

Building the Future of  
**HAWAII  
EDUCATION**



2021 CANNAL REPORT

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF

# Hawaii Education

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THE FUTURE OF HAWAII EDUCATION REQUIRES

# Vision

Aloha Friends,

Our state has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, and our public schools were impacted as much or worse than most other important elements of our communities. The last few years have been extremely difficult for our kids, our educators and our families. School was already difficult enough, but during the pandemic, we have witnessed unprecedented academic and social-emotional learning loss. Business as usual simply won't be enough to help our students and teachers reclaim what was lost.

At the same time, HawaiiKidsCAN remains optimistic that Hawaii will bounce back even stronger and more resilient. We've seen firsthand the power of partnerships and collaboration. We can accomplish incredible things together.



A black ink signature of Jeff Arce, written in a cursive style.

**Jeff Arce**  
Chair of the Board

We are fully committed to helping to build an education system that works for every kid and family, ensuring that the next generation can survive and thrive in Hawaii.

2021 has only reconfirmed our belief that the future of Hawaii education is bright, and that the work happening today will positively impact current and future generations of Hawaii kids. We're grateful for our many partners, supporters and teammates, and we can't wait to keep pushing our positive vision forward in 2022 and beyond.

Mahalo,  
David and Jeff



A black ink signature of David Sun-Miyashiro, written in a cursive style.

**David Sun-Miyashiro**  
Executive Director

# Impact

## In 2021, HawaiiKidsCAN...



secured **3 legislative wins**, including expanding computer science to all kids in K-12 schools, improving data reporting for career readiness programs and codifying a plan to close the digital divide by 2030.



provided free internet to **more than 1,500 keiki and community members** across four islands to increase access to distance learning through our WiFi on Wheels connectivity portfolio, which has garnered recognition from organizations such as the PIE Network, WiFiForward and Hawaii Children's Action Network.



launched Lanai 'Ohana Pods, which provided **\$15,000 in microgrants to 140 participants**, including 86 students (ages ranging from toddlers to 17 years) and 54 parents.



partnered with Ceeds of Peace and Pacific and Asian Affairs Council to launch Youth Action Alliance Hawaii, a collaborative seven-month virtual youth program that served **28 youths from 17 schools across 3 islands**.



influenced the conversation around education and what our kids need through **42 media hits**, including primetime TV news interviews and an appearance on a PBS Hawaii roundtable discussion on school reopening with local education leaders.



stayed on the frontlines of policy discussions all year at the Hawaii State Board of Education as a "voice of reason," with **17 pieces of testimony** on topics including Hawaii's federal ESSER plan, student learning loss, school reopening and summer school.



was fueled by community support, including **151 total donors in 2021: 129 individuals and 22 foundations, funds and businesses**.

# Innovations paving the way to the future of Hawaii education:



HawaiiKidsCAN was proud to host the national 10th Anniversary Summit in Honolulu in December. We brought together education advocates and leaders to explore innovation such as a visit to Mānoa Heritage Center with students from Voyager Public Charter School.

David was part of a live panel conversation in July for an episode of INSIGHTS on PBS Hawaii. Yunji De Nies moderated this live conversation that included leaders from the Hawaii Department of Education, State Board of Education, and Hawaii State Teachers Association.



We co-hosted our third annual Spark & Inspire education innovation showcase with Teach For America Hawaii. Big changes this year included our first student presentation team and a hybrid format that created a virtual beach festival via Gather.

We've loved seeing how families are stepping up in creative ways to support their kids through the Lanai Ohana Pods program. One set of families purchased STEM learning kits so kids can meet up in the town's central park to do experiments.



