



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/19/2020
Time: 04:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2430, HD1 RELATING TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Promotes menstrual equity by providing an exemption from the GET, beginning October 1, 2020, for the sale of feminine hygiene products in the State. Appropriates funds to the DOE to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2430 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education-approved budget.

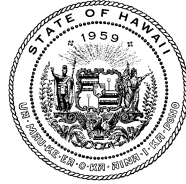
Feminine hygiene products, including but not limited to menstrual pads and tampons, may be difficult for some students to afford or access when they are in need. Having these materials available to students for free at public schools could potentially help girls to stay in class and engaged in educational activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

RONA M. SUZUKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair;
The Honorable Ty L.K. Cullen, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: **H.B. 2430, H.D. 1, Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products**

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H.B. 2430, H.D. 1, and offers the following comments.

Section 2 of H.B. 2430, H.D. 1, adds a new section to chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes, exempting all of the gross proceeds arising from the sale of feminine hygiene products from the general excise tax. The measure has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050, with Section 2 of this measure becoming effective on October 1, 2020.

The Department respectfully requests that Section 2 of this measure be made effective for gross receipts received on or after January 1, 2021. Moving the effective date out to January 1, 2021 will allow the Department sufficient time to make the necessary form and computer system updates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: GENERAL EXCISE, Exemption for Feminine Hygiene Products

BILL NUMBER: HB 2430, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Promotes menstrual equity by providing an exemption from the GET, beginning October 1, 2020, for the sale of feminine hygiene products in the State. Appropriates funds to the DOE to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses. Takes effect on 7/1/2050.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 237 to exempt gross proceeds arising from the sale of feminine hygiene products within the State, including but not limited to sanitary napkins; tampons; panty liners; douches; feminine hygiene syringes; and creams, foams, ointments, jellies, powders, and sprays used for vaginal hygiene purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: The bill is intended to exempt feminine hygiene products from GET.

Existing law, namely section 237-24.3(6), exempts sales of prescription drugs and prosthetic devices. Over-the-counter medicines and products, whether to promote male or female health, are not exempt. Thus, Tax Information Release 86-4 states that “sales of items or merchandise considered not exempt include over-the-counter drugs sold without a prescription or drugs to be used for animals or other pets; medical supplies and devices such as bandages, thermometers, hypodermic needles, diaphragm syringes, gauzes, orthopedic support, inhalation extender devices, food products/supplements, dietary supplements, prophylactics, contact lens preparations, and the like.”

The purpose clause of the bill states that it is intended to promote “menstrual equity.” We are not sure what that means. We are not aware of any products to promote male health that are exempt from GET while comparable products to promote female health are taxable.

Digested 2/16/2020

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 2430 HD1 Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products
DATE: February 19, 2020
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

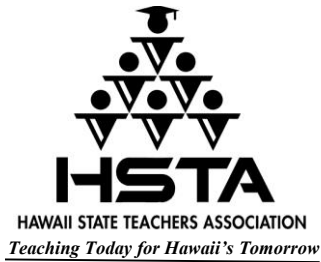
The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2430 HD1 with amendments**. This measure provides funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to make feminine hygiene products available for free on public secondary school campuses, in addition to exempting feminine hygiene products from the general excise tax.

The Commission requests that this **measure be amended to clarify that any funding provided to DOE include proportional funding for public charter schools to provide feminine hygiene products at public charter schools.** 30 public charter schools, out of a total of 37, have a secondary school division.

The Commission takes no position on the tax exemption provisions of this measure.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, the DOE, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui, Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2430, HD1 - RELATING TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

WEDESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

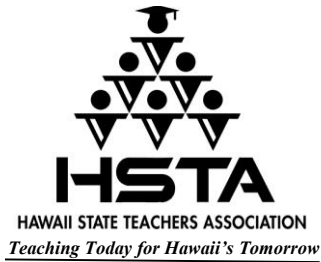
Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2430, SD1**, that promotes menstrual equity by providing an exemption from the GET, beginning October 1, 2020, for the sale of feminine hygiene products in the State and appropriates funds to the DOE to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses.

