



2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

At HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund, we are committed advocates for our keiki. A quality education is critical for their future and the future of our state. The Hawaii Legislature serves a critical role in setting policies that directly impact the delivering of a high quality education.

To that end, we contacted every candidate running for the Hawaii Legislature and asked them to answer a series of questions that relate to issues we believe are among the most critical facing education as well as other questions that would allow them to expand on their personal views and vision for our schools.

We are making this information public so that citizens of Hawaii have access to this vital information when considering how to cast a ballot in upcoming elections. You will find links to view all the completed surveys on the next page.

Unfortunately, not all candidates completed the survey. If you do not see a candidate listed, it means that one was not returned to HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund. If that includes candidates in your legislative district, we encourage you to contact them directly and ask them these and other questions related to education.

If you are not familiar with your legislative district or the candidates running for those seats, visit the State Office of Elections Web site by clicking [here](#). Fill out this simple form and you will be able to preview your ballot.

If you have questions about the candidate survey or how these critical issues may impact the education of your loved ones and our state, please do not hesitate to contact David Miyashiro at david.miyashiro@50canactionfund.org.

AA - Aloha Aina
D - Democrat
NP - Nonpartisan
R - Republican
G - Green

Hawaii Senate

Senate District 2
[Smiley Burrows](#) (D)

Senate District 5
[Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran](#) (D)
[Rynette Ipo Keen](#) (AA)

Senate District 9
[Stanley Chang](#) (D)

Senate District 10
[Jesus Arriola](#) (D)

Senate District 13
[Kevin McDonald](#) (D)

Senate District 19
[John H. Clark III](#) (D)

Senate District 20
[Mike Gabbard](#) (D)

Senate District 25
[Kristina Kim-Marshall](#) (R)

Hawaii House of Representatives

House District 1
[Mark Nakashima](#) (D)
[Lorraine Pualani Shin](#) (R)

House District 3

[Frederick F Fogel](#) (D)
[Shannon Matson](#) (D)

House District 4
[Brian Ley](#) (NP)
[Hope \(Alohalani\) Cermelj](#)
(R)

House District 5
[Colehour Bondera](#) (D)
[Citlalli Johanna Decker](#) (AA)
[Jeanné Kapela](#) (D)
[Michael L. Last](#) (L)

House District 7
[David Tarnas](#) (D)

House District 8
[Ka'apuni Aiwohi](#) (D)
[Troy Hashimoto](#) (D)

House District 9
[J Kahala Chrupalyk](#) (AA)

House District 10
[Travis D.E. Gylstrand](#)
(AA)

House District 12
[Simon Russell](#) (D)

House District 13
[Theresa Kapaku](#) (AA)

House District 14
[Steve Monas](#) (R)

House District 17
[Keith Kogachi](#) (D)
[Gene Ward](#) (R)

House District 19
[Wayne Chen](#) (NP/G)

House District 20
[Becky Gardner](#) (D)
[Derek Turbin](#) (D)

House District 29
[James Logue](#) (D)

House District 30
[Ernesto "Sonny" Ganaden](#)
(D)

House District 36
[Marilyn B Lee](#) (D)

House District 39
[Austin Maglinti](#) (R)

House District 43
[Michael P. Kahikina](#) (D)

House District 44
[Joseph Simpliciano](#)
(AA/R)

House District 45
[Michael Chapman](#) (D)

House District 49
[Scot Matayoshi](#) (D)

House District 50
[Patrick Pihana Branco](#) (D)
[Micah Pregitzer](#) (D)
[Kanani Souza](#) (R)

House District 51
[Doni Chong](#) (R)
[Lisa Marten](#) (D)

Smiley Burrows

Senate District 2

Campaign Web Site

Smileymforsenate.com

Campaign Facebook Page

Friends of Smiley Burrows

Twitter Handle

None

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

As a mother whose children have had the opportunity to attend Hawaiiin Charter School Kua O Ka La and Hawaiian Academy of Arts And Sciences Charter School,I am pleased the educational system offers a broad range of educational choices.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

At this turning point with our community facing COVID-19 threats, creating more opportunities for digital learning is imperative.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The hope is for education to not be the area to make cuts, our children need to be a priority.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

The problem starts at early childhood in the home. Domestic violence counseling, drug addiction counseling and community involved healing programs for families can be the solution. The aspect of giving the children more concrete vocational learning programs to get their feet in the door for adulthood is crucial.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Many families in my community can not afford internet access or have no access in our rural area. I am seeing the need to create more resiliency hubs and community centers with public access transportation for the most challenged rural areas.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Getting our children interested in alternative energy solutions and agricultural advancements with industries such as hemp and marketing numerous products from this resource is the future.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senate District 5

Campaign Web Site

GILKEITHAGARAN.COM

Campaign Facebook Page

@FRIENDSOFGILKEITHAGARAN

Twitter Handle

@GILKAOGG

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

BASE FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, BASED ON SCHOOL POPULATION, IN THEORY IS EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA. ACADEMIES AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE ON CERTAIN CAMPUSES IN INSPIRING STUDENTS AND SHOWING THEM HOW THEIR EDUCATION WORKS IN THE “REAL WORLD.”

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

PROVIDING SMALLER RURAL SCHOOLS ABILITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN RESOURCES READILY AVAILABLE AT LARGER URBAN CAMPUSES (AND SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT MAKE THE THRESHOLD REQUIRED TO BE TREATED AS A TITLE I SCHOOL TO ACCESS FEDERAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED FOR THOSE POPULATIONS).

RURAL/NEIGHBOR ISLAND SCHOOLS STILL LAG IN EQUITABLE ACCESS TO STEM/STEAM LEARNING EXCEPT IN OPPORTUNISTIC WAYS (KEY TEACHER ON A CAMPUS, KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS INVESTING IN A LOCAL SCHOOL).

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE KEY, ESPECIALLY IF DISTANCE LEARNING OR SOME HYBRID WILL BE REQUIRED. THE PROPOSED SCHOOL FACILITIES AGENCY HAS PROMISE IN BETTER HANDLING CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE SCHOOLS OVER THE NEXT

TWO YEARS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PINPOINT WHAT OUR CURRENT SCHOOLS (AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY ARE LOCATED IN AND SERVE) NEED IN TERMS OF RESOURCES FOR A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY EDUCATION THAT USES AND ACCESSES TECHNOLOGY WELL— IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HAVE GATHERED THE DATA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2020 RATHER THAN IN A COMPUTER SURVEY SENT OUT DURING A FEW WEEKS IN JUNE.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

EDUCATORS SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF A COMMUNITY. A SCHOOL HOWEVER SHOULD PROVIDE A SAFE AND AFFIRMING EXPERIENCES FOR ITS ENTIRE STUDENT BODY. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK AT LOWERING THE TEACHER-STUDENT RATIOS (SOMETHING THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS FORCING THE SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS WITHIN THE CURRENT BUILDINGS PROVIDED FOR OUR SCHOOLS).

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

THE PILOT PROJECT FOR KAUAI'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY PROVIDE SOME POINTERS FOR OTHER SCHOOL COMPLEXES— BASED ON ACTUAL DATA GLEANED BY KAUAI'S EDUCATORS. THE LEGISLATURE USED TITLE I ELIGIBILITY AS A SURROGATE MEASUREMENT FOR SPOTTY DATA IN ALLOCATING \$6.4 MILLION OF FEDERAL CARES FUNDS TO PURCHASE DEVICES FOR THE NEEDIEST SCHOOLS. THE DOE STILL HAS NOT PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATURE HOW IT

SPENT AND MEANS TO SPEND THE \$43 MILLION IN CARES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THE DOE. KAUAI ALSO IS FORTUNATE IN HAVING WELL-ENDOWED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS WILLING TO INVEST IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

OUR SCHOOLS SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASIC TOOLS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO THRIVE WHEREVER THEY DECIDED TO LIVE AND IN WHATEVER FIELD THEY WISH TO PURSUE. PROVIDING OUR CHILDREN WITH CHARACTER, CURIOSITY AND INSIGHT WILL ALLOW THEM TO DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY THEY DECIDE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN. SCHOOLS SHOULD ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN AN ISLAND COMMUNITY AND TO APPRECIATE WHAT SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE SIGNAL AS APPROPRIATE AND BALANCED IN TERMS OF OUR BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC SECTORS. THEY'RE NOT PAWNS FOR GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

No

CHILDREN WHO ARE ORIENTED TOWARDS COLLEGE SHOULD CERTAINLY COMPLETE FAFSA. IF FAFSA OPENS THE HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS UNSURE ABOUT THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THEN SCHOOL COUNSELORS SHOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO COMPLETE THE FORM.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

No

THE SELLING OF CHARTER SCHOOLS, IN PART, WAS THAT THEY WOULD PURSUE THEIR OWN FACILITIES (EXCEPT FOR CHARTERS CONVERTING FROM CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES), AND WOULD NOT TAKE FACILITIES RESOURCES FROM THE REST OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Rynette Ipo Keen

Senate District 5

Campaign Web Site

www.alohaainaparty.com

Campaign Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-R-Ipo-Keen-SD5-104933414527010/>

Twitter Handle

N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The current educational system does a great job of indoctrinating our children into the American educational system and the colonization of our children, and the promotion of STEM.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

More attention must be given to the cultural competence of the various cultures that make up Hawaii. They need to place more focus on the students, their supplies for students (i.e., having enough textbooks), and teach the States Official Language of our islands as well as be more sensitive to children with learning disabilities.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Return to the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Additionally, we need to move away from studying for measurement exams and focus more on ensuring each student can progress toward higher education competently by encouraging initiative and creativity through hands-on learning.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

In my opinion, our schools in areas most affected by this phenomenon need to stop cookie-cutter education. Instead, teach in a manner that increases student self-esteem and encourages students to think for themselves, to move away from one size fits all, and by offering classes to middle and high school students that are not standard learners. More emphasis needs to be placed on the student and not on Standardized Testing that is flawed and racially and culturally biased.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

In my opinion, it truly takes a village to raise and educate our children. As such, I feel the DOE, the State Legislature, and Internet providers, as well as, the large corporations in the State need to work together and invest in our children, by providing either low-cost or no-cost internet connections and to supply the required equipment for children to be able to access distance education

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Our public education system can be a catalyst by offering more farming and ranching classes, more classes on internet security and application writing, as well as more vocational education for those students that desire a different path than that of higher education.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Stanley Chang
Senate District 9

Campaign Web Site

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Campaign Facebook Page

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Twitter Handle

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Hawaii's education funding model is one of the most equitable in the nation. All other states fund their schools with local property taxes, which in most cases means that schools in wealthy neighborhoods are well funded and schools in poor neighborhoods are inadequately funded. Because Hawaii's schools are funded statewide through the proceeds of the excise tax, public schools receive more or less the same amount of money per student through the "weighted student formula." Kaiser and Kalani do not receive much more funding than Waianae or Waipahu. Indeed, if anything, schools in poor communities actually receive more funding when counting allocations through the federal Title I program.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Hawaii needs to fund our schools better. It's easy to criticize one or another aspect of Hawaii's education, but the bottom line is that the resources are not there to make substantial improvements at scale. Greater funding could be used to attract top talent into the teaching and administration professions. Greater funding could purchase top of the line equipment to stimulate students' imaginations and interest in lucrative STEM fields, like the maker lab at my alma mater, Iolani School. Greater funding could pay for air conditioning to ensure the best possible learning environment for our keiki. With more resources, the possibilities are endless. Without more resources, it is very difficult to expect better outcomes.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

As long as the pandemic continues to pose a threat to our public health and to our economy, I will not be focusing my legislative efforts exclusively on balancing the budget. Our state constitution permits an unbalanced budget during times of emergency, which we are clearly in today. I am committed to maintaining our revenue sources for all public services, with education among the most important of them. Just as I have done in previous years, I will fight to keep our schools adequately funded and am open to revenue enhancement through, for example, our property and general excise taxes. In order to alleviate financial burdens on our schools without compromising the quality of education they provide, the

state can access COVID-19-related federal relief funds, such as the CARES Act School Emergency Relief Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, to cover costs for educational technology, special education services, and after-school programs. We can also access other means of financial assistance, such as the federal Municipal Liquidity Facility and funds provided by the Department of Labor, to help support our schools.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

