



Hawaii Education Summit  
Governor's ESSA Team  
Design Ideas for a Hawaii Public Education Blueprint

During the past 2 months, the Governor's ESSA Team has been conducting a review of our Hawaii public schools. Although the team's work is far from complete, team members want to share preliminary "design ideas" for summit attendees to discuss critically, share insights, explore possibilities, and provide input, feedback, and suggestions.

### **Design Idea: Innovation**

Our Hawaii public schools will create and sustain an organizational culture that values innovation and unleashes curiosity and creativity in all learners.

*Did you know ... that the DOE has requested funding for a "future ready" pilot program to make digital learning a priority ... there has been a decrease in the number of "Good Idea" innovation grant applications by teachers in recent years ... schools can seek approval for School Community Council waivers and exceptions to try new innovative practices?*

Questions:

- How can the Department of Education foster innovation throughout the education system?
- How can our education system become a self-correcting system that is adaptive and innovative?
- How can the effective use of STEM impact creativity and analytical skills for all students?

### **Design Idea: School/Community Empowerment and Engagement**

Our Hawaii public schools will design and establish a trust-based system to move decision making and resources to those closest to students and their learning.

*Did you know ... that the DOE provides "weighted student formula (WSF)" funding to schools as part of the overall funding for personnel, operations, and classroom needs ... Governor Ige stated that he supports increasing the percentage of WSF funding for schools to 75% of the school's total budget.*

Questions:

- How can we better define the role of students, parents, teachers, principals, complex area superintendents, Superintendent, and Board of Education to empower Hawaii's education system?
- What is needed to decentralize decision making and empower schools?
- How can the education system provide greater transparency, in accordance with ESSA, to meaningfully engage all members of a school community?

### **Design Idea: Equity and Excellence**

Our Hawaii public schools will achieve high learning expectations, built around 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies, supported by quality teaching that meets the needs of all students and eliminates all achievement gaps.

*Did you know ... that a 2015 U.S. Chamber of Commerce report recognized Hawaii for making significant NAEP gains from 2005 to 2013 ... the overall HI public school graduation rate is 82% but for ELL students is it only 53% ... ESSA provides a new focus on supporting ELL students ... the achievement gap in reading between all students and special needs students is 55%?*

Questions:

- How can personalized learning become an integral element in the DOE's accountability system?
- How can we eliminate the achievement gap and deliver improved support for special needs students, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, and other students with learning needs?

## **Design Idea: Leadership**

Our Hawaii public schools will ensure that every school has a highly effective (innovative, collaborative, adaptive, transparent) principal who is an instructional leader committed to the school's community.

*Did you know ... that ESSA provides flexible funding for districts to deliver professional development for principals and teachers?*

### Questions:

- What are the attributes of a highly effective instructional leader and how can Hawaii scale their success?
- How can Hawaii attract, recruit, and retain highly effective instructional leaders at each school?
- What factors must be in place to develop and sustain a system of support for leaders at every level?

## **Design Idea: Learning Environments**

Our Hawaii public schools will design and establish new, innovative, and cost effective strategies to provide the best possible learning environments for both K-12 and Early Learning programs.

*Did you know ... that given the current backlog in school repair and maintenance and the current pace of work, it is estimated that it would take 150 years to complete all projects? Did you know ... that the state currently services 3,675 of 35,000 – approximately 10% of children age 3 and 4 for Early Learning services?*

### Questions:

- How can the physical layout of school campuses be maximized to create the best possible learning environments for early learning, K-12 education, and learning beyond high school?
- Are there best practices for the DOE as they navigate barriers for innovative approaches to school facilities management?

## **Design Idea: Student Empowerment**

Our Hawaii public schools will empower students to take responsibility for their learning through student voice and choice of meaningful learning opportunities.

*Did you know ... a guiding principle of the DOE strategic plan review is to “give voice to student aspirations” ... that positive rate of student satisfaction (high school) as measured by the DOE School Quality Survey has gone from 85% in 2013 to 69.7% in 2015?*

### Questions:

- What are the roadblocks to empowering students and increasing student satisfaction?
- How can educators help students find their aspirations, passions, and interests and give them the tools and confidence to pursue them?

## **Design Idea: Balanced Assessments for Learning**

Our Hawaii public schools will be guided by a core belief that educational assessments will be conducted in the service of student learning, and all educators possess the assessment literate skills for reflection and refinement of professional practice.

*Did you know ... that ESSA will allow up to seven states to try out innovative locally designed assessments for a given amount of time?*

### Questions:

- How are decisions currently made about large scale testing and classroom assessments?
- Consider student assessments, teacher assessments, and school assessments – what is working and what is not?

## **Design Idea: Networked Improvement Community - A Statewide Learning Community**

Our Hawaii public schools will become the home of a world class research and design (R&D) center, aligned system wide at all levels of the education system, for the purpose of providing for the most informed state citizenry in the area of cognitive and emotional learning, balanced assessment practices, and instructional leadership.

### Questions:

- How can better leverage data and numbers to triangulate learning evidence for reliability and validity?
- How can the Board of Education provide policy leadership for this?
- How can we develop the capacity to be a self-correcting learning system that can avoid the need to frequently reinvent itself?