

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

Name
Troy Hashimoto
Office you are seeking:
House
District Number
10
Candidate Contact Information
P.O. Box 3028, Wailuku, HI, 96793
Candidate Phone/Mobile
8082813906
Candidate Email
troy@troyhashimoto.com
Campaign Contact Information
P.O. Box 3028, Wailuku, HI, 96793
Campaign Phone/Mobile
8082813906
Campaign Email
troy@troyhashimoto.com
Campaign Web Site
www.troyhashimoto.com
Campaign Facebook Page
/www.facebook.com/HashimotoForHouse
1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

I believe that our state is doing well in creating a career pipeline and STEM. Each of these avenues are new but they are creating new options for students that didn't exist previously. I do think we need to continually expand options to continually meet the demands of our community. One example is I just had a conversation about the severe need for CDL drivers - if we can certify students in high school - they can get a job right out of high school. We need to be able to quickly pivot and make this happen, but I know the infrastructure is already there throughout the DOE.

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

I believe that our state could do better with regards to access to early education, either through options provided by the DOE or through private partnerships with many established entities. Early education is important as it is the first building block to ensure our students will be able to learn and have a jump start in their education.

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.)?

I believe that teacher salaries and support for teachers is a priority. If we are not able to support teachers, then we will not be able to address any of the other issues facing our students. A effective teacher goes a very long way in impacting student success.

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

This form is free and can provide funding sources for Hawaii students to achieve their goals of higher education.

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 believe that every student has a right to quality education. However, it likely is difficult to define what it means to have a quality education. Quality means different things to many people depending on their values. I do know however, that we do have the most equitable school system in the nation because of our statewide system.

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

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

I personally regularly meet with my Maui Board of Education member to discuss initiatives to help our community. Communication is the key. However, as a former student Board of Education member, I believe an elected board is would be more conducive to working together because BOE members and legislators will then have the same constituency. Currently, legislators are accountable to the community and the BOE is accountable only to the Governor. This causes a level of disconnect on the BOE on how they should make decisions. When I served on the elected board, every other meeting was held outside of the DOE building to connect with the community - now every meeting is held at the Liliuokalani building.

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

Over the past few legislative sessions, I have been meeting with DOE and UH to come up with solutions on how to expand teacher education programs. I want to expand access for neighbor island students so they can stay on their island, receive their full teaching credentials and in-turn, educate future generations. The goal is to expand options so that Manoa is not the only place for teachers to receive their credentials. I believe in working together and expanding programs to meet our current needs. The current situation is a severe teacher shortage. At times, it can be frustrating as something as basic as communication between departments can be at the heart of why an issue is not resolved.

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 am not too concerned about the college attendance rate. What we need to measure is the success of students post high school. We first must define what is "success" and then we must track how students perform. Success can be defined in many ways today. The DOE cannot teach students everything in high school, but what we can teach them is how to be flexible, how to adapt, and how to overcome. Our world is ever adapting, new jobs are always being created and I believe public school graduates need to understand this situation. The job of college is to allow students to be career ready or expand their thinking ability. Many times however, graduates are not ready to be in this space. With the high cost of tuition and debt to pay these costs, we should not be forcing students into college if they are not in the right mind-set. One of the biggest challenges facing this new generation is managing debt and this must be discussed in the context of how we prepare students for their future.