The school-to-prison pipeline is one of the most pressing issues in our education system today. Our public school system often neglects students struggling with poverty, disabilities, abuse, and other vulnerabilities, and rather than counsel or assist them, we incarcerate them and end up criminalizing our youth. Our school suspension and disciplinary policies also disproportionately affect our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, who comprise 51.5% of all public school suspensions in Hawaii despite accounting for only 34.7% of the total enrolled public school population. In order to close our school-to-prison pipeline, we must make school suspensions a last resort, and focus our financial resources on programs dedicated to special education and counseling for students exhibiting behavioral problems. We must also start supporting our keiki's social development at a young age through affordable preschool programs, such as the Preschool Open Doors subsidy. And lastly, we must expand family visitation programs and facilities at sites such as the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility and the Oahu Community Correctional Center. Family visitations often act as crucial support systems that help incarcerated individuals reintegrate back into society as

healthy and proactive citizens and facilitate the family relationships that are critical in ensuring the child's success in education.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

All students deserve a quality education, regardless of logistical obstacles such as poor internet connections or lack of tech accessibility among our lower-income and rural students. One way that we can ensure quality distance learning opportunities for our students is to allocate portions of our DOE budget, or request outside funds such as the federal CARES Act, to purchase tech supplies for students in need of them. In May, the DOE received \$43 million from the federal government as part of a coronavirus relief package, and spent \$5.5 million on a purchase of 10,000 technological devices, which consisted of 2,500 iPads and 7,500 Chromebooks, and an additional \$6 million on summer learning programs geared towards students at risk of falling behind in their schoolwork or of not fulfilling graduation requirements. Although federal resources are finite and are not always available, they are becoming more readily accessible to our state agencies, and by seeking and using these resources to our full extent, we can ensure both the equity and quality of education for our keiki.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

In order to diversify our economy beyond tourism, we can invest in our students by providing them with quality STEM learning resources. Our rapidly digitalizing

economy requires us to equip our students with the skills to enter high-growth and high-wage tech sectors, such as information systems management and renewable energy solutions. Of these, renewable energy is perhaps the most promising sector for us to mold our education infrastructure around for our students. Hawaii's abundance of wind, solar, geothermal, and other clean energy sources could make us the Saudi Arabia of clean energy. By providing our students with a robust education in the natural sciences, we can equip them with marketable skills to enter and expand our renewable energy industries. Not only would such an initiative be eco-friendly in the long run, it will also keep nearly \$5 billion per year in oil-buying costs within our island economy, which can be used to create more jobs and stimulate more economic growth.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of

Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Jesus Arriola

Senate District 10

Campaign Web Site

jesusarriola.com

Campaign Facebook Page

facebook.com/arriola4hawaii

Twitter Handle

N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

We have some great principals, and administrators. They do well by allowing them the freedom to operate accordingly to their district and people.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

I believe emergent schools are of great importance and require just funding. Additional policy and appropriations are needed for remote and innovative styles of teaching.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Educational Hybrid curriculum: - Online Automated National Curriculum -
Community Based Learning Curriculum - Critical Innovative Curriculum.

Here we could appropriate special funds primarily towards Private Local Businesses and Private Venues that provide support towards the Community Based Learning Curriculum (For example: Hawaiian Language, Culture, Ethics, Politics, Home Economics, Financial Studies) and in the Critical Innovative Curriculum (Coding, Drone, AI, Visual)

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I believe the school should recognize at risk students and come to an agreement (MOA- Memorandum of Agreement) to work with the State. I believe we need to meet Students where they are at, in our communities. We have a responsibility as a community to bridge the gap between the school and the local work force. We need to provide programs that will carve a path for at risk students into options such as trade school programs, city and state programs, and always continued educational programs. I'm a strong advocate for subsidized community outreach programs that include athletics for kids (basketball, boxing, karate, judo, soccer, yoga, etc.).

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Lend Devices and Tablets to Students at adequate rate by having the state leverage credit and finance over time. Internet - Work with local providers

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

In Addition to [state tax revenue question], incorporate a Catalyst that will put more practical skill sets into the curriculum. Emphasize trades and Careers in Healthcare, Research, Technology.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

We should educate kids about the option.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

We could share and collaborate State fun[ded] educational facilities

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Kevin McDonald

Senate District 13

Campaign Web Site

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Campaign Facebook Page

Friends of Kevin McDonald

Twitter Handle

@voteforkevin

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Almost nothing. According to the latest studies Hawaii ranks 3rd from the bottom in nationwide school rankings. Our teachers are underpaid, our school buildings are dilapidated and there is a lack of equipment and other educational materials.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Our biggest priority should be better pay for teachers. Hawaii's teachers are grossly underpaid and so we cannot keep quality teachers from leaving for better opportunities. Better buildings, equipment, and better student discipline are also needed.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

One solution I would like to implement to help with this issue is to create a state lottery with all the proceeds going to education.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I believe our schools need to implement better disciplinary policies. School absences and misbehavior are not dealt with on a strict level, if they are dealt with at all.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

I would propose a cell phone hotspot program for students to use their cell phones to gain internet access. This can be subsidized by the government if needed.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Programs can be offered in high schools for students to specialize in, and there should be student clubs as well to encourage students to pursue their interests.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

John H. Clark III

Senate District 19

Campaign Web Site

www.Clark4Senate.com

Campaign Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Clark4Senate>

Twitter Handle

@Clark4Senate

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Considering the vast differences among the respective islands, the State of Hawaii does relatively well at de-centralizing control and relinquishing power to the respective principals of the various schools. Additionally, as a member of a School Community Council (SCC), and as the Chairperson of the Education Committee of the Ewa Neighborhood Board, I believe the State of Hawaii does well at employing efforts to engage parents of Hawaii's students. Through venues like the SCC and via resources like the Parent Community Network Center (PCNC) facilitator, the DOE places a high value on obtaining parental input. Similarly, as a member of the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), I believe the State of Hawaii holds its relationship with the large population of military impacted students in high regard. And with a vast number of military-impacted schools, I believe DOE manages its relationship with the military very well. The JVEF is a cooperative

partnership between Hawaii's military community, the Hawaii Department of Education, and other community organizations.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Through my extensive ties with the schools in Ewa Beach and across Oahu, I believe the State of Hawaii could do better in regards to education and education policy by paying greater attention to five specific areas:

1. Best practices repository: Build and maintain a dedicated website and physical Center of Excellence where teachers, administrators, staff, and students can visit to discover and learn about the best ways to do just about anything related to education.
2. Procurement reform: The state simply has to get better at holding developers and contractors accountable for cost-management and warranted items.
3. Incentive-based teaching: What we incentivize will happen.
4. Better leveraging of grants: I have seen far too many grants lose their effectiveness simply because the funds are used or leveraged in an optimized manner.
5. Increased public/private ventures: I have provided testimony to seek legislation to not only allow commercial sponsorship (and naming rights) of school facilities, but to also elevate the decision process beyond the level of the superintendent of the department. I firmly believe Hawaii and the Department of Education could facilitate a significant financial windfall if we assertively court multi-national corporations and allow them to place their respective names on some of our schools – for an agreed-upon (substantial) sum of money. To be sure, we would have to be very careful with whom we make our respective agreements. But it

could potentially add millions of dollars and a significant boost to the schools' capital-improvement plans and associated budget.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

In this resource-constrained environment, I believe the state can garner significant efficiencies by employing a zero-based budget review. By employing zero-based budgeting (ZBB) all DOE expenses must be justified for each new period. The process of ZBB starts from a "zero base," and every function within DOE should be analyzed for its needs and costs.

Though initially time-consuming and somewhat intrusive, ZBB would allow high-level strategic goals to be implemented into the budgeting process by tying them to very specific functional areas, where the associated costs can be first grouped and then measured against previous results, current expectations, and an overall quantitative and qualitative return on investment.

By using ZBB, DOE will very likely find significant resources that can be reallocated to areas where a higher ROI has been proven (or expected).

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

To do better at closing the school-to-prison pipeline, Hawaii schools can leverage the vast number of non-profit agencies that have missions to specifically facilitate candid discussions about life after high school.

Today's teenagers face unprecedented demands on their attention. Concurrently, schools and community leaders are challenged with decreasing budgets, restrictive curricula, and an educational system that often places less accountability on educators, and more accountability on the students. However, to the average coming-of-age student, such accountability is not understood, believed or relevant, unless and until candid, forthright conversation about "the real world" can be provided. In some cases, a teenager's accountability is not understood by the teenager until after high-school has ended, and "the real world" begins.

I currently serve as the Executive Director of TeenBuilding USA, a non-profit with a mission to increase the graduation rate among high-school students. I founded TeenBuilding USA to specifically provide a positive venue for teens to develop life leadership skills that emphasize personal and academic accountability.

TeenBuilding USA works directly with teens to assess needs, establish goals, and help students begin to map out and achieve their respective dreams. Through life-changing seminars and outreach events, TeenBuilding USA is helping teens change their lives and understand the fact that they, themselves, are the determining factor in their future success!

If Hawaii schools increased their partnerships with organizations like TeenBuilding USA, the state would likely get better at closing the school-to-prison pipeline.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

In this life-changing time of the pandemic, ensuring all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning is absolutely critical. Accordingly, establishing public/private partnerships with the (two) prevailing internet-service providers in the state could prove to be a tremendous boon to not only students in the K-12 curricula, but also to all of the residents across the entire state of Hawaii.

Better yet, if and when I am elected, I will personally reach out to Elon Musk, the creator of Tesla, and request that the state of Hawaii be used as a beta test site for one of Mr. Musk's other ventures, "SpaceX's Starlink." Starlink is a satellite-based internet system. Musk has said his goal for Starlink is to deploy the technology to communities that have had almost no internet options until now. According to Musk, the "private beta" testing phase is ongoing, with public beta testing slated for later this year. It never hurts to at least TRY to obtain a public/private partnership with brilliant billionaires like Elon Musk.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Our schools should double as gigantic "think tanks" where students are incentivized and publicly rewarded for solving seemingly difficult challenges. Over the past six years, I have facilitated "TeenBuilding Seminars" to thousands of students. In each of those seminars, I have shared the logo and tagline of

TeenBuilding USA. The tagline states TeenBuilding USA - "Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today." And in each of those seminars, I often learn while teaching. And I firmly believe that our students are one of the most underutilized resources in the state. Their creativity, ingenuity, and ability to access and manage information is far beyond what today's older adults had when we were in school. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

Accordingly, I believe we can harness the dreams of our students as a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism. We should draw upon their creative energy, their unlimited imagination, and their ability to access and manage information to invent, create, design, discover, conceive, and formulate things that adults would never consider.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of

Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

No

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Mike Gabbard

Senate District 20

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Campaign Facebook Page

GabbardAloha

Twitter Handle

GabbardAloha

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

As a former public high school English teacher, I'm a big proponent of the Career Pathways System, which helps our high school students get real world, hands-on education to assist them in choosing a career, and provides a framework for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study. As the Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair in the Senate, I'm also hopeful our public school system will continue expanding school gardens and agriculture education, which is key to getting young people interested in the farming profession.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Our school infrastructure has been a big issue for a long time. Many of our schools are overcrowded and in need of better electrical systems and air conditioning. We must be smart in how we deal with this problem going forward, now that we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and the likelihood we'll have a mix of in-class and online instruction for the foreseeable future.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

It's hard to predict what's going to happen with our economy 10 years into the future. It's true our state is faced with a \$2.3 billion shortfall, which is going to require us to borrow money from the Federal Municipal Liquidity Fund to keep our state government afloat. I'm opposed to state worker furloughs, because it will cause more harm than good to our economic situation. We are in the process of gradually opening up our economy, which could accelerate on August 1, with the changes planned for the current transpacific flight quarantine. There's no reason we can't prioritize education and avoid substantial cuts to our public school system.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

In 2019, the Legislature passed SB 388 (Act 271), which established a task force to create a system "for evaluating and assessing all children and those who are exhibiting emergent or persistent behaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism and are in need of appropriate supports and interventions accessible within the continuum of a multi-tiered system of supports." I voted in support of this bill. The Legislature also passed HB 1346, a bill I supported, during our 2020 session which will greatly reduce the likelihood of children being suspended or

expelled from our public pre-schools. This is the kind of legislation we need to build upon to reduce the so-called “school to prison pipeline.”