Taxing feminine hygiene products is a form of discrimination because it only applies to people who menstruate. Therefore, a tax on these products is unconstitutional because it treats individuals differently based solely on their gender. In many states lip balm, dandruff shampoo, Rogaine, and even Viagra are sales-tax exempt while feminine hygiene products are not. In fact, feminine hygiene products continue to be taxed in 31 states including Hawaii.

Nevertheless, the tide is turning on this issue; several states have taken action to create a tax exemption on these products including Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. And, just a couple of weeks ago on February 5th, 2020, the Virginia State Senate unanimously passed a bill to "provide that menstrual cups and pads, pantyliners, sanitary napkins, tampons, and other products used to absorb or contain menstrual flow shall be fully exempt from sales and use tax." It is time that Hawaii also exempt feminine hygiene products from the taxation.

We must also move towards providing free feminine hygiene products in secondary school bathrooms. Again, many states are moving in this direction or have already implemented such legislation. In July 2019 New Hampshire Governor



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Executive Director

Chris Sununu signed into law legislation to provide feminine hygiene products in secondary school bathrooms. **By providing these products for our middle and high school students we will promote gender equity in our schools as well as ensure that girls from lower income homes do not miss out on their education simply because their families can't afford to buy these products. Additionally, making these products accessible in bathrooms will help prevent the embarrassment girls face of having to try to hide their sanitary pads or tampons to avoid the attention of male classmates while heading to the restroom or the struggle of trying to find a feminine hygiene product from a classmate or teacher when their period comes unexpectedly.**

To increase gender equity in our state and schools and to ensure access to feminine hygiene products regardless a student's financial situation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association urges you to **support** this bill.



Committee: House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: February 19, 2020 at 4:00pm

Place: House Room 308

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. 2430, Relating to Feminine Hygiene

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Milianta-Laffin and I teach STEM Lab at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach. I sponsor the Ilima Intermediate "Activist Club" and my students worked with Representative Amy Perruso's office to give their ideas to help create HB 2430.

After a student had an embarrassing incident bleeding through their clothes during the school day, our club began discussions about menstrual equity on campus. New ACLU research indicated students can miss 3-5 days per year if they don't have hygiene supplies. We started a service learning project collecting pads and tampons and made a "Menstruation Station" where students can pick up "menstruation care kits" as they need them. We went through 300 kits in 3 months. Thankfully, the wonderful charity "I Support the Girls - Hawaii" has supplied us with more kits, but we're quickly running out.

Since starting the "Menstruation Station" at Ilima, I've heard many stories from students that let me know that the lack of supplies is a huge issue that ultimately can be detrimental to student learning. On an average day, I give out 3-5 kits; on our highest day, we gave out 22. Students have shared the items they have tried to "make pads" out of including socks, paper towels, and tissues. More than one student shared that they've tried to "wring out" pads to use them longer - a practice that could make them sick. In general, teens often have unpredictable menstrual cycles and many may find themselves at school unprepared for a period.

I believe that free, and comfortable menstrual supplies are critical for the academic success of half our population, and I support HB 2430. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin

STEM Lab Teacher, Ilima Intermediate School

Statements in Support of HB 2430 by Ilima Intermediate Students

The following statements come from members of the Ilima Intermediate Students in the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Club, and our 21st Century funded "Activist Club."

In summary, students want the HDOE or schools to be required to stock menstrual supplies for any students who need them, free of charge.

Sarah Milianta-Laffin
Faculty Sponsor of GSA & Activist Club
Ilima Intermediate School

"As a person who experiences periods, I believe that we should be provided free sanitary products at school. As one of the leaders of the Gender-Sexuality Alliance and Activist Club, I can tell you we all agree. Free menstrual projects would create a better learning environment for everyone who experiences menstruation in our schools.

This would be an immense help. It could eliminate both the stigma against talking about menstruation, and also the fear of being without pads at school. As a trans student, these fears are even larger for me.

My teacher, Mrs. Mili, gives me her keys after school so I can safely and comfortably use menstrual products at school. In September 2019, the GSA and Activist Club worked to make a station where people could take menstrual products if they needed. Sometimes I take a care package from our station, since often I don't expect my period or come prepared. We've given out more than half of the packages we've made in around 2 months.

This fact shows that we need the products.

