



Restoration Funding Request for the Konawaena High School Gymnasium Mural by Martin Charlot

Aloha,

Located on the slopes of Mauna Loa in Kealahou, Konawaena High School has served as the hub for West Hawai'i's proud and diverse population for nearly 100 years. Once the only public high school in all West Hawai'i, currently the school's geographic boundary extends 35 miles from Kailua-Kona, south to Honoluli.

In 1976, Hawai'i artist Martin Charlot completed a now-famous 40 panel mural on the exterior of the Konawaena gymnasium as an inspired gift to Konawaena students and their community. "Ohana, Ho'oponopono, Kokuu" offers a rich picture of family, teamwork and cooperation. As students enter the now renamed Ellison Onizuka Gymnasium, they are inspired by this massive and vivid depiction of healthy individuals past, present, and future living together harmoniously within a scenic island backdrop.

Martin Charlot's large works are known for their ageless wisdom, realistic depictions of people, and honest images of everyday life. His works are displayed prominently throughout Hawai'i and the U.S. in business venues, government buildings, and private collections. This particular mural is one of Kona's very few pieces of public art.

Since 1976, thousands have passed under the mural into the gymnasium for graduation ceremonies, community gatherings, and sporting events. Unfortunately the years have not been kind to the work. Being outdoors, this treasure suffered from elemental and termite damage, flaking, and discoloration. It is much too important a work not to save and was in dire need of help.

After months of effort, planning, and fund raising, Mr. Charlot arrived in December fully committed to the recreation of this large work, his very first of this scale. It was anticipated it would take three to four months to complete a restoration. Now needing to completely recreate and reproduce the work rather than restore it, it has become a much larger, longer, and costlier project than anticipated. Unfortunately, the original budget of approximately \$50,000.00 will nearly double. Currently we are seeking an additional \$10-15,000 to add to what has already been raised to see this through completion.

Student achievement is often purely looked at from the perspective of the strength of the curriculum and the quality of the teachers. However, study after study demonstrates that facilities themselves have a huge impact on student behavior, grades, teacher tenure and even community satisfaction! To that end, we believe the preservation of this historic and beautiful mural that has long been part of the school community will only add to the positive environment and the collective pride of Konawaena High School.

We humbly ask for your contribution to allow future generations to enjoy this beautiful mural. Donations may be made by check mailed to:

The 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!

Shawn S. Suzuki, Principal
Konawaena High School