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

The Legislature passed HB 1523 in 2020, which will assist the Department of Education with its Accelerating Digital Education Plan. This bill, which I supported, will dedicate \$6.4 million in federal CARES Act funding to allow the DOE to purchase digital devices for schools with identified needs and student populations of 50% or greater who qualify to receive free or reduced price lunch. This will help ensure that those keiki will be able to participate in an online educational curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic. We should continue putting state resources toward the Accelerating Digital Education Plan.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

During the COVID-19 lockdown, I've been collaborating with Future Farmers of America students and Waipahu Intermediate Advisor, Ken Kozuma, on how their 300-student strong organization can help get our struggling ag sector back on track. Right now, the FFA students are proposing that Waipahu High host a food hub on their campus and recently gave a Powerpoint presentation to Waipahu High Principal Keith Hayashi. The students are also working with a grant writer to obtain funding for this potential project and are being mentored by a food hub expert. A food hub, as defined by the USDA, is “a centrally located facility with a

business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.” The students will be reaching out to Waipahu Neighborhood Board Chair Rito Saniatan about making a presentation on this proposed project to the Board. This is the kind of innovation we need in our public school system to grow the next generation of farmers, who can help diversify our economy.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

No

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Kristina Kim-Marshall

Senate District 25

Campaign Web Site

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N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I went to public school in Hawaii. Also, I have several very close friends who are public school teachers. There are many really excellent teachers who truly care about our Keiki and work overtime all year long investing into our future generations.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

I believe we need more programs or support for special needs kids. I believe we need more accountability with our finances in the education system. And I believe we need more accountability with our tenure teachers so that they will not take their positions for granted. Also, we need to create even more safer, healthier environments for students and teachers to grow and thrive. We are in the top 1/3 of funding for schools in the nation. But bottom 1/3 in quality and tests scores. We also have the same teacher to student ratio as the national average. So that means we have a lot of room to grow.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

We need to work together as a team in the government and community and figure this out. The children are number one. We need to and will figure this out. No excuses.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

There are so many opportunities. Here are a few ideas: 1. Increase Social Workers & Mental Health Professionals 2. Reduce classroom size 3. Practice restorative justice

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

I think since internet and technology providers have so much money and resources, it would be great if they could give it at cost or near cost to students. In France, some public tv stations have been airing school lessons for children, a different idea. Also, parent teacher associations and non-profits have provided laptops to students to need them.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

If we focus on education our young people well now, they will be equipped with wisdom, creativity and innovation and if we provide them with an environment that they can stay live and thrive after college, their talent and new innovations will build to our local economy.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

Absolutely, because some families wouldn't know about it otherwise. And they will only get accepted if they qualify.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

Sure, I think this is to the advantage to the students and thier families. Especially for children in homes with mental or substance disorders, thier parents won't be looking out for thier best interests.

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Mark Nakashima

House District 1

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

N/A

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Management and evaluation of department programs and personnel needs to be standardized and allocation of resources must be more equitable.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The department has become over inefficient with the creation of numerous non-essential and non-teaching positions that are not essential to the primary mission of the department that are scattered throughout the administrative structure.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Better attention paid to individual student needs, especially at the lower grade levels is critical in the child's educational development and success. Effectively addressing learning disabilities, special education needs, and other student needs that hinder student success is critical in ensuring a student's educational success and avoiding future delinquency.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

This becomes especially difficult in the so called "last ten miles, where the rural nature of the community does not make it financially feasible for providers to provide internet connectivity. Creation of regulatory and competitive incentives to move forward to extend service to rural areas is key in extending services out to these underserved areas.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

The education system must be able to expand beyond the cookie cutter approach to education and provide additional opportunities for enrichment and real life career experiences to expand the students universe of possibilities.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

This would vary from school to school based on actual facility needs and cost.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Though the Department of Labor Workforce Development section, microgrants are provided to enrichment programs that offer programs in healthcare, agriculture and STEM programs.

Lorraine Pualani Shin

House District 1

Campaign Web Site

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Campaign Facebook Page

Being constructed

Twitter Handle

Being constructed

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

We must improve our education system when our public schools are ranked best 36 in the nation. Hawaii spends more per pupil \$11,823 than any other West Coast state. Question is Why? Although ratio appears to be 16 pupils to 1 teacher, why are our kids failing. I'm a business person who is skilled in money management and accountability and believe we need to invest in our future leaders.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

As a business person with management skills, we need to invest more funding in infrastructure, more funding to have a ratio of 10 pupils to 1 teacher, and an accountability to measure the performance of our teachers annually. We test our

students for progress. We should do the same for teachers. A bad teacher will influence a student to become dysfunctional

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

As a business person, if there is a shortfall of income projections, we analyze and evaluate what we need to do to generate income to meet our projections.

Education should never be sacrificed.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I am the President of the Penn Hawaii Youth Foundation since 2005. Through martial arts training we instill values of confidence, discipline, humility, and spirit.

We work with around 200+ kids annually. Education is the key to success if we care to help those students who come from dysfunctional homes. We need to fund programs that instill positive values to keep students from the prison pipeline.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

It comes down to funding. It should be mandated that all public schools have internet connections and technology for students to have access to. It's up to our government to find the funds to make this happen.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

When I was in High School, I remember vocational classes being taught to students such as mechanic and business programs. These students then attended other vocational schools after high school. Today, we live in a high tech environment. Other industries we could consider are aviation mechanic training and flight training in Hawaii. The glass is always full as to the industries our educational system can explore. Need program development and instructors to teach.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

It would depend on the finances of their family

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

This is would coincide with question [about] new industries for our students

Shannon Matson

House District 3

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N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

As a government agency the DOE understands that it must meet the educational needs of every student in our state, regardless of any classification: from genius to learning disabled, no English proficiency to Hawaiian Language immersion. Hawaii requires benchmarks for continuity (incase students move around the state) but does not dictate a specific roadmap on how to get to those benchmarks which allows freedom for the administration and teachers to create curriculum based on the unique needs of their individual students.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Funding! As a government service we absolutely need to fund the schools and teachers our keiki deserve. We are experiencing a severe teacher shortage and need to prioritize funding our schools for future generations. Also, it has been proven that early childhood is the most crucial period of time in educational

development, all children should have equal access to quality education and care at this stage. Therefore, the legislature must fund universal preschool through the DOE to pay the teachers a professional salary and provide the care/education our keiki deserve.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I'm in favor of a tax on the wealthiest 1%- who have been shown time and time again to overall be paying taxes at a lower rate. We also need to redirect our priorities on our budget to fund what matters most. Our schools and teachers are already significantly underfunded- further cuts to quality and efficacy is unacceptable. Our State could begin by redirecting funding set aside for homeless sweeps, building prisons, even some of our Tourism Authority funds. We need to demand that the Department of Defense pay its full amount of impact aid, we could collect the short falls from this from the last 20 years. My understanding is that our DOE has been shortchanged \$300M a year, over 20 years that has built up to be a \$6B credit with the Federal government. We need to be creative in seeking solutions that don't impact quality and instead create better opportunities for our students today who will be the foundation of our future economy.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

We need criminal justice reform. This is a much larger issue than I can cover here in a few sentences, but we absolutely need to be looking at ways to reduce our prison population and stop penalizing people so extensively for non-violent crimes. We need more mental health, and rehabilitation options so that we can get people the help they need rather than funneling everyone who gets caught making a mistake into prison.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

We need to prioritize alternative energy and connectivity options as another way to boost our economy. If we provide the support and incentivize ways for these to be job creators then we will be able to make sure all students, especially those in rural areas- have equal access.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

As we are currently still importing over 85% of our food, but we have a year-round growing season, I would like to see our top priority in our economy diversification be to improve our support for local, small-scale, sustainable agriculture. I would be supporting farm-to-table programs at the DOE level and through other State programs, and be working towards creating opportunities for students to have an active participation in learning about and supporting farming practices in school; growing their own food, harvesting their own food, preparing their own food, and eating their own food. If we are able to create interactive,

and fun programs in which our keiki learn the importance of being food-self-sufficient and experience the joy in feeding themselves from food they grow we will help to create the next generation of family farmers. This is crucial to support our goals of resiliency and improving the local economy. I would also be supporting the growth of green technology jobs and alternative energy production infrastructure as top priorities and the best way to ensure we have future leaders interested in these industries is to promote and support them within our education system.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should

the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Frederick F Fogel

House District 3

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Campaign Facebook Page

N/A

Twitter Handle

N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Spend money.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

1. Pay teachers more. Fire the underperforming ones. 2. Issue school vouchers and allow parents to send kids to schools outside their districts if space available. Voucher amounts should include everything needed to run a school (salaries, maintenance, etc.). 3. Empower principals to spend their voucher money any way they see fit. 4. Dissolve the state school board and create county boards comprised of principals (public and private).

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Institute a state lottery, with proceeds going to education. Decrease overhead expenses. Empower principals to spend money as they see fit.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

First time I've heard of that. Are schools training kids to be criminals? Doesn't sound like a good thing. All prisoners should be required to work or train - that

includes furthering their education. Discipline starts at home, and continues in schools.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Provide it at school, and allow students to use it after hours. Provide links in libraries, and allow students to access for free. Reduce the regulatory burden on service providers and encourage competition.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Focus on more than college. Provide trade experience. Encourage diversity in learning.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Unsure

Career-based learning does not have to focus on high-growth, high-wage industries only.

Hope (Alohalani) Cermelj

House District 4

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N/A

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hopiecermelj

Twitter Handle

#hopie

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Not much, needs revamped, especially teacher salaries

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Now keiki out of school for 5 months... educators could be deep cleaning classrooms and set-up online teaching for the future

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Move state dollars from OHA, change/slash pay raises of (newly added) pay raises in Senate and House.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Unsure, compassion in D.O.E. administration

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

A must to fund every student a laptop and responsibility forms signed by student to care and maintain unit.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Farm to table; more outside science, classroom planting, cultivating and harvesting cash crops, as well as hemp.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

Grades should determine federal aid

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

No

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

Immediately, statistics prove funds desperately needed in charter schools

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Immediately, my personal platform "bullet" is: create and fund tech schools for mechanic cert.; CNA cert.; business mgmt cert.; computer sciences cert.

Brian Ley

House District 4

Campaign Web Site

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Campaign Facebook Page

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Twitter Handle

[LeyPuna](https://twitter.com/LeyPuna)

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

we have the only single, unified state-wide public school system. a lot of nice charter schools. and we are innovative in how we teach

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

be able to get a better teacher retention, find a way to curb absenteeism

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

legalize Marijuana, for the tax base and start growing hemp and manufacturing it

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

bring back vocational training. teach better substance abuse

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

preloaded tablets with learning and testing programs, that can be graded and new courses loaded.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

teach hands on programs in vocational training and show them what other possibility's are out there

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

No

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Colehour Bondera

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@teambondera

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

There is no doubt those who are responsible for setting education policy are trying hard to find solutions. The damage caused by No Child Left Behind is now being left behind as changes to the education system enabled by the Every Student Succeeds Act take effect. As the requirement for standardized testing has decreased, student performance has increased. Hawaii's educational system being centralized at the state level has its advantages. The fact that funding and control over education is centralized in Hawaii has its benefits in that all schools are allocated resources equally.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The State of Hawai'i has ranked near or at the bottom for teachers and has suffering large increases in the number of teachers leaving Hawai'i or changing careers. As a result, there are 200 or so teachers without certification and the number of substitute teachers in the classroom is at levels that result in courses being conducted by teachers who are not qualified in the subject being taught. As the Governor's ESSA Team's "Hawai'i's Blueprint for Public Education" is implemented, teacher should have more independence in setting their curriculum. The deepening economic recession is most likely going to result in teacher furloughs in order for teachers to keep them positions until the economy and government revenues begin to recover. With the COVID-19 precautionary measures being put into place during a time in which budgetary pressures are dramatically increasing, we are going to have to have courage and faith in one another, just as we have in other trying times in our state and nation's histories. After we get through this, and we will, teachers must be given the household-sustaining salaries and benefits they have deserved for many years now.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Quite frankly, this is a moving target. While the Department of Education and the HSTA have completed negotiations and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding specifying the procedures and policies to be put into place to provide for the safety of students and teachers, we are seeing there are many areas where there continue to be disagreement. As systemic changes enabled by ESSA continue, I believe there will be less costs associated with NCLB, especially related to standardized testing services and administrative oversight of under-performing schools. A re-structuring of the DOE to allow for more control and administrative functions on the local level may be able to reduce administrative costs. While the constitutional amendment to tax vacation rentals and second homes was removed from the ballot by the courts, we could still explore ways that schools could be funded on the county level. More local control over education might translate into a willingness to contribute more revenue.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