## Innovations paving the way to the future of Hawaii education:

“ Aloha! My family and I were so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the ‘Ohana Pods program in 2021! It granted us resources and supplies that we desperately needed but were not able to get for our kids. These resources allowed our children to learn new life skills and even share their new skills and the products thereof with those around them. We are so thankful for this program and pray that it will continue for us and other families on Lanai as well. Thank you so very much, ‘Ohana Pods Program! ”

- Abby Alonzo

“ The ‘Ohana Pods really help me and my child get out and be social – we were so used to staying home because of the pandemic. It also provided so many resources that I needed to help my child grow and develop but couldn’t afford to get. The ‘Ohana Pods is such a great program and I cannot stress or emphasize enough how positive my experience was with it all. ”

- Gabby Shin

“ The ‘Ohana Pods have been such an amazing program and has been super beneficial for me and my ‘Ohana. I’m grateful to the ‘Ohana Pods for providing opportunities for me and my children to socialize with other pods, providing funds for essential learning tools that I wouldn’t be able to afford myself and for supporting the growth and development of my children. This whole experience has been so positive, and if this program was offered again in the future I would, without hesitation, join again! ”

- Makana Nuesca

“ When I originally heard about this program [WiFi on Wheels], I thought it was a great idea and the heart of it was to help families . . . WiFi access is like paper and pencil. It is now the minimal access to education . . . I see the need for this program as long-term. There is a need for WiFi/hotspots. Nowadays WiFi is a necessity. It is a growing trend for many services. If I don’t have access to WiFi , then there is no access to the vaccine, food distribution and education. ”

- Terry Nakamura, Waianae

## Innovations paving the way to the future of Hawaii education:

“

[The town of Keanae is] an isolated community where people can now go online for services. [WiFi] opens opportunities for internet sales and keeps jobs going for those working online. Students are using it. It keeps the kids up-to-date and helps them with school projects. [With limited broadband availability,] the locals have been using the WiFi on Wheels and are very happy to have it. Some use the program on a regular basis and one lady, who takes classes online, uses it twice a week. When they lost power in one part of town, several folks came down and packed the [church where WiFi on Wheels is located]. It is good to know that it has been well worth the effort. ”

- **Bill Sides, Keanae**

“

As a Hawaii public school graduate, it was important for me to introduce SB 242 and SB 516 and collaborate with my colleagues in the legislature and community organizations like HawaiiKidsCAN to pass these two bills. These bills will provide our keiki with more opportunities to explore computer science in schools and equip our youth with the tools necessary for the jobs that already exist here in our state. I truly believe this is a step towards closing the achievement gap and addressing the inequities that exist within our school system. I appreciate all the advocacy work done by the community to make this possible. ”

- **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**

“

I wanted to say a special mahalo to David Miyashiro and HawaiiKidsCAN, because it is always an honor and privilege to work with you. We were able to successfully get through two very important bills. The first one is SB 516. The second is SB 242. One will allow us to continue to build out our computer science curriculum, which is very important in the K-12 grade space. The second will allow us to continue to have conversations around our students and look at industry-recognized credentialing, which we know is going to be very important in the future. So, mahalo again, Mr. Miyashiro, and we look forward to working with you next year. ”

