



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS 2022 PRIORITIES



## **INVEST WISELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO MEET PUBLIC SCHOOL NEEDS**

- Create an additional dedicated, sustainable funding source for our public schools.
- Revise Act 51 to change per-pupil funding ratios in rural district schools to fulfill essential necessities including adequate staffing, curriculum, and supplies.
- Fully fund Special Education teaching and support staff positions to meet student needs.
- Advocate for the needs of our BU05 public charter school members and fully funding facilities.

## **PROMOTE QUALITY STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

- Support authentic assessments and parental rights to refuse high-stakes standardized testing.
- Reduce class sizes to improve student learning environments, safety, and opportunities.
- Expand funding for public preschool.
- Provide access to high-quality physical education and nutritional programs.
- Provide access to mental health education and services (including suicide prevention and awareness), high-quality sexual health education, and substance abuse education.
- Advocate for public schools to supply menstrual products to all students who need them, free of charge.

## **CREATE AN OPTIMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS**

- Fund school facility and technology upgrades including bandwidth.
- Fund and maintain classroom climate control, air quality, and water quality.
- Fund timely and accessible COVID-19 testing for public school communities, and advocate for epidemiologically informed protocols that are measurable for teachers and students.

## **ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS TO HAWAII'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Provide competitive salaries and benefits reflecting Hawaii's high cost of living, including reestablishing annual step increases, honoring current negotiated salaries, fixing step compression, and creating additional classes on the salary schedule.
- Provide funding for increased preparation time, teaching positions, additional personnel, job-embedded professional development, and material resources.
- Provide professional assistance including mentoring, professional development, and a supportive, rather than a punitive, teacher evaluation system collaboratively created under the flexibility of ESSA.
- Pass legislation to support a paid family leave act and provide a separate bank of funding for maternity and paternity leave.
- Establish programs to empower teachers to rent and buy their own homes.



## **SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND UNIONIZATION**

- Establish a public school teacher member (BU05) on the Board of Education.
- Support legislation that will protect and strengthen unions.

### **TOP GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRIORITIES**

1. Fixing salary compression
2. Reestablishing annual step increases
3. Advocating for additional classes on the salary schedule
4. Providing teachers with access to affordable rentals and homeownership
5. Creating an additional dedicated, sustainable funding source for our public schools

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