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David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

August 18, 2022

Hawaii State Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
Bruce Voss, Chairperson  
Kaimana Barcarse, Vice Chairperson

Aloha Chair Voss, Vice Chair Barcarse, and Members of the Board,

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

**HawaiiKidsCAN would like to offer comments for Discussion Item A) Presentation on National Association of State Boards of Education (“NABSE”) building capacity for effective leadership and governance through strategic planning.**

We recognize the monumental and incredibly important task the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) and Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) are taking on to craft and approve a new strategic plan that will move the needle for kids serve as a rallying point for our broader community. We offer our gratitude and support in advance, as we know there are long hours and lots of thoughtful reflection and listening ahead.

**Student-centered framework**

As the BOE begins to formulate how it will tackle this intensive eight month process to approve a new plan, we urge BOE members to consider this simple but powerful student-centered framework for success:

## **By 2030:**

- **Moonshot Goals**
  - **90%** of students are proficient with core academics (language arts, math, and science), with no larger than **10%** achievement gap
  - **90%** of students complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before graduation
  - **90%** of students graduate on-time from high school
  - **90%** of students complete a career and technical education (CTE) pathway leading to financial stability
- **Transformational Innovation Goals**
  - **75%** of students participate in meaningful experiences with community organizations each year
  - **75%** of all DOE staff are trained on trauma-informed education
  - **75%** of students are enrolled in computer science courses each year
  - **75%** of students are enrolled in a postsecondary institution or program upon graduation

While we know that there are many other indicators worthy of consideration, we believe that a focused approach has clear advantages and will likely yield stronger results. Given the work we have done as an organization over the last five years, which has included conversations with countless stakeholders, including but not limited to students, parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, legislators, BOE members, DOE leadership, business leaders, and philanthropic partners, we are extremely confident that meeting the above targets would ensure Hawaii has one of the most impactful education systems in the country and the world, and that students are being set up for success in 2030 and beyond.

With the clarity and precision of this ambitious vision, schools and policymakers can engage in deep reflection and planning on current assets and what specific supports are still needed. In order to meet these lofty targets, schools and community organizations must closely share and work together with transparency and candor. This is a true opportunity for collective impact that moves beyond incremental change and accepting the status quo.

### **Questions for consideration**

As the BOE moves forward, we also hope the following questions remain top of mind:

- What are the DOE's deeper reflections on the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and why many key targets have not been reached, including chronic absenteeism, the achievement gap, and foundational academic proficiency? This reflection feels highly valuable and informative as we move ahead.

- How will the DOE highlight and elevate the practices of schools performing at a high level, especially those schools with high numbers of student subgroups that traditionally struggle in our school system?
- How can the DOE, BOE, and legislature bring an equity lens to the allocation of resources so that schools that need to make the most progress are provided with additional supports on a proportional basis?
- What incentives or other accountability measures can be tied to complex area superintendent, administrator, and educator performance?

With lots of work ahead, we are looking forward to a robust process that ultimately leads to better outcomes for students.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN

August 16, 2022

State of Hawai'i Board of Education  
testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

re: **8/18/22 BOE Special Meeting**  
**Building Capacity for Effective Leadership and Governance through Strategic Planning**

Aloha Board of Education,

In the DOE's next round of yet another expensive and time consuming revision of the DOE's Strategic Plan, I suggest a plan that beefs up ACCOUNTABILITY for following all the laws, policies, and professional business practices it now currently ignores.

It's also far past the time for a Strategic Plan to provide for greater parent and community member engagement with measureable outcomes. I do not mean "community partnerships" which are financial arrangements with organizations that provide services. I'm talking about parent and community engagement with *individuals* in the community – the volunteers who won't walk away with the program funds dry up. We hear so much about how parent and community involvement is cornerstone of successful schools – even in poverty-laden communities. But the Hawai'i DOE just can't seem to be intelligent about this, and the results are appalling.

The conflict resolution skills of "leaders" in the DOE are atrocious. Authentic community engagement is a farce. And the strategic plan never includes any plan for making this any better by including accountability and measureable outcomes for parent and community engagement. Will you finally do it this time?

Sincerely,



Vanessa Ott

Position: Community Member

Organization: Citizen of the United States of America & Resident of the State of Hawai'i