The GSA and Activist Club cannot keep supplying the station we already have, because we don't have enough money to do so. By supplying menstruation products for free at schools, in the nurse's office, and in the bathrooms, it will become easier for people to get what they need.

A large number of absences have been traced back to menstruation problems. Often times, the people who menstruate cannot afford pads, or clean their stained clothes, making them embarrassed. So their solution is to stay home from school. It may add up, leaving them behind in school, and causing many problems.

By giving schools and students free pads, this can be eliminated, and schools will be one step closer to being accessible to everyone. We must add Hawai'i to the list of states providing free menstruation products to its students. We need free menstrual products in the nurse's office and

in the bathroom, so that anyone who needs them can easily receive them. Please support HB 2430.



Mahalo for Reading,
D Prymer
Ilima Intermediate 8th Grader

“If people who bleed don’t have what they need to make it through a school day, then we’re really not all equal. Even though I’m a boy who doesn’t bleed, I want my female and trans friends to have what they need to be comfortable to learn at school.

Boys should know about menstrual cycles and support girls so they don’t feel ashamed about something totally normal. Schools can help by paying for period supplies. Please support HB 2430.”



Gabe Tucci-Rugg
Ilima Intermediate 7th Grader

“If boys had periods, schools would probably already have pads for them. Schools tend to supply what boys need but not what girls need. Real men support and respect women no matter what. We need to prove that we understand their struggles by manning up and making it mandatory that schools buy menstruation supplies for students who need them. Support HB 2430.”



Jaimes T. Steele
Ilima Intermediate 8th Grader

“Girls have rights to bleed comfortably. They need pads for when they have periods. I am a boy and I have girl friends who have been ashamed for bleeding in their clothes. I have no problem with girls that are on their period, but the school should support them with supplies. We should all support each other and HB 2430 helps that.”

Samuel Plunkett
Ilima Intermediate 7th Grader

“In school, when I’m on my period, I just have to deal with it. You can feel yourself bleeding through your clothes but you just have to wait if it’s a male teacher. If it’s a female teacher they might be able to help you, but not everyone will. Pads are expensive and teachers don’t make much money.

Teachers should not have to buy pads for kids. The schools should buy them to keep girls and people who bleed in schools. They tell us all the time that attendance is important - well if it is - they should supply the stuff to keep us comfortable and here.

In Boston they learned that 1 in 5 girls skip school because not having pads. The city decided to buy them for the schools. Our state should do the same. This bill helps. Please pass HB 2430.”



Sherleen Joyce Brion
Ilima Intermediate 8th Grader

“Not having pads provided in school sucks because girls like me don’t always know when our periods are coming. Some girls are in foster care and are afraid to say they need pads. The school gives us pencils when we don’t have a pencil, it should be the same for pads.

The nurse gives each teacher a small bag with bandaids. If the government bought pads and gave them to the nurse, she could give them to the teachers to have extra if anyone needs them. And if its a money thing, if you pass HB 2430 it fixes the issue.”



Ashanti Riparip
Ilima Intermediate 7th Grader



Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB2430, HD1 Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products**, which provides an exemption from Hawaii's general excise tax (GET) for the sale of feminine hygiene products. The measure also appropriates funds to the Department of Education to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses.

This measure would eliminate a sex-based tax and help promote menstrual equality. State collects roughly \$800,000 annually from the sale of menstrual products. Women on average use 16,000 tampons or pads in a lifetime. The American Medical Association deems these products as medical necessities. Placing a tax on these life necessities becomes a penalty and punishment for menstruating, something that an individual has no control over.

By ensuring that feminine hygiene products are available for students, we can help remove a potential roadblock to education that students might face. A school would never charge for toilet paper or band aids so why should we charge for feminine hygiene products. A student shouldn't have to pay more because of their sex or for a bodily function they have no control over.

For all these reasons, we strongly support this measure and ask you to appropriate the funds necessary to make this program a reality.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:49:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Bilyk | Breastfeeding Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:49:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Younghi Overly | aaup of hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:34:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laurie Field | Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:



HIPHI Board

Michael
Robinson, MBA, MA
Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health

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Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

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College of Tropical Agriculture
and Human Resources

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente

Catherine Taschner, JD
McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP

Date: February 18, 2020

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Support for HB 2430, HD1, Relating to Feminine Hygiene
Products

Hrg: February 19, 2020 at 4:00 pm at Conference Room 308

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB 2430, HD1**, which exempts feminine hygiene products from the general excise tax and provides funding for the Department of Education to make feminine hygiene products available for free on public school campuses.