We can reduce the school-to-prison pipeline by implementing an early childhood intervention screening program for schools to identify the causes of emergent or persistent behaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism. All evaluations must be then subject to the appropriate existing social services agency(ies) so a system of support can be provided to the child and the DOE. With program and policy guidelines such as this, higher occurrences of student academic under-performance and behavioral issues can be reduced as well as school dropouts.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Partnerships between schools, non-profit groups and businesses can provide funding and tax-deductible contribution as well as possible access locations. Designated distance learning centers in which all supplies and materials are available along with proper supervision and technical support could be created within the community. Students and support staff would be trained in universal precautions against COVID-19 infections. Smaller groups = less risk of infection. I would also support technical training for students and parent/guardians to enable operation of devices as this is also a major obstacle to quality distance learning.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

I have a Masters degree in International Agricultural Development and another Masters in Agricultural Education. My wife was directly involved in the Hawai'i Farm to School program and in developing school gardens on the Big Island. We have lived the example of how public schools can be a catalyst for building a new regenerative agricultural economy that ensures food -security for our residents and children, regardless of what global, national, or local shock may interrupt the normal course of business. With the incredible resource that is the ocean, industry based upon marine science can be explored. Vocational schools focusing on renewable energy, such as solar, could help our state achieve its goal of 100% net-zero carbon emissions. Vocational schools focused on net-zero carbon

emission construction and retro-fitting could help us to that goal even faster. These are but a few examples of the myriad of possibilities one of the most unique places on Earth could be realized with imagination and the will to succeed.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

I believe we need to first assess the impact of publicly-funded/privately administered charter schools on education in Hawai'i and the public school system and its existing facilities before making this decision.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Michael L. Last

House District 5

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Offers basic PUBLIC education to all students.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Expand the curriculum as it pertains to PUBLIC education.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Hold employees salaries to pre-virus limits.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Instill self-worth to all students.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Require telecom companies to increase availability.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

We must expand beyond tourism. To do that we must offer the same benefits to non-tourist employees as we (the state) offers to the tourism industries.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

No

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Citlalli Johanna Decker

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Allowing Hawaiian Immersion Schools.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

All K-12 schools should be Hawaiian Immersion schools since the Hawaiian language is the official language of Hawai'i, and, become fully transparent with all education funds.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The state can make use of public parks as a learning environment for teaching gardening/hunting/gathering; expanding sports eligibility to include home-schooled children; and relocating the after-school programs to local parks and including volunteer sign-ups for adults (who pass a background check) to teach their varied skills to children in the park-based after school programs.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I believe if We the People implement the ideas I listed in [previous questions], we will redirect children away from the prison pipeline and towards better opportunities by greatly increasing their exposure to the many skills that can be taught by members of each community.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Stop over-taxing the parents so the parents can actually afford the cheap technology of cellular phones/laptops and/or give the old school computers that likely stored away in some storage to the children who come from the lowest-income families.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

I believe the ideas I listed above would nurture the potential of each and every child who might one day be our next Nikola Tesla or Margaret E. Knight.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

It should be up to each student. Not all knowledge comes from schooling and requiring a student to fill out a form may lure them into a contract they don't quite understand.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

No

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards.

Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

In addition to providing transparency to the public about how and where the funds towards education are spent, there should be specific funding for public school facilities to cover utilities like electricity, water, etc.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Yes, because that would give each student the opportunity to see if they really are drawn to careers like medical services, performing arts, sciences, law, engineering and mechanics.

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Hawai'i's public school system is generally equitable with regard to funding distribution, largely due to our state's weighted student formula, which is intended to take into account the unique needs of each school. Unfortunately, our school system is drastically underfunded, undermining our commitment to turning equity into quality learning.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

We need to increase education funding. Our schools are suffering from a chronic teacher shortage. Three of the ten schools that are hardest hit by Hawai'i's teacher shortage are in my district on the Big Island, according to HSTA. Similarly, our schools are often in disrepair and classrooms lack the resources needed to guarantee achievement for all students, especially children with special needs.

We've witnessed the outcome of systematically underfunding our school system during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the DOE has been unable to provide learning opportunities to all students because some schools and communities lack the basic infrastructure necessary to perform remote learning. The common denominator in all of these problems is a lack of funding. I'm committed to fixing that by working to increase public education funding by at least \$500 million per year.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Too often, the word "efficiency" has become synonymous with budget cuts. While revenue projections are currently down because of COVID-19, we don't know what the future will look like in terms of federal financial aid or how long it will take our economy to recover. What we can control, however, is our fiscal response to the crisis, which should prioritize revenue generation measures. We can and should tax real estate investment trusts, raise the corporate income tax, increase income taxes for our state's highest earners, institute rate recapture to ensure that our richest residents pay their fair share to meet everyone's basic needs, legalize and tax recreational cannabis, and establish a statewide property tax for residential investment properties, all of which will help to stop the financial bleeding our state is currently experiencing and prevent Hawai'i from having to cut services, including essential educational programs.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

As a Native Hawaiian woman, this issue is personal to me because Hawaiians are disproportionately harmed by our schools' disciplinary policies. I believe that we need to implement restorative justice initiatives in our schools, while working to significantly reduce the number of students who are suspended and expelled, which only causes them to miss critical learning time. We also need to increase data transparency with regard to student discipline, so we can track whether or not certain student populations are more targeted by school discipline policies than their peers, identify racial bias and other problematic trends, and make corrective changes where needed.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Again, this is a funding issue. While the State Legislature did appropriate some funding for schools to enhance distance learning capacity, I believe that more could've been spent on this area. Schools that don't already have a "1-to-1" student-to-laptop ratio will likely need to meet that goal, so that all students have computer access. Similarly, we need to expand high-speed internet access for remote communities, including by establishing community and mobile "hot spots" for those who lack internet service.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

One thing that has become clear in light of the COVID-19 pandemic is that we need to diversify our economy. We cannot continue to be over-reliant on tourism as an engine of economic success. Accordingly, I believe that we should invest in educational programs that develop students' knowledge and skills in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and technological innovation, which are industries that could improve Hawai'i's economic stability and help our state address pressing challenges, like food security and climate change.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should

the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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Vote David Tarnas

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The State provides equal funding per student throughout the state at all its public schools, even in rural areas.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The State needs to provide public funding for early childhood education. The State needs to pay additional support to teachers in hard-to-staff schools, special education and Hawaiian language. The State needs to make sure all students have a computer or tablet and access to the internet.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The State needs to make sure all students have a computer or tablet and access to the internet. This way the State can provide classes online for those subject areas where it is difficult to supply sufficient numbers of trained teachers in every school.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

The State needs to provide more vocational training in high schools so that students have the skills, work ethic, and training to start working as apprentices in different trades. The State needs to support our Early College programs in high schools. And the State needs to make it easier for high schools students to go to Community College, and then to a four-year college.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

The State needs to identify areas with poor internet access and set up hot spots on parking lots of schools and community centers for families to access the internet. The State needs to partner with private nonprofit organizations in this effort, following the example of the new project on Kaua'i.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

The State needs to provide public funding for early childhood education so that parents can work without worrying about paying for quality childcare for their children. The State can help support the establishment of new industries through industry partnerships in Community College and our four-year colleges in sectors such as aquaculture, forestry, information technology, ocean science and technology, astronomy and space sciences.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Hawaii provides all students throughout the State of Hawaii an equitable education – no matter where a student lives. This means students who live in wealthy areas receive the same per pupil funding and are asked to achieve the same general learner outcomes as low-income areas. Although some may believe that this leads to all schools being underfunded, all students should receive the

same opportunity to succeed. This is Hawaii's strength – we want all students to be treated equally.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The state should be making more progress on ensuring that all our children receives an education at a young age. Due to cost factors, many families do not have this opportunity. Early education is an important stepping stone for keiki for the rest of their life and plays a role in their success. I believe the Legislature this year made a small step, but much more must be done.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

At some point, the Legislature will have to take a hard look at the general excise or the transient accommodations tax to fund additional needs of state government. This will be a very difficult conversation, but necessary, especially since the option of trying to allow the state to tap into property taxes failed.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

This pipeline can be diminished if Hawaii schools do a better job of giving more options to students. Not all students want to go to college and this is a reality. I

believe the career pathway model is important, but we also must bring back many of the career and technical education programs – like woodshop and automotive programs to allow students to see that there are many things that can be done, even without college.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Broadband will be an important building block for our future. It will take time to develop the necessary infrastructure in rural areas, but for now, we can use state libraries, community centers, and other public facilities as hubs for students to safely gather. I understand that the DOE is beginning work on creating technology hubs throughout the state with some of the federal CARES funding. In the meantime, Maui County was able to get broadband to Hana through a County bus. The ultimate goal must be providing each student some type of device with a modest data plan to complete their assignments. Verizon did a pilot project with middle school students at Kalama and Lokelani Intermediate with ipads a few years ago, and the state should pursue a similar model.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Obtaining hands on experience and the creating the foundational courses for students in emerging industries is critical to building a workforce outside of tourism. I am a firm believer in the career pathway model, but more investment and resources are needed, including partnerships with the private sector trying to

launch new industries. The DOE and UH must collaborate with what the workforce is needing and provide that type of education to students. Historically, both the DOE and UH have lagged in educating students in areas of need and they must be more nimble.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

It depends, as when Charter Schools were created in Hawaii, one of the reasons for it was because they would use the private sector to help educate students and it was superior because it could be done to a lower cost to the State. I would need to know what has changed.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Ka'apuni Aiwohi

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Giving opportunities to those that are already doing well.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

I do not have enough space here to explain everything. As a former DOE teacher, I know in and out the daily struggle of teachers in Hawaii and I can confidently state that we are failing our students every day at many levels. What the State needs to do is put in people who are willing to fight to the end for education that are passionate in what they do. Funding education can not be hot topic for policy makers, it should be something we dedicate our careers to

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The first step is to actually figure out what is best for our students regardless of administrative approval. The HSTA is an awesome bargaining group that is representing everyday people. If the State is willing to give up some control to those on the frontline then we can do much more than we imagine.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

At which level is this question asked? We need a complete system overhaul of the public school system.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Access to the internet should be a human right. This technological upgrade should be a priority of the State not just for education but for the health of everyone to prosper

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

We need leaders who are visionaries and are willing to fight for this issue even if it is not popular with colleagues in the Legislature or Administration

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

J Kahala Chrupalyk

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Extra-curricular programs, safety, great teachers & faculty who genuinely care.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Separate the DOE by island or county, open vocational programs, offer a local based education, add field education such as ag day, life skills, etc. While students are on field education day, teachers can take that time for development. All of the teachers that are recruited from out-of-state do not know that Hawai'i is different than what they are used to. This wastes valuable time and resources, while hindering students' education.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The state can definitely afford to cut the salaries of politicians and raise taxes on ATF purchases [cigs, alcohol, etc]. For a million dollar revenue increase, they can also legalize marijuana [cite US Patent 6630507 established in 1931] and tax that to fund education. We would have the top schools if these measures were taken.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Splitting the DOE by county will allow each county to address their needs appropriately. Stop the pageantry - big award ceremonies that give a false narrative on who can and cannot achieve. Base policies on catching students doing something right, not wrong. Invest in the student's strengths, not building their weaknesses.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Advocate for the opening of an internet program and a connection with a fundraiser of local origin, for primary financing.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Tourism only represents 21% of Hawai'i's economy. Stop teaching students that tourism is the only lucrative industry and put educational focus on real life skills, such as empowerment through learning languages. Hawaiian is an official language of the state. Employees automatically get higher pay rates when they

know more than one language relevant to the region they live in. Ilocano, Tagalog, Majolese, Palauan, Spanish, etc. would all be great places to start. In every country except America, multiple languages are taught since elementary school and those students are lucrative worldwide when they grow up. Maui has historically and consistently been a place of about 80% ag, yet the state pushes development and tourism. << That is a HUGE problem in development, limiting our students' scope of wanting to have a future. Hawai'i is crying for teachers and stem students but not developing those professions. When they do introduce it, they do it with so much fragility that the students [who are brave, not frail] no longer care to participate.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

Please consult Lehua Bissen from UHMC's Gear UP Maui program. She runs the pipeline to college program that my son works at. I believe they would have more accurate figures to answer this question.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

