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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

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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.

Given that today’s training session focuses on data analysis, we urge a full, robust discussion of student achievement data to be the foundation for strategic planning. According to 2020-2021 results from the Smarter Balanced Assessment, just 50% of students were proficient in English Language Arts, and a dismal 32% in math. The pandemic was a major contributing factor, but this is the reality of our global situation. Recent national results from the NAEP long-term trend assessment (LTT) showed the reversal of nearly two decades of student achievement growth, meaning that our students will require extraordinary supports that are both urgent and sustained.

When considering the resources and human capital available to meet this challenge, we urge the BOE to consider how Hawaii’s public system can harness our state’s abundance of high-quality local organizations and partners. From tutoring to ‘āina-based learning, the new strategic plan is a way to leverage diverse approaches to get clearer results.

We are grateful that the BOE is using data to inform the next steps in the strategic planning process, and we are looking forward to hearing candid reflections on what needs to change in order to drive better outcomes for all students.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN