

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

<b>Name</b>
Roy Takumi
<b>Office you are seeking:</b>
House
<b>District Number</b>
34
<b>Candidate Contact Information</b>
PO Box 1649, Pearl City, HI, 96782
<b>Candidate Phone/Mobile</b>
8082585364
<b>Candidate Email</b>
reptakumi@hotmail.com
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>
PO Box 1649, Pearl City, HI, 96782
<b>Campaign Phone/Mobile</b>
8082585364
<b>Campaign Email</b>
reptakumi@hotmail.com
<b>Campaign Web Site</b>
www.reptakumi.com
<b>Campaign Facebook Page</b>
www.facebook.com/RepRoyTakumi
<b>1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?</b>

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

Although our system is underfunded, the distribution of those funds due to the weighted student formula is more equitable than it was in the past. Having a statewide school system is also an advantage as it is a more efficient system than having dozens of local school boards.

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

A difficult challenge (as in all states) is closing the achievement gap; in our case, between native Hawaiians and everybody else. Funding is also an area where we must do better especially when it comes to the recruitment and retention of teachers. Although not directly related, a universal pre-school system would be beneficial to the K-112 system.

## 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.)?

Teacher salaries must be addressed to adequately recruit and retain teachers. We also need to increase the general funds going to the DOE so there will be an increase in the weighted student formula which would enable each school to determine its priorities.

## 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.

The challenge is how to legally define "quality" which means different things to different people. The usual way to establish this is to litigate it and have the courts come up with a definition. That is a laborious and expensive process.

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

Better communication would help. Part of the challenge is that the BOE is an all-volunteer board with limited time and the legislature meets for four months.

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

We should pay more attention to the P-20 initiative since it brings all the stakeholders across the educational spectrum. I think it is underutilized as a resource.

## 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?

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

We have to improve the K-12 system so that students are prepared and willing to enter college. Also, the key indicator is the graduation rate. It makes little sense to have a 65% entry rate and a much lower graduation rate.



HAWAIIKIDSCAN  
ACTION FUND