

# 2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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

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Our relationship between our teachers, parents, and students is one that I think is exemplary. In my experience as a student within our Hawai'i Public School system, as well as now as a parent with 2 children in a Hawaiian immersion public charter school I can say that the one thing we have and do well is the heart, time, dedication, and love our underpaid and under-appreciated teachers put into our keiki.

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

We need to show that we value our teachers by paying them and supporting them in the way that they deserve. I support the HSTA's 10-point "Schools Our Keiki Deserve" plan and want to see it fully implemented.

## 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 need to support our teachers by following their lead and recommendations in how we prioritize spending within the DOE. I know that each school has it's own unique needs and priorities, and I don't believe there is a one size fits all way to prioritize our spending across the department.

## 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

I benefited from this financial aid in my college journey.

## 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. Also a permanent source of funding should be identified to help with the guarantee of quality education for all.

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

Communication on needs and priorities is key to any relationship. As a leader in my community I always look for opportunities to help facilitate productive conversations between various stakeholders regarding any important issues.

## 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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I believe I answered this above, but to further expand upon this I believe that effectiveness can be improved by addressing budgetary needs and priorities. Regular conversations around these topics with the stakeholders listed will help get everyone and keep everyone on the same page.

**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 are many different reports, studies, analysis, etc. that have been done on this subject. I don't believe there is a one-size fits all approach to addressing this important issue that has been successful. Instead, I believe there are many different things our administration, educators, parents, and other community leaders could be doing to motivate, engage, and inspire students to make it to graduation and be excited about continuing on to college. One idea is supporting mentorship/internship programs, as this has been proven to help engage and support students on making the decision to attend college. Again, this is just one of many ideas and I would be supporting teachers recommendations on this topic as I believe they have a better perspective on what would work for their students.



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