



# Hawaii

## Overall Rank

#49

Hawaii ranks #49 in overall education freedom, and last in education choice for the second year in a row. The state dropped to #40 in teacher freedom from its #3 ranking in 2023.

## Education Choice Rank

#51

Hawaii ranks 51st for **education choice**. Hawaii could do much more to expand education choice. Hawaii could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, making it easier for more charter schools to open and operate, removing excessive regulations on homeschool families, and giving families more choices among traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

## Transparency Rank

#33

Hawaii ranks 33rd in **academic transparency**. Hawaii lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parent bill of rights, or reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

## Teacher Freedom Rank

#40

Hawaii ranks 40th among all states in **teacher freedom**. Fifty-seven percent of its teachers are alternatively certified, and the state allows full reciprocity of teacher licensure. However, educators in Hawaii are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Hawaii also still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Hawaii's single school district does not employ a "chief diversity officer." Hawaii can improve its teacher freedom score by continuing to increase the number of aspiring teachers who have access to alternative teacher certification or ending certification requirements altogether, eliminating the Praxis test requirement, and by ending its participation in Common Core assessments.

## Return on Investment Rank

#25

Hawaii ranks 25th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Hawaii spends the 28th-most per pupil among states, spending \$15,630 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Hawaii ranks 24th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Aloha State employs 2.03 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Hawaii's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 13.2 percent of its state GDP. Hawaii can improve its ROI ranking by limiting increases in per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and addressing its significant unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

### Hawaii: One-Year Rank Changes (2023-2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 16	0	▼ 1	▼ 37	▼ 4