

THE TRUTH

About charter school funding

ISSUE The Republican Party and Jan Shields want you to believe that Sen. Roz Baker does not support charter schools because she supposedly cut their funding. **THIS IS NOT TRUE.**

THE TRUTH

- ▶ Sen. Baker was one of the earliest proponents of charter schools, co-sponsoring the first legislation authorizing charter schools in Hawaii.
 - ▶ In the 2008 legislative session, Sen. Baker's committee complied completely with the Governor's request for Charter School allocations.
 - ▶ Very late in the session, her committee was informed of a charter school budget miscalculation, in addition to the approval of a new charter school.
 - ▶ Despite the last minute timeframe, Sen. Baker scrambled to find additional funding but it still fell short of the charter schools' request.
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THE BOTTOM LINE Senator Baker has always been supportive of charter schools, especially the Kihei Charter which she considers a shining example of the initiative. Despite the impact of the tightening economy, Sen. Baker understands their concerns and is optimistic she can help resolve their budget problems. She is working directly with Kihei Charter School Chair Gene Zarro and others on long-term solutions, as well as future funding for facility improvements.

For more on information on the issues, see www.rozbaker.com or email roz@rozbaker.com.