

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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Kathy Feldman For Hawaii
<b>1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?</b>

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The DOE has been working with outside organizations, such as the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce to work with students during after-school hours to prepare them for jobs after high school. They are also working with your organization, Hawaii Kids Can, implementing the Computer Science Initiative that teaches coding along with other skills.

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

We need to update the curriculum, which is outdated. We also need to direct funds toward technology, and make sure every student has access to a computer. We also need to implement identity-based learning. Ethnic studies and Hawaiian language should be offered in every public school.

## 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.)?

Offering teachers a livable wage is key to keeping our teachers in Hawaii. Community partnerships should also be prioritized so our students can get out in the community to experience the different fields in which they may be interested in pursuing. Computer science needs to be prioritized to prepare students for their field of interest for after high school.

## 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

All students should be required to complete the FASFA application so they increase their options after high school. Many students are unaware of their opportunities because they didn't understand the FASFA form, or they just didn't know how to fill it out.

## 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, every student should have the fundamental right to a quality education. We need to ensure the right to each student to have a fair shot at success, whether it be in a trade with a livable wage or taking the path to college and a career.

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

If an important bill concerning funding for education is passed, it is important that there is communication between the Legislature and the DOE, so that these funds are implemented. We need to make sure that funds are distributed fairly to each district. This can be done with communication and accountability.

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

The University of Hawaii System needs to work closely with the Hawaii Department of Education, offering teacher training programs to make sure that the teachers we are training will stay in Hawaii. UH students in education should be sent out to the community to work with the public schools so there is an easy transition after graduation. I would work with the UH Department of Education to bridge that gap.

## 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?

There is a barrier which prevents a large population of our students from going to college, which stems from lack counselors available to guide the students in the right direction. We need more counselors in each high school so they can spend more time with each student. There is also a lack of information when it comes to requirements for college, and financial aid available. We need more programs to educate both students and parents on options that are available after high school.

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