

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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6
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@philiprayaHI

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

Excellent Parent and Teacher communication

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

Improved teacher pay and retirement plans

## 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.)?

Start with Teacher salaries first. We need to retain quality professionals here, but it's a challenge when cost of living is so high. By retaining and hiring the best teachers, the quality of learning goes up even with limited resources and tools. Community partnerships and projects would help to teach our kids how to survive in the real world by being exposed to local businesses and working with our community. Next up would be technology, as it's growing at such a fast rate, our kids need to be up to speed.

## 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.

It should not be amended because there is no real way to "guarantee" what quality education means. That's not the root of the problem. The root is that much of our local home grown talent either moves to the mainland for higher paying jobs and lower cost of living, or they come back educated and find themselves selling real estate or timeshare to afford to buy a home here in Hawaii. It starts with higher teacher pay, better retirement plans, and affordable housing complexes with specific allotments going to educators.

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

It starts with relationship building. Once a person becomes an elected official, then it's possible during the downtime from the sessions that occur during Jan-May, to create meetings and/or attend Board of Education open meetings and developing those relationships to a level where communication is open and needs can be discussed. It's takes a relationship with the Governor as well to get bills passed. It all starts with a lot of work to build partnerships to set bills into action.

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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?**

Face to face visits, meetings, and ongoing discussions to push for change.

**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?**

It takes better teachers that can influence our kids and share with them their experiences on how going to college opened up opportunities. But it's not going to happen with the current system where our school are at a shortage of teachers and we have non credentialed substitutes practically working full time.



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