



## **2010 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE**

January 3, 2011

Aloha:

The Charter School Funding Task Force, as created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 108 (2010) is pleased to submit this final report. This report contains our findings and recommendations that we would like the Administration, the Legislature and other stakeholders to consider as the discussion on finding an equitable funding solution for Hawaii's charter schools continues.

The Task Force convened in August of 2010 and concluded its meetings in December. During these five months many issues relating specifically to facilities funding arose and the task of creating a dedicated and equitable funding source proved to be much more challenging as it was apparent funding was not the only issue. Issues of need, reliability and fairness in funding also arose.

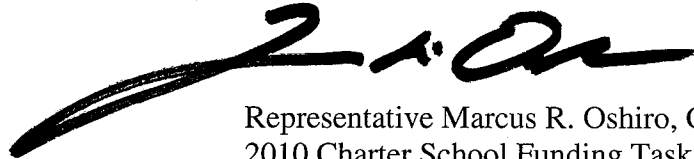
Given the fact that each charter school has different facilities needs (brick and mortar versus trailers) and lease or rent costs, using a per pupil based formula for facilities may not be the most equitable or practical way of distributing funds. One possible way to address the varying facility needs could be to move from formula based funding to one based on need. The Task Force hopes that the concept of needs based funding is seriously considered by all stakeholders as this discussion moves forward.

The Task Force is also aware that the 2010 Supplemental Budget included a proviso that directs \$1,909,049 toward charter school facilities funding and tasked the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) with developing a methodology to distribute these funds. The CSAO was also directed to prepare a report containing a detailed breakout of facility related expenditures for the last completed fiscal year for each charter school and the method of funding. As this report is still being completed by CSAO, the Task Force submits its proposals and asks that the Administration, the Legislature and other charter school stakeholders take a look at the task force's recommendations alongside CSAO's report.

The members of the Task Force recognize that many questions still remain unanswered and that the recommendations contained in this report by no means represent the perfect solution to creating an equitable funding source for Hawaii's charter schools. These findings and recommendations reflect a new starting point for the Administration, the Legislature, charter schools, and the community at large to discuss.

As the Chair of the task force, I would like to express my personal thanks to the Task Force members for all their hard work and dedication to finding an equitable means of funding Hawaii's charter schools. And a special thank you to the charter school stakeholders and members of the public who attended and participated at the meetings. Your participation in the process greatly helped the Task Force better understand the needs of our charter schools.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Oshiro', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
2010 Charter School Funding Task Force