This sounds perfect, from my knowledge

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Travis D.E. Gylstrand
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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I feel that the state of Hawaii does a decent job at hiring quality educators

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

in regards to education in Hawaii I feel we first need to keep the quality educators and that they should be a priority as far and pay raises and workforce housing goes. Also infusing local culture in criteria and cafeteria

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I believe they're plenty of cuts that can be made. Cuts to Hawaii's education is not one of them.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

By equipping ALL students with the tools they need to be a successful adult.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

I think there are a lot of solutions for that. Computer drives or student technology sponsors could be a good start.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

I would like to see more trade schools or magnet schools operating in Hawaii. Education incentives to study up and coming industries that will provide job security and also diversify our economy to other ventures.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Simon Russell

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The state of Hawaii prioritizes and funds education with a large percentage of the state budget.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

DOE Should put more emphasis on Art, Music, Culture and Physical Education. Additionally, the School feeding programs could be greatly improved with different menu options

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The state should conduct a thorough audit of its budget to see where there is opportunity to be more efficient with its resources. Transparency and accountability are a must.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

This can be addressed with better mental health care, and addiction treatment for substance abuse.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Hawaii can create a bookmobile like WiFi connectivity hotspot that will drive to regions lacking internet connectivity. DoE can provide tablets to children that lack them, this will connect to the internet and they can outdoor classes in a COVID 19 safe environment possibly in public parks or other safe areas.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

With the advent of robotics, 3-D printing, Artificial Intelligence and other disruptive technologies, it is more important than ever to help our Keiki learn to

think critically. Whatever the DoE can do the make sure that our next generation can always learn to learn will be beneficial. More and more, machines will be doing repetitive and low skill level work. Adding art, music, language, culture and sport to curricula will be crucial in growing a new generation of critical thinkers, especially for the younger students as they are developing their mental, emotional and physical capacities.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

This depends on the availability of resources

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Theresa Kapaku

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Theresa Kapaku 2020

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I appreciate the respect for diversification that exists in public schools, especially regarding the inclusion of Hawaiiana.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Let's close the achievement gap by engaging our communities and developing strategic and executable plans. A focus on supporting the under-served and vulnerable communities will help. Let's get them free access to wifi, computers, books, and other resources. We also want to create an environment that attracts leaders and potential leaders in education, this includes generous pay and school environment. Let's modernize our buildings and create a more comfortable space for our students and teachers.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Cleaning house, fine tuning budgets, and auditing school expenses is a good first step. Investing in modernizing the facilities will be a small up front expense with long lasting financial and educational rewards. Old buildings are expensive - there is usually a great deal of wasted resources like water, gas, and electricity. We can stop wasting money on temporary fixes for old buildings. The upgraded facilities will also give our kids a better environment to learn, that they can be proud of,

and attract better educational talent. Next, by moving to renewable energy systems we can replace energy bills that costs schools millions of dollars and be better prepared for power outages and emergencies.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Engaging the community is key to this. In addition, a student's working environment is important. Facilities and building modernization will help developing attract better talent and instill a culture of pride in schools. The momentum that is generated with modernization also appeals to students, giving way to programs that engage students in earth sustainability, modernization, and energy.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Community hubs are great for this. There will always be families who live off the grid and unable to access wifi. Ensuring they have a location nearby is a must - requiring them to do it - is another question.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

As I mentioned before - with modernization, we affect the culture and pride of students and attract educational leaders and talent. This momentum grows and

blossoms into programs that focus on sustainability, technology, renewable energy, and other forward thinking, responsible, and progressive subjects.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to

offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Steve Monas

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VoteSteveMonas

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The teachers are very passionate and work with the tools that they are given. I have 3 young kids with the Department of Education so I can see how only

Kindergarten and First grade had worked as it related to teachers quickly working with online learning tools and expectations of kids learning from home and being in a virtual classroom setting.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

We need to open up our bandwidth and really dive deep into coding classes. Adding these fundamental building blocks into a curriculum will get the ready good paying computer jobs.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

We need to build a consortium of private / public leaders working with tech companies and providing the necessary shortfalls knowing that when these kids are graduating high school, they will have had the necessary skill set to have many doors open to them.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Keeping the kids engaged is the most important aspect of education. Once we understand that each child wants to be engaged in, they will be more inclined to keep showing up to class or complete their School work from Home.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

We will need to work with private / public consortium of tech companies to get is the necessary grant equipment and open up our bandwidth for all students across the state.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Computers help create good paying jobs but we also need and not be afraid of entrepreneurship classes to let these minds come up with products or services that they can sell the aloha across Earth.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis

separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Keith Kogachi

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N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The state seems to have set a path for improvement using measurable goals to assess progress towards such goals.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The state still needs to address teacher shortages especially in hard to fill positions such as special education and Hawaiian language teachers. The state needs to continually address access to quality education for all.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I would measure such efficiencies by measuring what percentage of each operating dollar appropriated by the Legislature to education ends up in the

classroom. This means the percentage of that dollar that goes to teacher salaries which should be a significant percentage with the remaining dollar to cover the cost of maintaining the classroom, teaching supplies and instructional support. The baseline established should be directed towards increasing the baseline percentage for teacher salaries as the direct providers of education to our students.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

First, our schools are part of the solution but cannot be sole solution to the school to prison pipeline. While I understand that our parents may be taxed with both parents working and in some cases one or both with two jobs, the home is where respect for the law, accountability and responsibility for one's action should be learned with support in the classroom provided in learning to interact with other students without bullying and harassment of their classmates. Second, we must continually assess the effectiveness of other support services provided by other state and county agencies to support all aspects of family life.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

This is part of the investment in education that our taxpayers will have to agree to fund among our other priorities.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

The catalyst should begin with the development of elective courses that are math and science based including subjects in technology, finance and other business related subjects.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

CHILDREN WHO ARE ORIENTED TOWARDS COLLEGE SHOULD CERTAINLY COMPLETE FAFSA. IF FAFSA OPENS THE HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS UNSURE ABOUT THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THEN SCHOOL COUNSELORS SHOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO COMPLETE THE FORM.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

This decision should left with parents and their children.

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students

and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

First investigate using underutilized state owned facilities.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Gene Ward

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Stresses fairness and equality and treating as much as possible all schools as equals.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Bring the board of education closer to the schools, teachers, and parents with county boards and a bit more homerule in the DOE.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I had proposed an airport departure tax of all passengers at Hawaii's airports.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Add vocational education and other skilled based and apprenticeship based options for high-risk kids.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Internet connectivity can occur by incentivising Hawaiiintel and Spectrum to wire hard to reach areas throughout the state. Computers should be standard classroom equipment for those whose parents cannot afford to buy their child a computer.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

We need to require computer science in our high school curriculum as well as giving apprenticeships to students attached to businesses they are attracted to work in later in life. Also vocational training needs to make a comeback in the Hawaii school system.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

Yes, definitely!

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

Great idea!

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

Need to stop treating Charter Schools as second-class citizens.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Yes, and as noted above, this is badly needed.

Wayne Chen

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N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

They allocate some money

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

In general more funding needs to be allocated to DOE and programs that encourage an academic atmosphere and keeps Hawaii schools current with contemporary materials.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

We should be prioritizing modernizing schools and curriculum while the money is still available. Today's keiki learn best with a hands-on approach to learning. Consider fostering self-Ownership of their own learning development with ideas such as project based assignments where the teacher is there more to coach than to lecture.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Youth turn their attention to gangs either for protection or lack of interest of what else is available. The school can be both of these things for our teens. More after school programs and extracurricular activities that are relevant to today's youth. We must keep an open mind on what we can consider a good extracurricular activity.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

One option could be to turn to the private sector to provide as the government offers favorable backing in exchange.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Hawaii has the advantage of being in a unique position for marine science due to its geographical location. Emphasize sciences especially Oceanic sciences to peak interest at an early age.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

It should not be mandatory but Highly encouraged to the point that it would be a more natural flow to complete the application than to not.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

N/A

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools,

however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Funding should include all a particular school needs to function in it's location. Having a separate fund for facilities may complicate funding as some schools need more money for their facility than others based on location. Having a set amount for facilities support across the board might be unfair to some schools. On the other hand, Individualizing facilities funding for each school can complicate accounting and make it harder to keep track of.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Derek Turbin

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N/A

What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

There are a lot of hardworking and committed teachers in Hawaii who are passionate about helping kids.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Hawaii needs to do a better job of retaining its teachers in particular in hard to staff schools, and hard to staff programs such special education programs and immersion programs. Hawaii needs to invest in and grow its extracurricular programs, such as arts, athletics and STEM programs.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

To engineer efficiencies without sacrificing quality, I recommend creating synergy between the public schools and private after school programs, as well as focusing energy on private fundraising through the Hawaii Public School Fund.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

To close the school to prison pipeline there needs to be a commitment to mental healthcare for our students, and diversion/rehabilitation programs for at risk students. There are programs in place such Kids First, and CARE Hawaii that could assist with this.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Hawaii should provide aid specifically designated for utilities relief to low income families or families laid off due to COVID, to ensure that all students have access to internet for long distance learning.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

-Extracurricular programs that focus on development of local farming and agriculture. -Developing and growing our STEM Programs to grow our data and Tech industries. -If we complete the building of the proposed Film Studio in West Oahu, we can provide our students with courses in film production, and grow our film and television industry.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

I am reluctant to enforce an additional hurdle that would prevent some students from graduating, but I do think that we need to promote and encourage the completion of FAFSA applications..

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

At this time the focus should be on funding facilities for public schools.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Becky Gardner

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Given Hawaii's unique government structure with education being administered on a state level, funding is ostensibly more equitable across the state, with a family's residential location being less relevant. Because educational opportunity and school quality is so often linked to location, it's a good thing that Hawaii has this civil rights check already baked in. Nationally, public schools are largely funded by property taxes from local municipalities, creating marked segregation by income and property values – especially within metropolitan areas. As a result, students from low-income backgrounds are faced with underfunded schools, perpetuating conditions that provide few economic opportunities for these students as they grow up. In Hawaii, because public school funding is more equitable, there is greater parity across the schools regardless of where families live. Hawaii's state level administration presents several other advantages—making it easier to innovate and more uniformly apply a given policy. I think we see evidence of this in our DOE's initial response to the pandemic and ability to adapt. I thought our DOE demonstrated incredible leadership, thoughtfulness, and commitment to our children in acting fast to protect and educate our keiki - swiftly putting together distance-learning programs. As a parent of two children in public schools, I am grateful.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

In general, I believe there needs to be a culture-shift in Hawaii where there is less focus on “what high school you went to”. Everyone knows that the answer to that question is some sort of marker of your worth and status in our community. It immediately serves either as a boost or blow – before one even has a chance to

demonstrate their value, skills, and character as a person. I believe our state education system and policy has a critical role in turning that around. I know this is a challenge in light of the historical evolution and relative importance of private schools here in Hawaii. The sense of exclusiveness and the elitism they engender allows the relative “reputation” of one’s high school to be the gateway into financial opportunity. It is undeniably classist, and ultimately oppressive. Hawaii’s educational landscape has reserved economic opportunities for those following the well-worn path of family legacies that can afford private education – essentially keeping the power within these exclusive circles. While I understand a parent’s desire for the very best education for their child, I don’t believe anyone’s lack of “academic success and achievement” should be a barrier to economic opportunity. Galvanizing educational “achievement” as the key to one’s economic viability puts significant and unnecessary pressure on the educational system and on families. I know far too many parents who work 2-3 jobs because they are determined to send their kids to private schools because they fear the outcomes of a “public school” education – sacrificing sleep, health, and valuable family time. If we can restructure Hawaii’s socio-economic system through policy initiatives that allow ALL workers to have financial stability, regardless of their educational outcomes, then the educational system could focus on the true needs and desires of students and families, rather than dealing with the pressures on students to achieve future financial success, or face the harbinger of economic ruin later in life. Schools have an important role in developing social skills, interpersonal values, community ethics, and character. We should not lose focus on that. For example, I am a huge fan of David Costa’s

