

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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3
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1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?
Compared to other states with decentralized school districts, Hawaii spends more efficiently on school district administration and provides a more equitable k-13 system than many other states. In addition, our curriculum is far less-politicized.
2. What should Hawaii do better with regards to K-12 public education?
Teacher pay and working conditions need a significant upgrade, and comprehensive pre-K would do a lot to help get students off on the right foot.
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.)?
Teacher compensation and learning loss initiatives should be the highest priorities, in addition to universal pre-k.
4. Hawaii should require all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school, or complete a waiver.
Yes

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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.

I don't believe this amendment is necessary, and it would be open the state up to litigation. Instead, a more consistent and larger commitment is necessary from all levels of government to improve our current public education system.

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

I don't think there is currently a problem with this relationship. The BOE should operate largely independently from any political influence.

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

Work to expand early college and CTE programs within the k-12 system.

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 would like to see the current UH promise program expand to include completely free community college within our state for degree-seeking residents. Beyond that, a further expansion of early-college programs would help create a more clear path to college.

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