

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?
Funds are distributed to schools on a fairly equitable basis regardless of geography or income level because of Hawaii's single statewide school district. Connectivity is good; the UH has done a respectable job of ensuring that DOE and UH campuses are linked.

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

We need more investment in campus infrastructure - such as upgrading electrical systems to accommodate air conditioning and computer needs. The construction of new schools, especially middle and high schools, needs to keep up with the rapid construction of homes in Kapolei and Waipio so that existing schools are not overburdened..

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.)?

All are important but most important is that schools be given the flexibility to adjust spending depending on community needs. For example, in some places with high homelessness, the priority has to be providing computer hardware and perhaps mobile hotspots to students; other areas might focus on teacher recruitment in certain curriculums.

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

No

4.a Comment

They should be strongly encouraged but we shouldn't impose any new impediments to high school graduation.

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.

It's an interesting question that I would like to see discussed in more depth. Would it mean that a student who attends a school plagued by excessive classroom crowding have grounds to seek admission and attend (at State expense) Punahou or Iolani because they offer a better "quality" education?

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

The Legislature should be supportive of our school system without interfering in the Board's responsibility for setting priorities. There should be continual dialogue between the appropriate legislative leaders, the Superintendent and the Board.

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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There already exists productive forums with organizations such as the Business Roundtable and Military Affairs Council with the Legislature, DOE and UH. As chair of the House Higher Education and Technology Committee, I participate in these discussions whenever I can and always find them informative. more to

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?

We need to find ways to make college more affordable because most families are struggling with Hawaii's high cost of living. One idea I'd like to pursue is to offer financial incentives to UH students pursuing studies in areas in which we face a critical workforce shortage - health, teaching and social work, to name a few. We offer loan repayments in some fields such as health, but many students find it difficult to afford tuition to complete their studies.



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