Menstrual equity is a public health issue. Lack of access to feminine hygiene products can cause women to reuse products or wear them for too long, which can lead to infection. These infections can increase their risk for serious health problems, such as cervical cancer or infertility.

Eliminating the general excise on feminine hygiene products and providing free products at schools are policies that will increase access and promote menstrual equity. Exempting medical necessities, such as feminine hygiene products, offsets the regressive nature of sales taxes and will decrease the financial burden for many women. Offering free, quality menstrual products at schools will help to ensure that girls do not miss school due to lack of access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

HB-2430-HD-1

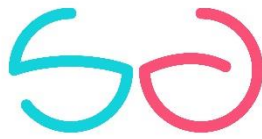
Submitted on: 2/18/2020 6:28:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alison Pentland | Period Equity | Support | No |

Comments:

The sales tax on menstrual products (aka the tampon tax) is tax on people who menstruate and therefore unconstitutional because it treats individuals differently based solely on their sex. Hawaii courts have held that laws which discriminate based on sex are subject to strict judicial scrutiny, a higher standard than at the federal level. Defending the tampon tax would require Hawaii to demonstrate a “compelling” state interest in taxing medical necessities used by one sex and not the other. The American Medical Association deems menstrual products medical necessities and has called the tampon tax a “regressive penalty.” The tampon tax amounts to less than .01% percent of Hawaii’s total revenue. Eliminating the tampon tax has enjoyed bipartisan support across the country, with members of both political parties introducing legislation and signing bills into law to eliminate it. **Hawaii should be the next state to join the 19 others that do not tax tampons.**



I SUPPORT THE GIRLS

Aloha,

My name is Moana Olaso and since April of 2019, I have been the Affiliate Director of I Support The Girls Hawaii. We are part of an international organization, headquartered in Baltimore, MD. Our founder, Dana Marlowe, started this organization in 2015 to restore the dignity and self-esteem to women and girls who cannot afford their basic necessities of bras, underwear, and menstrual hygiene products which includes pads, tampons, liners, and menstrual cups.

In just 10 months, ISTG Hawaii has collected donations from around the state and gifted products to over 40 organizations, schools, and shelters. Many of the women we donate to may have young daughters, nieces, and granddaughters that require menstrual hygiene products but lack the funds to purchase an adequate supply for their monthly period. This includes women who are homeless, victims of domestic violence, victims of sex trafficking, and those in foster care or a transitional housing for youth.

I Support The Girls Hawaii has distributed nearly 85,000 menstrual hygiene products across the 6 major islands. Of that, 43% of our total donations went to DOE middle and high schools. When students do not have access to these products in school, many of them must make the choice whether to stay in school or miss days of instruction. I have had the opportunity to speak to students about the challenges they face when they don't have access to these products and asked them what they do when they miscalculate the start of their period and they have an "accident" in school. Many of them use whatever is available like paper towels or toilet paper, just to get them through the day. Most times, students will leave campus and head home to get the products they need. But for the neediest, they sometimes use things like newspaper, socks, or torn rags, which can contribute to bigger health problems.

With half of the population having a menstrual cycle, the importance of having free access to or making menstrual hygiene products available to those who need it is very important. If you needed to make a choice between a hot meal and your basic hygiene needs, which would you choose? Living on the street or in a car, women are forced to make some very hard decisions. No one should have to make those choices.

If we are able to provide erectile dysfunction pills to men at no tax, why are women and girls not afforded the same decency? 50% of the population menstruates every month for 30 to 40 years or longer, 100% of the population was conceived by someone that experienced their period at some point in their life, but yet here we are, continuing to fight for the basic rights of women. The issue of eliminating the tampon tax is long overdue.

Please consider voting in favor of HB 2430 and help restore the dignity of women and girls across our state.

