

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?

I believe that Hawaii does well in providing an after school program. However, I believe that the \$120 a month enrollment fee needs to be lower.

2. What should Hawaii do better with regards to K-12 public education?

I believe Hawaii needs to heavily invest in financial literacy and educating their students on aspects of mortgages and taxes.

3. How should Hawaii prioritize our spending on K-12 public education (for example: teacher salaries, programs to address learning loss, technology, community partnerships and projects, computer science education, charter schools, distance learning options, etc.)?

I believe that Hawaii needs to prioritize teacher spending first as it would help us keep teachers from leaving the state. I believe teacher spending also includes teacher housing.

4. Hawaii should require all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school, or complete a waiver.

Yes

4.a Comment

Yes, regardless of whether that student is going to college, it is a good experience to have dealing with the government.

5. The Hawaii State Constitution provides for the “establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools,” but does not guarantee quality education. Should the State Constitution be amended to provide quality education as a fundamental right? Should Hawaii students have a constitutional right to a quality education? Please explain your answer.

Yes, there should be a Constitutional Amendment to hold the elected and appointed leaders accountable. I do understand the concerns that some may have that a parent may sue the government if they believe that their child is not receiving an quality education and leaving it open to the courts, but I believe that it should be placed on the ballot.

6. What will you do to improve the relationship between the Hawaii State Board of Education and legislature?

Open communication is key, and while I cannot mandate the board to meet with every legislator, I would meet with them and encourage them to do so.

7. What leadership actions will you take for the Hawaii Department of Education, University of Hawaii system, and employers to work more effectively together?

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I believe legislators should be more proactive on their bills pertaining to each department. Oftentimes, legislators do not work with departments and expect them to support their bills. I do not believe that this is effective. I would reach out to Departments and work with them on how to better proposals that I am introducing.

8. College going remains flat, with roughly 50% of recent Hawaii public high school graduates going on to college (2 or 4 year). How do you propose to raise these levels so Hawaii is more competitive with states like California, which has a nearly 65% rate?

I believe that every graduating Senior should be required to apply for a community college. If they believe that community college is not for them, they can unenroll at the end of the school year. However, I support this proposal because it would allow them the opportunity to work with their counselors to see if they can make community college work for them.



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