“Habits of Mind” curriculum which is taught at Liholiho Elementary, Waikiki Elementary, among other schools.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Our funding priorities reflect our values. As a mother of two public school students, I’m disappointed to learn that Hawaii’s state and local governments have underfunded education as a share of their overall budgets for decades. Apparently, school funding in Hawaii is the lowest in the nation - at near 15% of state and local budgets, compared to more than 21% for the national average. If cuts need to be made to fill the budget gap, they should come from areas outside of education until education is at least 21% of state and local budgets – to at least be in parity with other states. Our teachers are already sorely underpaid. Given the economic crisis created by the pandemic, budget and salary cuts and furloughs within the DOE will likely be on the table. This has me very concerned, especially since we risk losing a significant number of our teachers and substitutes if adequate safety measures are not instituted. We need to address the concerns of teachers who will literally be risking their lives to teach our children. Many of whom are also parents. This is nothing short of a crisis. And we need to be creative to strike the right balance that assures the safety and economic viability of our teachers, students, and their families. If we are unable to compensate them appropriately, I’d like to see initiatives that will help teachers offset their

predictable living expenses by providing stipends or other voucher assistance for government-supported or -linked services, like locally-sourced food, affordable housing, public transportation, student loan forgiveness for teaching, etc. For example, we can provide teachers with housing vouchers; free bus and rail passes; student-loan payment assistance and forgiveness; credit for local produce in our farmers markets; and more. Maybe we can institute “grow-your-own” initiatives that encourage local University of Hawaii students and graduates to pursue a career in teaching by providing food, housing, and transportation stipends to those who accept teacher assistant positions in DOE schools. I’d also like to see greater use of visitor fees and higher taxes on investment properties that go directly toward education funding. With the proliferation of vacation rental properties and the burgeoning growth of investor-owned properties in our communities, the true “tax” falls on the shoulders of our residents and the children we are raising. How ironic is it when “investment” property owners - who don’t actually sleep in their houses, who never connect with their neighbors, and who don’t even think about contributing to local schools – do very little “investing” in our communities at all. Instead, many of their business practices tear at the fabric of our neighborhoods, disrupting our peace. The “tax” needs to shift to the economic drivers that are eroding our educational system. Those who do not reinvest in Hawaii the profit dollars they make here by exploiting Hawaii’s land and resources should be required to pay their fair share. I support revisiting the Con Am that failed to materialize a few years ago.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

The school to prison pipeline is largely a result of poor economic opportunities in the broader community. When conditions drive families into poverty, stabilizing factors like food, shelter, health, and safety are undermined. Families become distressed, and children often become victims to trauma. Trauma and stress experienced in youth can have devastating affects on one’s mental and physical health – and is especially dangerous to the developing mind of school-aged children. It is no wonder that we see such youth committing crime. It is a symptom of much broader societal inequities and should be approached more as a public health and mental health matter – not criminalized. Schools can provide an atmosphere where poor academic performance and infractions within the school setting are dealt with as opportunities to introduce effective and alternative approaches and interventions in education, mental health, mentorship programming, and other creative supports. Punishing young victims doesn’t help, and ultimately creates more costs to the state in the penal system. Students should not be treated as problems to deal with, but instead as resources and future citizens to nurture and grow.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

In the short term, the state can contract with Hawaiian Telcom or Spectrum to offer low cost or free internet connections for all students. This will help immensely to make sure all our students are on the same footing as we open back the schools. For the long term, Hawaii can and should create its own public internet service provider - as has been done in many municipalities throughout

the nation. From here, we can offer free or limited cost plans to families. Given the attacks on net neutrality, this would also give benefits to the larger Hawaii community as well. The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women did good job of addressing some of the contours of internet access in their Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID 19. I am pasting below for reference:

“Defer to educational experts who can highlight the disability, gender and social impacts of proposed changes to education. Much remains to be determined about how educational institutions can cope with and adapt to the consequences of COVID-19 and economic recovery discussions should defer to education, disability and childcare experts in proposing measures for economic reopening. The state should make transparent the kids who are served, including access to online remote learning, disaggregated by complex area, grade, disability status, race, free and reduced lunch, and language status. These measures must safeguard the rights of students with disabilities, ensure the accessibility of online education, for low-income families as well as families speaking languages other than English in the home, and address the gender disparities in terms of women’s time spent on new home and online teaching methods. Proposals for changes to education, such as morning and afternoon sessions, must critically address the question of childcare -- a subject the UHERO report is completely silent on.”

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

If we can identify economic industries beyond tourism which do not need a sufficient skilled workforce to create it – i.e. building hotels, resorts, restaurants, etc.; our schools could and should offer classes within these industries. Hawaii

can be an ideal location for digital nomads and knowledge workers to take up residence and work remotely. Careers in technology, design, computer-based trades, art, electrical and mechanical work are all sustainable in Hawaii without the need for off-island tourists. Our schools can build on some of the models we already see being effectively used in our community colleges to create apprenticeships and practicums – possibly as early college credit. For example, I was encouraged to learn about an electrician program at HCC; as well as airplane mechanic program in partnership with Hawaiian Airlines. Such programming could also provide networking and job opportunities – attractive fiscal incentives for students, while also providing the economy with capable workers. I was an English teacher with the JET Program in Japan from 1999-2001; and came to understand that many of their high schools will have special focus on particularly industries – like fishing, industrial arts, farming, technology, English and language, and other concentrations. I think we can explore similar approaches here in Hawaii. I also remember taking shop and home economics in high school, and how the skills I learned in these classes were far more useful to me than the hours I spent studying calculus. It’s my understanding that these kinds of classes, along with art and music, are falling out of school curriculums. I think it’s more important than ever that we fortify such programming. THESE are the skills and practices that most people needed during the pandemic. Essential, indeed. I would also like to see across all DOE schools a curriculum on life skills, which includes car maintenance and financial literacy. I’ve heard about a class on “Adulting” required in Kentucky high schools. I’d like to see something like that in Hawaii. Here’s more info on that:

<https://www.today.com/parents/adulting-class-kentucky-high-school-teaches-crucial-life-skills-t151240>.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Unsure

Not necessarily; but I understand and agree with the premise and the goals for this proposed requirement. However, I find it significant that more than half of all college graduates work in jobs that do not require a college degree. Our economy has no shortage of college-educated students; and increasing these numbers is not necessarily helpful on a macroeconomic level. I think it's important to understand the market factors at play and what conditions will be best for the economic viability of everyone in society - at large. Ensuring that all students complete the FAFSA may also perpetuate a classist notion that "college is and should be necessary." Although attending college can be a benefit for individual students, we should explore programming that ensures job skills, training, and economic opportunity that suits a range of students' interests and needs, as discussed in the question above. Before prioritizing college attendance, we should work to ensure there is sufficient economic opportunity for all workers, regardless of educational achievement. Personally, I did not fill out a FAFSA when I was 17 because my guidance counselor did not advise me to and it had not occurred to my parents. I just focused on my studies and application and acceptance to college - and left the money matters up to my parents. I learned several years later that my mother, and immigrant managing the best she could, had incurred significant credit card debt in multiple family members' names to send me to college because she didn't understand all the options. It was a horrible financial mess that incurred far more interest debt than necessary - and took decades to pay back and resolve. Thankfully, I attended a portion of my undergraduate that provided state-assisted tuition. (I am thus a 100% product of

public school - from Kindergarten, through college and law school. I therefore fully support public education.)

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

I remain open, but would want to prioritize the counseling, assistance, and possible workshops to help students and families with this process before instituting a requirement. I am influenced by the testimony of DOE concerned over stigma and family difficulty.

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

Since charter school's per pupil funding is significantly less than the per pupil funding of public schools, and the public schools receive facilities for free, there is ample opportunity for charter schools to receive more funding. As education is moving rapidly to more distance learning opportunities – hastened by the pandemic, funding for facilities may not be as necessary. If charter schools receive funds specifically dedicated and earmarked for facilities, a school that is

completely online may be encouraged to simply rent out a building and not fully use it. A better solution may be to increase the per pupil funding from the state to ensure that schools have access and the flexibility to use more funds to pay for the facilities they find most necessary. This allows charter schools to use their money in the best way possible - be it for facilities, educational resources, or something else entirely. This would seem more consistent with the innovative and flexible approaches of charter schools.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

If we can identify programs in high-demand areas of study that will provide greater economic opportunities to students, we should do what we can to offer these programs. Our schools should be a place to provide students the resources necessary to succeed beyond high school in whatever avenue they see fit. Such programs could serve as valuable resources and places of professional inspiration. However, it may be difficult to clearly identify appropriate programs, and to make sure they are providing significant benefits to students. It would be unfortunate if the state spent significant sums of money to create programs that were related to a high growth field, only to find that the students that come out of that program are not sufficiently better off as a result. Nonetheless, I think this policy approach will help reduce our dependence on tourism and will, in the end, improve the economic sustainability of our state.

James Logue

House District 29

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

N/A

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

We need to provide 21 century educational facilities to prepare our students to compete in a global market. We need to rely less on testing and need to ensure students who require special assistance are able to receive such.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

This is a great question and one that would require me to hear from teachers personally on what could be done and what is really needed. Education for students should be a priority and we need to really look at where funding is going, to whom, and the results of such spending.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I don't think it is the responsibility of schools to worry about prison. This falls on the state and the economic policies it is supporting. The state needs to implement economic policies that ease the financial burdens on low income families and help raise them to the next income tax bracket. By doing these we can create healthier home environments and promote positive decision making by the youth. More time at home between family members can foster a positive environment for children to grow. This, in turn, can prevent youth from getting involved in situations that put their futures at risk.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

The state should be partnering with internet providers to boost internet access for all homes in the state. This needs to be a priority during this COVID-19

situation. Especially as we see more and more cases and the possibility of more shut downs. Schools should be funded to provide students with the technology needed to learn.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

The public education system could be the pipeline to diversifying the economy by bringing education into the 21st century and preparing students for jobs in the tech industry, trade industries, etc. We should be fostering innovation among our students and allowing them to help create new industries and help them prepare to enter new industries when they graduate.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of

Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Ernesto "Sonny" Ganaden

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Rebukes the policy of the Trump administration.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Significantly lower or eliminate the income eligibility requirement associated with the Preschool Open Doors subsidy program, pay teachers a living wage, operate under best practices during the pandemic, and support the expansion of cultural programming at all grade levels.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

In boom times, our economy has been inequitable. For years, wages have stagnated as the cost of living has risen. This has been an extremely distressing component of basic life in Kalihi and Halawa. At no point should decreasing funding to public schools be considered. Cost savings should be directed to public safety, tourism investment, and contracts without appropriate oversight.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Particular to District 30, the replacement of the Oahu Community Correctional Center; 16 acres of land in Kalihi next to two forthcoming stops of the Honolulu rail project. The current plan will be a windfall for a private prison corporation contractor, despite a changing international dialogue about what actually makes communities safe and similar projects being scrapped across America, and despite growing local awareness regarding inequality in the justice system. I wish to create a community-led discussion that leads to a multi-use space for affordable housing, open space, and an increased quality of living in the district.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Provide technology resources to all students regardless of income, in light of the pandemic. Utilize all federal sources of funding to do so. Increased and diversified funding for public schools

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Increased and diversified funding for public schools is a jobs program. Many charter schools have shown the capacity of public private partnerships in both spurring economic activity and educating children.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Children in Hawaii have an opportunity to interact with students of all socioeconomic groups and ethnicities. The State Wide system does bring fair treatment in terms of monies given to the schools on the basis of the weighted student formula. Standards of behavior and curriculum are created by the DOE

and BOE and apply across the Board. The schools are funded by the State Legislature and budgeted every two years instead of by local school Boards and school taxes. There is good public support for the schools in most communities. Community members are encouraged to participate in the schools as I have done for many years. There are no bond issues which can nix needed facilities.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The State of Hawaii and the Department of Education need to allow for more independent decision making by the schools. The State also has a problem with teacher recruitment and retention due to the chronic high costs of Housing and cost of living in general. Salaries of teachers are too low and often not commensurate with experience and ability. The bureaucracy is alive and well in the Department of Education, and some would say more money should go into the schools rather than into administration. The Board of Education is very removed from the community and should again become an elected rather than appointed Board. Standardized testing takes up too much learning time.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Education, both lower and higher is one place where cuts should not be made very carefully. Education is an Economic driver, and the students must be prepared for the future. Due to Covid 19, they have already lost one quarter and this will have a long term negative effect on many students. The schools also provide many services which help students with learning disabilities, psychological needs and counseling. Socialization is also a very important part of the public school experience. If cuts are made, they should not be at the classroom level.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

In my community, I do believe most children come from somewhat stable families and the services at school such as drug education, recognition of sex trafficking and poor nutrition are not as pressing as some. But like it or not, the school often is the most important part of a child's life, and must be prepared to provide some of the parenting.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Each school principal has discretionary funds which can be used to purchase equipment, but the state must provide more help, the business community must come forward, and individuals and community organizations also need to pitch in. Not child should be without access. The public libraries can also be if assistance and should be encouraged to take on that role.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

In a myriad of ways. Our public University can play a role in developing Vaccines, collecting data and in helping to develop new technologies. The Aerospace industry has also a lot of potential in the development of small satellites. STEM Education is critical in the schools for future scientific jobs. However, we should not neglect culture and the Arts which can also play a role in the economy.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Unsure

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

We should not forget culture and the Arts.