Sincerely,

E. Moana Olaso
Affiliate Director
I Support The Girls Hawaii

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 9:03:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Kunitake | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of HB2430 HD1 which promotes menstrual equity by providing an exemption from the GET, beginning October 1, 2020, for the sale of feminine hygiene products in the State. Appropriates funds to the DOE to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses.

I believe that feminine hygiene products are a necessity that all menstruating women need. The GET tax makes feminine hygiene products more expensive and therefore financially inaccessible for the poor. It is so embarrassing for girls in school and women at work who cannot afford to buy their own feminine hygiene products.

Please pass this bill to support all women and girls in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 12:54:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dylan P. Armstrong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and esteemed Members of the Finance Committee,

I write in support of HB 2430 HD1.

I am particularly proud to support the appropriation for feminine hygiene products for our secondary-school students at state Department of Education campuses. Developing adults are highly sensitive to the stigmas and prejudices which we attach to the human body. The state ought to encourage a rational understanding of human hygiene and fairly provide sanitation at our schools. This is a matter of basic decency. In so doing, the state may remove some of the shame and unnecessary fear that educational facilities engender in too many young people. 'Level the playing field' and please support HB2430 HD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Dylan P. Armstrong, individual

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 12:29:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hope McKeen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 1:29:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Press | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2430, proposed HD1.

Please provide enough funds to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses.

I moved to Hawaii in 2018 for the express reason of teaching at Ilima. I believe in the mission of my school and of my principal. We support the students that are going to be the future of our great state. They are smart and resilient in the face of sometimes overwhelming adversity. Feminine hygiene products are a need for all our students. Please vote to support your children and help to remove the period stigma.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Michael Press, Campbell Complex, Oahu

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:56:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl B. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This bill introduced to the legislature because students care. They know what it's like in schools and we should be listening to them. THIS bill is a win/win for everyone. Women for too long have had to pay for necessary items which somehow got considered a luxury? We know how that happened but it has to stop. Making sure that every person has access to menstrual necessities is common sense. Even the malls now have available in restrooms. Let's see this bill through and passed please.

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:04:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vania Reyes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Vania Reyes and I am a former Hawaii public school teacher. When you work with middle school students, you quickly realize that education and student growth goes beyond the classroom. To truly support a student and their success, you need to be mindful of their emotional and physical needs, not just academics.

Many of the students in Hawaii live at or below the poverty level. While I taught we were mindful to never require expensive school supplies for our students, because it might hinder their success in the classroom. Hawaii public school teachers will gladly give their students everything they need to achieve, from pencils to notebooks, to, yes, even feminine hygiene products. Several teachers, including myself, would keep a stash of pads and tampons available for their female students. If we were out, the students would only have 2 choices: go to the office to purchase a pad, or bleed throughout the school day.

I can only speak of my experience at my former school, but the office or health room would charge our students \$0.25 for each feminine hygiene product. While I understand their intention to offset their health room budget, if the student didn't have money that \$0.25 would become a debt against their name that would keep them from participating in extracurricular activities, school events, field trips, and even walking in commencement at the end of the year.

We do not charge public school students for bandaids, ice packs, facial tissues, hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, or toilet paper. We understand that they need these basic supplies to thrive at school and budget accordingly at state and school levels to provide for our students.

We need to give the same regard to our female students. Many of them come from low-income homes where their guardians may not be able to afford feminine hygiene products that month. Several of my students were in foster care and with all the transitions happening in their life, their menstrual health is sometimes the last thing on their mind.

We need to empower our female students and support them not just academically. By providing them with the basics in feminine hygiene we ensure more success for them in the classroom and in life.

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:35:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Siobhan Coad | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The stigma around menstruation can no longer be supported at the government level. The taxation of menstrual products as luxury items is sexist and archaic and perpetuates the disenfranchisement of females in our community. As a community we should make these products as easily ready to those who need them, regardless of financial ability. Those living in Hawaii experience one of the highest costs of living in America, and the additional financial burden of taxing these products that are a necessity can force some females to forgoe the use of them at all. Many girls report missing school because they have their period, and females facing homelessness have reported using cardboard and newspaper during their periods. This is an outrage. The provision of free menstrual products in secondary schools would support young women and foster educational success by decreasing days missed and removing just one of the many potential hurdles young women and their families face. I am fully in support of HB 2430 and think it is a great first step towards diminishing socioeconomic disparities among men and women in our community.

