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Hawaii in bottom 3 when it comes to providing after-school supper

By [KIRSTEN JOHNSON Hawaii Tribune-Herald](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/author/kirsten-johnson/) | Friday, April 13, 2018, 12:05 a.m.

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Hawaii ranks among the lowest in the country for serving after-school “supper” to low-income students, according to a new report by the Food Research and Action Center.

“Afterschool Suppers: A Snapshot of Participation” shows 1 in 300 Hawaii keiki who ate free or reduced-priced school lunch in 2016 also ate after-school supper. The national average was 15 students having supper for every 300 who ate free or reduced-priced school lunch. Hawaii’s low supper participation placed it in the bottom three states.

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“Only three schools (in Hawaii) offer supper,” Paula Adams, executive director of the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance, said on Thursday, adding none of those three schools are located on Hawaii Island. “And we know for some of the kids, the after-school meal is the last meal they will have until they come back to school the following morning.”

After-school snack participation in Hawaii is higher — about 10 percent between two federal nutrition programs that serve after-school snacks. Offering supper requires more cafeteria staff, Adams said, because it’s served as a full meal with three food items. An after-school snack, in comparison, might include just one item such as crackers with cheese.

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