Austin Maglinti

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I think the State of Hawaii has Failed our Students. We need new innovative and forward moving policies and implementation to better our education system.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The state should decentralize the BOE and give power to complex area Superintendents for monetary allocation and curriculum implementation. The state should also include more aina and conservation based curriculums.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

our education should come as a priority for spending. our keiki's future must come first.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I think the answer is implementing more guidance and mentoring program for youth and teenagers. implementing concepts like coaching boys into men. Installing more father figures(mentorship wise) in our students life.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Hawaii has been going in a good direction in providing tech for our Keiki even with the collaboration with Spectrum. Internet bars are definitely access for our students like Starbucks or public libraries

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

The education system at the High School level should be all about career preparedness. Yes I do think education has a role in our economy. by producing Akamai workers to our workforce.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

It's a tool for our students. the state just needs to make sure students know it's available.

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

All kids are being educated.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Raise the standards, challenge the kids, free the teachers to teach and get the community involved!

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer

efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Incorporate our finite Environmental resources into public education with policies that takes us back to the future!

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Closing the gap between “have” and “have not”. Between “rich” and “poor”.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

All households be connected if we are truly in this together!

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Being the focal point of the community it's in. Why is it closed before and after Traditional classes?

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Working with the local industries too!

Joseph Simpliciano

House District 44

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Follow a curriculum

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The State needs to implement native Hawaiian learning into every school.

Everyone should learn about the values of Hawaii and what makes it unique and why they should take care of it.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource

finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Pay cuts to the department heads not the teachers and removal of any non-profit who gets funding from congress then in turn gives it to immersion schools. Every dollar needs to be accounted for and where ever we can pinch a penny that penny goes directly to our keikis.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Implement a native Hawaiian curriculum at every school. It makes no sense to see prisoners learn about Hawaiian cultures in prison and have their lives turned around when we can reach these keikis at a young age and mold them the right way versus doing it later.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Lower the cost of living so people can afford it.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Focus on trades and self sustainability versus tourism.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

My upbringing granted me a unique perspective on Hawaii's public education system. As a military child, I moved between homes – and schools – every few years. I attended public schools in Schofield, Aiea, Wheeler, and Wahiawa. Growing up, the most noticeable strength from school to school was the devotion

of my teachers. I wholeheartedly believe that the teachers in our schools are committed to helping our future generations. Another bright spot in our education system, particularly in our high schools, is vocational training. Several of my classmates found careers in areas such as culinary arts, carpentry, agriculture, and auto shop because they received hands-on experience in high school. We should expand this type of instruction and help students identify their career interests before they exit high school. Our athletics system is one of our greatest assets. I was a three-sport athlete at Leilehua High School, and the lessons that I learned on the field were often much more impactful than the lessons taught in the classroom. Sports offer opportunities for character building and community engagement that simply cannot be achieved within a classroom. My football coach was a counselor, and I think that connection was incredibly beneficial. It would serve our students well if we put them in closer contact with support systems like this. Our coaches and athletic staff take their roles very seriously and use sports to reach students who are in need. We should look to offer these environments for students who are not athletically inclined, as well. Other extracurriculars, such as E-Sports, robotics, music, and arts programs, could fill this gap. Finally, Hawaii's schools have unparalleled community buy-in. Whether it is attendance at sports games, volunteer events, or elaborate graduation ceremonies, our communities show up in full force for our schools and our students. In the working world, one of the most common questions heard is, "what high school did you go to?" Our schools are hubs for community engagement, and we should appreciate that this type of buy-in is fairly unique to our state.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

The number one priority should be to expand funding for public schools and pay our teachers more. If someone is passionate about teaching, we should make sure that we are able to recruit them and keep them around. Several people close to me have considered teaching careers, but have instead pursued other fields, due primarily to fears of financial instability. I support universal preschool and subsidized childcare. A child's earliest years are the most formative, and every child deserves the same access to early education. In addition to eliminating financial barriers, it is important that we put early education resources in rural and low-income areas. Because we largely rely on private preschools, there is sometimes a dearth of early education in areas where the market is less attractive. I believe that we should be more creative in the subjects that we teach in our schools. I was a high school valedictorian and I won award in subjects like chemistry, trigonometry, and calculus. I rarely, if ever, used this kind of knowledge after graduation – even while I majored in Economics, a math-heavy field, in college. We should emphasize topics that will prepare our students to participate in society, such as civics, financial literacy, public speaking, emotional intelligence, and other areas that concern practical knowledge. With each student sitting in class for six hours per day for twelve years, we have the opportunity to invest in our future society members. We should think critically about how to best do so. Finally, we need to put the achievement gap front-and-center in evaluating our state's educational performance. If our public school system is reinforcing existing inequities and constraining upward mobility, it is not fulfilling its purpose. We should provide free FAFSA assistance for graduating seniors and

cover fees for standardized tests. Our public education system is responsible for shaping our state's future. This means that we need to prioritize public education and make sure that our schools' outcomes reflect the future that we want to see.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

First, protecting public education funding should be among our top priorities as we seek to overcome budgetary shortfalls. We cannot cut services that students rely on. If anything, we can look into whether there are any administrative costs at the top level that we can feasibly reduce. However, this may require more data on the specific spending activities of the Department of Education. We should completely avoid education cuts if possible. Our investment in our education system is predictive of our future success; therefore, under-investment is definitionally short-sighted. We cannot forgo long-term success in search of short-term savings. However, we can pursue operational efficiencies. We should be smart with how we spend our money. Sometimes, the little things add up – the Seattle School District reduced expenses by \$20,000 per year by turning off the lights in its vending machines. How many wasteful 'vending machine' expenses do we have? Perhaps replacing desk phones with Skype, Zoom, or another service would save our schools money. Perhaps we are spending staffing resources on tasks that could be easily automated, which would free up funds that we could use more effectively elsewhere. Maybe we can reduce expenses by installing

rooftop solar panels on school buildings. There are also more sweeping changes we can make. For example, we can significantly reduce the amount of paper that we use – considering our turn to remote education, we could see a nearly paperless education in the coming years. Smart procurement, such as purchasing refurbished computers, utilizing federal rebates and tax incentives, and consistently reviewing contracts, would help to trim operational budgets. Simple energy efficiency measures could go a long way. We should also look for revenue generation opportunities in our schools. It may be possible to earn extra money by renting out school facilities (auditoriums, stadiums, libraries, parking lots, etc.). We should pursue any available federal grants, such as for STEM education. We should be creative and look for solutions to raise money and cut expenses, while upholding the quality of our education system.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

In many ways, education is a self-fulfilling prophecy. The ‘bad kids’ are identified early on and cast aside, even though they are the ones who need help the most. They often struggle with abuse, mental or emotional distress, poverty, or difficult family situations. When they are implicitly categorized as ‘slackers’ or ‘difficult students’, they internalize those labels. They believe that they are dumb or rebellious or incapable. Students’ attribute their struggles to their character, rather than their circumstances. We need to do everything in our power to resist, rather than cement, these disparities. Anonymous grading, as is frequently used in colleges, would be a good start. Another positive step would be to limit forms of punishment like suspension and detention to situations where students

present safety risks. Schools should also have oversight boards to discourage preferential treatment by faculty and standardize the use of different forms of punishment. De-stigmatizing special education and mental illness will help to connect students with the resources that they need. When students act up, we should look into the causes of their behavior. This requires training faculty to identify and properly handle these situations, as well as enhancing special education, counseling, and student support services. We also need to leverage social activities, such as athletics and extracurriculars, to keep students engaged with their schools and communities. This is a large undertaking. We need to fund our schools properly and ensure that our schools are not stretched too thin to meet these needs.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

In cases where internet service is hard to come by, the State should work with the schools and libraries to lend students Wi-Fi hotspots and make other accommodations. For example, the Austin school district sent Wi-Fi-equipped school buses to rural communities to provide internet services for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. One concern is that students may live in households that lack the technological competency needed to fully participate in distance learning. Schools can help to alleviate this burden by providing instructional materials to help students and parents through these challenges, as well as dispatching IT staff to help with individual issues. In my opinion, hardware is the biggest barrier to broad participation in distance learning – in particular, for

students who do not have computers in their homes. In the age of smartphones, it is less and less common for households to have desktop computers. It is difficult to type up assignments on phones, and online learning modules may not be equipped for mobile use – and, of course, households without any smartphones will face even greater challenges. The State should work with schools and libraries to make computers and other devices available for students, and schools should make reasonable accommodations for students with technological limitations.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

I am a strong proponent of tying our educational system to our economic planning. Our government needs to have the foresight to identify the ‘jobs of tomorrow’ and the competencies required for these fields. By identifying the industries that we want to promote and working with partners in those industries, we can orient our education system to fill those needs and prepare our students to walk into solid careers. We should create scholarships for careers with undersized talent pools and form partnerships with local industries. The State can create high school internship programs that provide students with work experience and help them to identify their career interests. Our schools should also offer important certification courses. For example, in the field of computer science, certifications often carry as much weight as college degrees. If we provide the proper infrastructure in our schools, students can walk out of high school with an idea of the type of career they would like to pursue, and a running start down the path toward that career. We can augment this effort by providing tuition-free community college. This will allow students to pursue

necessary training and certification and complete their core coursework without facing financial barriers. This will empower the State to more effectively construct career pipelines and support students as they transition from the public school system to the workforce. In particular, I believe that three industries – science and technology (including cyber careers), film, and agriculture – would benefit greatly from broader local talent pools. We should make sure that as we diversify by developing industries like these, we have the workforce in place to fill all new jobs with graduates of Hawaii’s public schools. In saying this, I want to also make it clear that our school system should not solely aim to churn out qualified workers. We should offer a wholesome education that not only develops workforce competencies, but also enhances creative thinking, character traits, interpersonal skills, and other important aspects of a quality life and strong society. However, workforce development is a very important component of what our education system should seek to achieve, and I believe we can do much more in this area.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Scot Matayoshi

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I think Hawaii has the right idea by not tying school funding directly to the area's property taxes. This allows a more even distribution of school funds and prevents schools in economically disadvantaged areas from falling as far behind as their mainland counterparts.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Hawaii's schools are a bit directionless when it comes to linking the curriculum to jobs after high school graduation. Part of it is we need to build more industries in Hawaii for our graduates. Part of it is a move away from vocational training and a failure to connect schools with employers and unions to guide the curriculum. I'd like to see a more direct connection for students so they can see the value of their education through application.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I'm going to be honest- quality is going to be sacrificed to some extent. With the budget shortfall, it's impractical to think otherwise. I expect to see cuts in all areas of government, including education. As far as efficiencies, I'm encouraged by the open-ended contracts for basic repair services at schools, which have sped up those repairs. I still feel that our DOE is top-heavy and that too many teachers are in administrative or support roles rather than in the classroom, reducing class sizes by spreading students out over more teachers. Retaining more teachers is also key, as it costs time and money to train new teachers.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Job placement after graduation. Giving students the skills they need for practical jobs will keep them from turning to illegal activity to make ends meet.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

I recently tried to donate 50 computers to students who needed them. I just needed Castle High School to help me distribute them to the students they knew needed a computer at home. My offer was refused, and then was refused by all

of the elementary schools in my district. I think the resources are out there, I'm just confused as to why we are being turned down.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

Well, we first need the new economic industries. My focus next year is going to be trying to get an agricultural industry back up and running, growing crops and animals that Hawaii has a competitive advantage in producing and growing. With this industry, we will need workers at all levels, both in fields and in labs. I think the classroom is where we start training these new workers.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

If a student has a job lined up that we've trained them for in school, but that doesn't require college, I don't think we should deny them a diploma because they didn't fill out FAFSA.