- **Representative Justin Woodson**

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# Support

*Individuals were sorted by last name.*

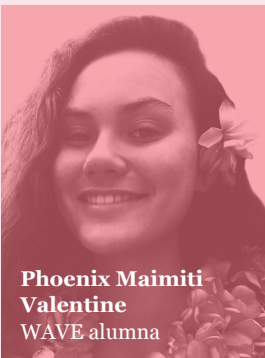
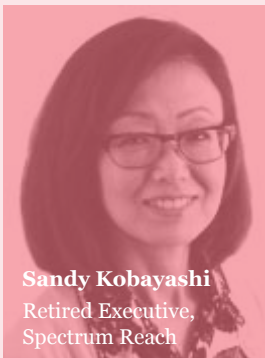
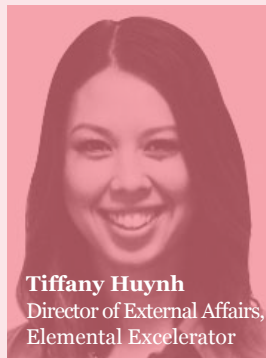
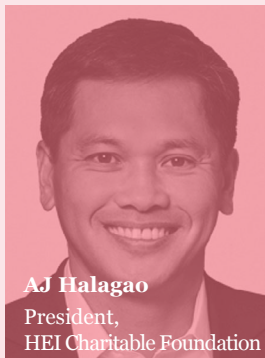
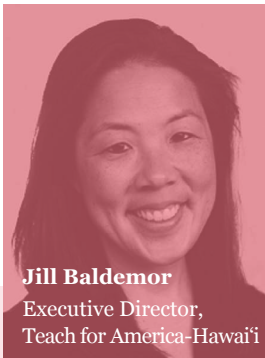
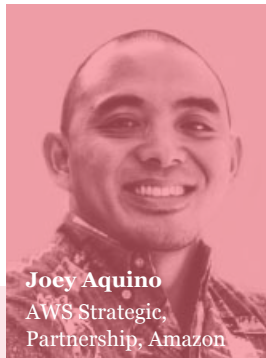
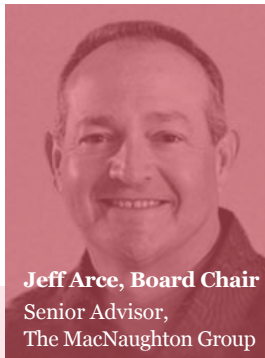
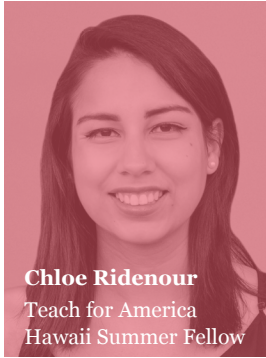
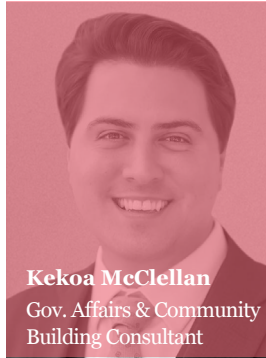
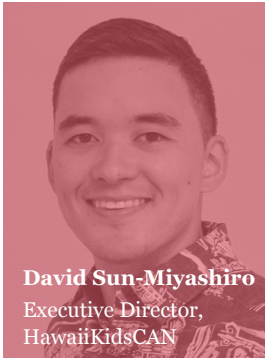
*Companies and foundations were sorted by first word in name.*

## Mahalo to all our HawaiiKidsCAN 2021 donors:

- The Abraham and Annie Lau Children's Fund
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- Cynthia Williams
- Kelly Young

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# Leadership



# Looking ahead to 2022:

## Our Mission

HawaiiKidsCAN works to build an equitable education system for our keiki, ensuring every Hawaii student has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for a life of success and global and local leadership.

## What We Do

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is 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. HawaiiKidsCAN is a branch of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now.

## 2022 Policy Goals:



**The education that's right for you, because every student learns differently.**

- Update the requirements to serve on the State Board of Education **(HB1560/SB2824)**



**Tutoring and care for every student in every community.**

- Provide grant funds to families to support with key educational needs **(HB1834/SB2816)**



**A world of open and connected learning, so you have the tools you need to strengthen your community and succeed in life.**

- Let students more easily earn school credit from community-based programs and organizations **(BOE)**



## A clear path to the career you choose. It's about finding your fit and your pathway to a meaningful life.

- Remove barriers so more students can participate in career readiness programs **(HB1707/SB2711)**
- Provide incentive funds to schools when students complete industry-recognized credential programs **(HB1559/SB2826)**
- Enable computer science courses to count towards core graduation requirements **(BOE)**

### How to Get Involved

- Want to learn more about education in Hawaii? Visit [hawaiikidscan.org](http://hawaiikidscan.org), and sign up for our emails to stay in the know.
- Share your ideas. How can Hawaii aim high in education? Share a post on social media with the hashtag **#kidsCAN**.
- Start the conversation. We would love to hear from you and talk more about working together. Email us at [info@hawaiikidscan.org](mailto:info@hawaiikidscan.org).

## Donate Today

### Your gift will support:

- Advocacy for policies that give every student the chance to excel.
- Efforts to elevate research, promising practices and stories from schools.
- Programming and fellowships to deeply engage more voices in education advocacy.

**Donate today at [hawaiikidscan.org/donate](http://hawaiikidscan.org/donate).**

HawaiiKidsCAN is part of 50CAN, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your donation is tax-deductible.

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