

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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|---|
| <b>Name</b>                                 |
| David Tarnas                                |
| <b>Office you are seeking:</b>              |
| House                                       |
| <b>District Number</b>                      |
| 8   |
| <b>Candidate Contact Information</b>        |
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| <b>Campaign Facebook Page</b>               |
| Vote-David-Tarnas                           |
| <b>Campaign or Candidate Twitter Handle</b> |

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VoteDavidTarnas

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

Hawaii provides K-12 public education to students throughout the State, from urban Oahu to rural Hawaii Island.

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

The legislature needs to take important steps to assist Hawaii's public school facilities address its significant backlog of repair and maintenance issues, lack of air conditioning, and lack of early childhood education and childcare facilities. The legislature also needs to make sure the Governor negotiates and implements the increases in pay for teachers, additional compensation for professional development, and additional pay for hard-to-staff positions such as Hawaiian Language immersion, special education, and teachers in rural schools, the additional costs for which are all covered by increases in the State Budget the legislature appropriated to public education.

## 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.)?

The top priority for Hawaii is to ensure teachers actually get the legislatively approved salary increases, additional funding for hard-to-staff positions, funding for professional development, and additional funding to address the salary compression issues.

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

Yes

## 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 would support amending the State Constitution to ensure that the State provides quality education through its public schools as a fundamental right.

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

In partnership with the House Education Chair, I will reach out to the BOE members to establish a personal rapport with them. This is especially important since I represent a relatively rural district with hard-to-staff schools.

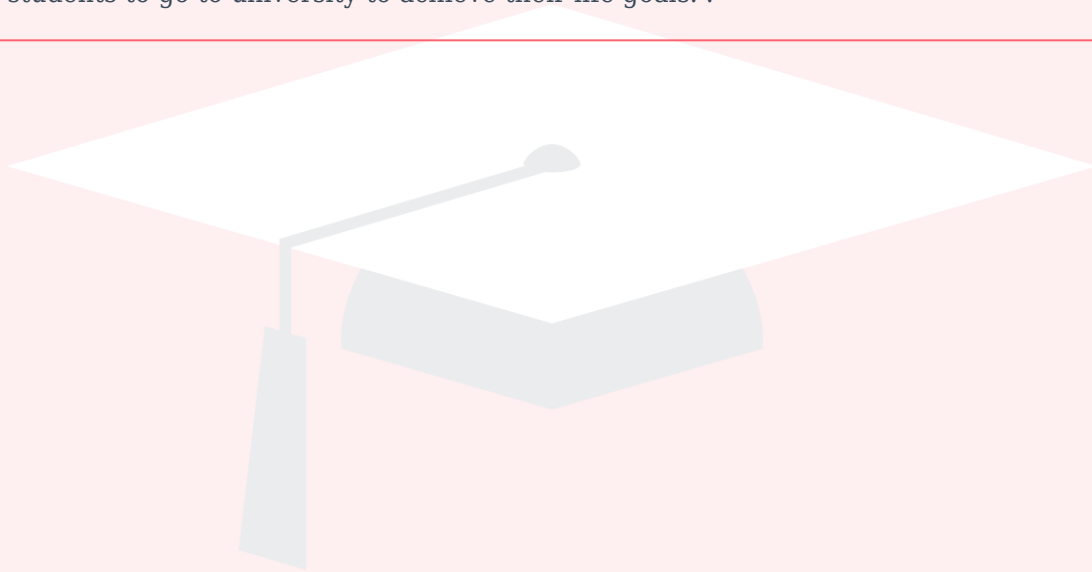
## 7. What leadership actions will you take for the Hawaii Department of Education, University of Hawaii system, and employers to work more effectively together?

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To better connect DOE, UH and employers, this past session I supported bills to improve the relevance of public education by establishing programs for digital literacy, workforce readiness, and career development.

**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?**

By making college education more relevant to Hawaii's students through programs relating to digital literacy, workforce readiness and career development, Hawaii can provide motivation for more students to go to university to achieve their life goals. .



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