donation Solicitation to help restore the Martin Charlot Mural adorning the Ellison Onizuka Gymnasium at Konawaena High School**

Aloha!

Located on the slopes of Mauna Loa in Kealahou, Konawaena High School is one of two comprehensive public high schools that service West Hawaii. Konawaena's boundary extends 35 miles from Kailua-Kona to Honolua. We are proud to have Konawaena High School serve as a hub of the South Kona Community and as a vehicle that brings together such a diverse and caring population.

**Description of the mural:** In 1976, artist Martin Charlot completed a 162 ft. multi-panel mural for the façade of the then-new gymnasium as an inspired gift to all students and the community. "Ohana, Ho'oponopono, Kokua" (Family, Reconciliation, Assistance) offers a picture of community, teamwork, and cooperation. As people enter the gym, they are inspired by this massive and vivid depiction of healthy individuals past, present, and future, living together harmoniously within our scenic island backdrop.

Martin Charlot's large works are known for their honest images of everyday life and their ageless words of wisdom. His art appears in business venues, government offices, public buildings, and private collections across Hawaii and beyond. This spectacular work (his first as a muralist) is one of Kona's few pieces of public art.

**Need:** Since 1976, generations have passed under the mural into the gymnasium for graduation ceremonies, classes, sporting events, and community gatherings. After 40+ years this treasured work is suffering from severe elemental damage and is in dire need of repair/restoration. Mr. Charlot is committed to saving this significant piece of Kona history and wants to recreate/restore it so it may continue to be viewed by generations to come. He is anxious to get started and anticipates the work will take several months to complete.

We estimate the cost of full restoration to be approximately \$60,000.00. Konawaena High School is committed to purchasing the necessary equipment, supplies, and providing transportation/lodging to support the artist and project. We are committed to raising the balance (\$16,000 raised to date) to cover commission, labor, and future maintenance costs.

Often, student achievement is viewed exclusively from the perspective of curriculum, teaching, and test scores. We'd like to underscore that numerous studies clearly show that the school facilities and environment also have a significant impact on student behavior, academic success, school climate, teacher retention, and community satisfaction.

We believe the restoration of this historic mural will add volumes to the positive climate and collective pride of Konawaena High School as it approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in three years.

We are humbly asking for contributions to allow future generations to enjoy this beautiful mural. Donations may be made by check and mailed to:

Konawaena Foundation  
81-1043 Konawaena School Road  
Kealahou, HI 96750

(The Konawaena Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible)

Mahalo for your consideration and support!

Most Sincerely:

Shawn S. Suzuki, Principal Konawaena High School