



DEPT. COMM. NO. 211

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 22, 2017

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the annual report relating to School Meals, pursuant to Act 194, 2017 Session Laws of Hawaii (SB No. 423, CD 1). In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Legislative-reports.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Kishimoto".

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:lw
Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Office of School Facilities and Support Services



State of Hawaii
Department of Education

Annual Report on School Meals

December 27, 2017

Act 194, SB423, 2017 prohibits a student to be denied a meal solely for failure to pay within the first 21 days of the first semester of a school year while the student's application for free or reduced lunch is being processed or within seven (7) days following a student's meal fund account reaching a zero or negative balance. It requires the Department of Education (Department) to submit a report to the legislature on the prevalence of students being denied a school meal solely for failure to pay and any actions taken by the Department or individual schools to address this issue.

Department of Education
Annual Report on School Meals

The School Food Services Branch conducted an online survey which consisted of six (6) questions that focused on students being denied meals based on the availability of funds in their account. The survey was sent to 293 schools with 87 schools responding resulting in a 29.31% response rate. Of those who responded, 76% stated that zero students were denied meals based on the availability of funds. The number of students that were denied meals were approximately 100 to 125 students due to negative balances. Most schools allow students to incur a negative balance; the school and community often work together to repay it.

All schools reported that households are notified of the student's low balances. Schools reported that negative meal account balances were due to the parent/guardian's failure to keep a positive meal account balance due to financial hardship, delay of payment due to other non-financial factors, and/or parents' inability to complete the free and reduced meal applications.



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