

2022 HawaiiKidsCAN Action Fund Candidate Survey

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1. What does Hawaii do well with regards to K-12 public education?
Spend money. Support kids from families with limited income.
2. What should Hawaii do better with regards to K-12 public education?
Give principals more authority in how the money is spent in their specific school.

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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.)?

Dissolve the statewide School Board in favor of island School Boards comprised of public and private principals. Leave the spending choices up to them.

4. Hawaii should require all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before graduating from high school, or complete a waiver.

No

4.a Comment

Students should be made aware of the FAFSA, but the choice to apply should be left up to individual students.

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 go without saying that the public educational system strives to be the best it can be. Modifying the State's Constitution would not guarantee quality. However, would venture to say that the quality of Hawaii's public education is not the best it could be.

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

Listen to the concerns of the School Board. Support initiatives that improve the performance of students.

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

Basically up to them, not me. I have a lot of ideas about improving Hawaii's educational system, but suspect most would fall on deaf ears. However communication is key - be an effective listener.

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?

A college education is not for everyone. Having a higher college education percentage is not necessarily an indicator of success. Having productive kids is.