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Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Because of Hawai'i's weighted student formula, we appropriate funding in a fairly equitable manner to all schools.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

While we distribute funding in an equitable manner, we do not adequately fund public education, leaving our schools equitably underfunded. Hawai'i does not use a property tax to fund public education, unlike mainland school districts. We should amend our State Constitution to allow legislators to establish a statewide property tax on residential investment properties to increase funding for public schools.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer

efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

While some elected officials are calling for cuts to public services to balance the budget, I believe that we cannot cut our way out of the fiscal crisis in which we find ourselves. Instead, we need to focus on raising revenue by closing corporate tax loopholes and ensuring that our state's wealthiest residents pay an appropriate amount to maintain essential services for Hawai'i's people. We are already facing a teacher shortage that exceeds 1,000 educators per year. If we fail to focus on revenue generation, we could easily see that shortage double or triple within the next few years, leaving tens of thousands of our keiki lacking a qualified learning experience.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

The ACLU recently reported that Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately subjected to harsh school discipline, including suspension and expulsion. We need to obtain and make public data on the implementation of school disciplinary policies, so that we can defend against racial bias that undermines student learning.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Lawmakers should appropriate funds to ensure that all schools are able to purchase portable computing devices for all students. We should also work with

community organizations to establish communal WiFi locations in remote areas in which working families often lack high-speed internet access.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

We should expand career and technical education programs aligned with high-growth industries that diversify Hawai'i's economy, including sustainable agriculture, environmental preservation, healthcare, and renewable energy generation.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools,

however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

One of the great successes of Hawai'i's educational system is its ability to serve students from a variety of multicultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. With a heavy influx of immigrants, our system does well at providing English as a second language and providing assistance, whether that is special education or free lunch programs, for students from needy backgrounds. I also think the growing emphasis on Hawaiian education is a positive trend -- giving students the option to learn Hawaiian and learn Hawaiian history ultimately gives our children a strong sense of identity and place.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

We've taken proactive steps to move toward real-world education to give our students practical skills for the workplace. However, more definitely can be done. Hawai'i still ranks among the lowest in the nation in terms of our standardized test scoring, resources for our teachers and campuses, etc. Particularly, pay for our teachers is the lowest in the nation when you adjust for cost of living, which causes poor teacher retention -- a disservice to both our educators and keiki. We need to reprioritize our resources. First and foremost, we should be putting money toward upgrading our campuses and paying our teachers. From there, we need to think about how to pivot our educational system to target the areas that

are the weakest and/or have the highest potential for growth, particularly STEM fields.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

I think one of the best ways we can be more efficient -- and frankly for the sake of our public health -- is to move more of our education (and its associated systems) online. We've already begun setting up the infrastructure for this, and we must maintain the momentum. Besides just moving teaching online, we need to think of other programs that can be online -- online textbooks and learning tools. We can also tap into free open source software for the latter, and we could also consider public private partnerships with companies doing software development to upgrade educational software. Finally, we need to cut where we can -- we need to take a careful look at some of the contracts and vendors that may be no longer serving our students. For example, physical textbooks are becoming increasingly obsolete. We must also look at fixing the bidding process for construction projects to ensure we are not paying for excessive buildings at the expense of our children.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

We really need to look at the source of the problem -- lack of support at home for keiki and mental health services. We need to look at how to make resources accessible, particularly for single parents. Teachers can't be counselors, too, so we need to strengthen our corps of social workers and counselors who can point parents to resources. Second, when we look at the population of incarcerated persons, a very high percentage of them have learning disabilities like ADHD -- that means we need to have a concerted effort to diagnose and help students manage these issues. There are treatment options available, but we have to diagnose students early and accurately to ensure they don't become adults with undiagnosed behavioral problems. Finally, I think there are many excellent non-profit organizations in Hawai'i already, some of which already work with children of incarcerated parents. We should look at more formal partnerships with these organizations, particularly to provide mentorship to vulnerable students.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

That's an ongoing discussion, and in the mainland, they've adopted a rental model whereby they rent laptops to students who require it. We could do something similar or give stipends to needy families so they can obtain the necessary technology. We should also consider public private partnerships with internet service providers -- there are a lot of companies like Google that are working to boost their services for students now, and we should take advantage of this momentum to negotiate with companies to get discounted services for our

schools. We need a concerted effort for this, and so I would push for having a central office that is handling upgrading our distance learning education programs.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

This is an exciting question and really where I believe we have the space to shape the future of our keiki and our economy. With increased globalization, we have a chance to tap into some of the natural competitive advantages of Hawai‘i’s history and location. We should encourage certain industries to grow in Hawai‘i -- from both the supply and demand sides. While we can increase demand for highly skilled labor in Hawai‘i by incentivizing certain industries to come to Hawai‘i, we also need to work on the supply side via our educational system. This means capitalizing on our strength as a multicultural environment -- encouraging the establishment of localization services or other companies tapping into our population’s second language skills. We also can encourage the growth of a data science industry by helping our students strengthen their skills in statistics and other advanced computing skills -- this type of industry is resilient to the cyclical bust-and-boom cycle of tourism and can be done remotely. Other examples include coding, film editing, etc. Such programs don’t even exist yet here, so we must encourage it through our schools.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

Yes, that's an easy fix and we should be helping students fill out FAFSA should they have the desire to attend post-secondary education. We should beef up the number of guidance counselors we have and offer more assistance so students and parents understand how to fill out the sometimes complicated FAFSA forms. In tandem with this, we should be teaching them how critical FAFSA is to obtaining scholarships -- and explain how to apply for scholarships.

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

Not necessarily. I think it is enough to want to encourage it more rather than create another bureaucratic graduation requirement.

In Hawaii, charter schools are public schools operated and managed by independent governing boards. Although they are funded on a "per-pupil" basis separately from Hawaii Department of Education-operated schools, charter schools are open-enrollment public schools that serve all students and do not charge tuition. Hawaii charter schools, however, receive no specific funds for facilities. Should the state provide public charter schools specific funding for facilities support?

Yes

Offering facilities support is a difficult question since not all Charter schools sit on State land -- meaning we could fund improvements on properties that could go to

waste in the long-run. That being said, we should definitely support our charter schools and the unique educational alternatives they provide our students. There are other ways we can provide support, such as increasing the per-pupil amount -- which remains well below the national average -- or offering more state facilities for charter school use.

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

Yes. Incentivizing the growth of these types of industries is the direction we need to head, although I would still support oversight of these programs to ensure they are in line with our standards.

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

The State of Hawaii needs to invest more into education and education policy. The State has focused on improving school infrastructure to “go green” to save on operating expenses and provide more to students in the classroom, but our educational system in Hawai’i is sorely lacking.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

We need to recruit more qualified teachers, improve infrastructure and school buildings, and develop more challenging curricula for our students.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

The State could formulate public-private partnerships to facilitate the need for more revenue.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Increase awareness and education for our students regarding the vulnerabilities they will face in the real-world.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Students should always have accessibility to technology and internet. Donations from tech companies and internet providers should be sought.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

We can utilize educational programs, such as film/television production, to incentive growth in those industries so students have opportunities to learn their craft with hands-on opportunities and internships.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

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Yes

In Hawaii, schools are increasingly offering career-based learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Would you support state incentives for schools to offer career-based programs that focus on high-growth, high-wage industries, such as those involving computer science?

Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

Embracing cultural diversity and including a cultural element in teaching

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Most public schools today focus on rigid standards and test-prep driven instruction that resemble an education system that was designed to prepare students for the industrial revolution. Education needs to be preparing our keiki to develop "learning-how-to-learn skills" for jobs of the future and the ability to use creativity, thinking skills, executive function skills, and the application of these skills to meaningful projects and other learning experiences that are more consistent with the demands of the changing job market. Schools should become places for talent development rather than test-prep factories so highly gifted,

creative, and extremely motivated children will have the opportunity to prepare for contributing their talents to improvements in all areas of human productivity. Students should have access to the opportunities, resources, and encouragement that enrichment programs which have only been available to a selected few. We must challenge mediocrity, conformity, and the societal institutions that knowingly or unknowingly contribute to the suppression of creativity, innovation, and the liberation of the human mind and spirit. This kind of change is now easily available through technology programs that quickly and effortlessly produce individual student profiles delineating their creativity, interests, learning styles, expression styles, and executive function skills and search engines containing categorical high-engagement resources are recommended based on students' individual profiles.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

Review the budget, cut the "wants" and stick to the "needs." Public school teachers and education must be ranked at the top of the priority list.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

I am a firm believer that the family unit is a child's first school. Parents play a key role in how a child understands and learns about their world. Schools are a

supplement to the teaching that should occur in the home. Strong school and family relationships are crucial for student success at all ages. I also believe that gender imbalance exists in our school system which leans to having more female teachers than male teachers. In Hawai‘i we have a diverse community. If children can see that diversity and live it every day, that contributes to a really healthy and divergent school culture. The lack of positive male mentors at the adolescent age beyond sports coaches may have a direct correlation of higher prison rates especially for Native Hawaiian teens and young men since the symbolism of the male warrior in Hawaiian culture is important. Building on cultural pride and positive identity construction may assist and support in helping Native Hawaiian male adolescents avoid incarceration.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Prioritization of funding must be given and realized if our public school system is going to improve. Commitment from government leaders and legislature to champion necessary funding to give the teachers and students the basic necessary tools needed for success. As of the writing of this survey questionnaire, Hawai‘i has consistently ranked as the lowest in many polls. The government must acknowledge and commit to improving conditions for teachers and students.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

As a former STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) Grant Manager I witnessed the value and benefit which STEAM programs offer first hand. The STEAM curriculum my staff wrote infused a "culturally centric" approach and incorporated Native Hawaiian concepts alongside New Generation Science Standards NGSS. As we rebuild our economy we have an opportunity to identify the industries which Hawai'i will require post-COVID-19. We can start to plan now and incorporate core programs and learning concepts to children which can be used to build the infrastructure for future economic stability.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Unsure

College education is a path of success for many however is not the only path for motivated learners. As we transition into a new post COVID-19 reality looking at fields of study, such as farming, which may lack the "appeal" to students may have a new importance to Hawai'i's food sustainability quest. I think having a high school graduate working and learning on a family farm could be equal or better than a traditional classroom education.

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Yes

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What does the State of Hawaii do well in regards to education and education policy?

I work with many schools and I like the effort to connect students with values through Na Hopena A‘o. I like the NGSS Science Standards adopted and have written place-based NGSS curriculum units for lower, middle and high school as part of my non-profit work. I like the independence given to each school Principal to make decisions that fit their unique school communities.

What should the State of Hawaii do better in regards to education and education policy?

Provide incentive to become teachers (scholarships in return for commitment to teach) and incremental pay raises to keep teachers teaching so that all students can be taught by trained teachers rather than subs. As temperatures rise, school's need AC in all classrooms and they need to plant more trees on school grounds to allow students to play outside. They should have mandatory community service during school hours for public High Schools. This connects students to their communities and introduces them to the concept for personal voluntary decisions to serve, it provides exposure to career fields and it gives them something to put on their College applications.

State tax revenues between now and 2026 are expected to fall short of projections by \$10 billion. In this resource finite environment, how can the state engineer efficiencies in providing public education to our keiki without sacrificing quality?

For the immediate term with COVID adaptations, the State should offer centralized courses for parents who choose to have their children learn completely online. This will reduce redundand efforts and depending upon enrollement for each grade or HS class, teachers aids can be employed to provide personalized support to large class sizes in between teacher taught classes.

How can Hawaii schools do better at closing the school to prison pipeline?

Through a greater focus on the trades to create pathway to success for those that do not connect with or do well in traditional academics. This would include but not be limited to agriculture, building, mechanics, applieance repair, business, design, beauty, and culinary arts.

How can Hawaii ensure that all students have access to internet connections and technology in order to participate in quality distance learning?

Use CARES ACT funds to loan laptops or tablets to students who do not have any or not have enough to go around in their household. Also work with internet service providers to connect households that are not connected.

How can the public education system be a catalyst for building out new economic industries beyond tourism?

A focus on trade skills (mentioned above) that connect to further education in our community colleges.

Do you believe Hawaii should ensure that all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school?

Yes

If you answered yes to #15, would you support a state requirement that the FAFSA or opt out waiver be completed as a qualification for graduation?

Yes

We need an opt out for families that know they won't qualify.

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