

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

<b>Name</b>
Nadine Nakamura
<b>Office you are seeking:</b>
House
<b>District Number</b>
15
<b>Candidate Contact Information</b>
4849 Iiwi Road, Kapaa, HI, 96746
<b>Candidate Phone/Mobile</b>
18086351507
<b>Candidate Email</b>
nknplan@hawaii.rr.com
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>
4849 Iiwi Road, Kapaa, HI, 96746
<b>Campaign Phone/Mobile</b>
18086351507
<b>Campaign Email</b>
nknplan@hawaii.rr.com
<b>Campaign Web Site</b>
nadinenakamura.com
<b>1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?</b>
We have generally good attendance rates, decent facilities, committed faculty and staff, and athletic programs are strong

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

More than half of fourth graders don't meet proficiency in reading, math, and science. Especially in math and science, things get worse over time. Only half of pre-k eligible kids attend pre-k.

## 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.)?

We should prioritize school design improvement initiatives to ensure that principals are using data, involving faculty, and designing solutions that will make a difference. Strategies to use technology to address teacher shortages is needed to address immediate needs.

## 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 assume we're all trying to achieve a quality education for our youth. I would rather spend time, resources, and energy on revisiting the constitutional amendment to have pre-k fund existing high-quality pre-k programs and work with the HSTA to show why diverse strategies are needed.

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

Happy to arrange to meet with board members to discuss public education priorities

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

On Kauai, I've collaborated with others to get good data on pre-school needs and raised funds for a pre-school coordinator. We will continue to identify best locations for pre-k expansion and potential sources of funding to stand up programs.

## 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've been a proponent of the promise program expanding to the UH; and targeting majors that will help to meet worker shortage areas in Hawaii. I believe that the UH must be more aggressive in meeting the needs of the larger community.