HB-2430-HD-1

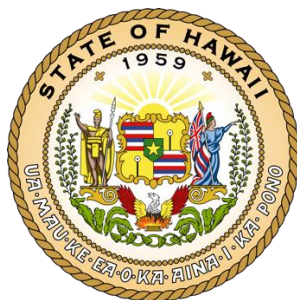
Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:57:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Olivia Hopkins | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Feminine hygiene products should not be taxed. They are costly enough without being taxed



LATE

‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Prepared for the House Committee on Finance

In Support of HB2430 HD1
February 19, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women writes in **support** of HB2430 HD1, which would exempt menstrual products from the GET. The bill also appropriates funds to DOE to make menstrual products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses.

Menstruation is a basic, involuntary bodily function yet menstrual products are not considered as a necessity and are classified by the IRS as a non-medical device. Lack of supports for menstruation are a reflection of the secondary status of women. This is not a Third World issue. Menstrual products are not fully accessible to sizeable portions of the U.S. population. No one should have to choose between food or resources to manage her period, but this is a monthly reality for the majority of low-income women in the United States.

The lack of access to feminine hygiene products reduces equal opportunity for women and girls through lost classroom time and compromised health due to infection from improvised pads and tampons.¹ To address “menstrual inequity,” New York, Illinois and California have made menstrual products freely available to 6-12 grade students in public schools. Fifteen states no longer tax menstrual products.

The lack of access is particularly degrading and dehumanizing for women in correctional facilities. Despite DPS policy that guarantees access to both tampons and pads, the Commission has received direct testimony that incarcerated women in Hawai‘i face a degrading lack of access to tampons and sufficient pads. Therefore, the Commission requests the following amendment:

¹ Weiss-Wolf, J. *The ERA Campaign and Menstrual Equity*, 43 Harbinger 168, 2019.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses and female prisoners in state correctional facilities.

Accordingly, the Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB2430 HD1.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 19, 2020**

Re: HB 2430 HD1 Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products

Good afternoon Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH supports HB 2430 HD1 Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products as this measure promotes menstrual equity by providing an exemption from the GET, beginning October 1, 2020, for the sale of feminine hygiene products in the State; appropriates funds to the DOE to make feminine hygiene products available to students for free on public secondary school campuses and takes effect on 7/1/2050.

Feminine hygiene products are part of the basic necessities for women. Exempting this tax is not a new concept. States across the nation such as California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Utah have already exempted this pink tax from essential hygiene products. Whereas states like Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon do not have any sales tax.

This measure is a positive step in the right direction to help the local people. We are constantly reminded in the media of the high cost of living in Hawaii and that many local families are moving away to other states where it is cheaper to live. Every little bit helps, and this tax exemption will help many local families.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 9:39:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ella Gines | Kalaheo High | Support | No |

Comments:

Hi, my name is Ella Gines I am a current student at Kalaheo High School, in the Windward district. I am speaking in favor of the bill HB2430. As a young woman in high school, I am unfortunately very aware of the horrors that can happen when a female does not have feminine products at school. When a female is in her menstrual cycle it makes it hard to want to go out and do things especially school. As a community we want all kids to go to school as often as possible and having these products would give girls another reason to go to school, which is the goal. Along with that feminine hygiene can come at a large cost unless bought in bulk, so girls are having to spend a lot of money on something that is a basic need. If the supplies are introduced into the school women will not need to worry about the cost and the embarrassment if something happens and only on their education. As my closing statement, I leave you with the fact that half of the population of every public school goes through this and if there is a way to help these girls for a small price I see no reason to not.

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:05:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Fletcher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB2430 Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

4:00 P.M.

Chair Luke and members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Jill Fletcher. I am a curriculum coordinator at Kapolei Middle School in the ahupua'a of Hono'uli'uli in the Campell-Kapolei District on O'ahu. I am submitting a testimony in support of HB2430 relating to menstrual hygiene products.

I am in support of this bill because I don't think it's fair for those who menstruate to have to pay a tax on products related to basic human needs. Furthermore, as a school teacher for over 10 years, I've seen cases where young people were in uncomfortable situations, some of which prevented their learning, due to not having adequate feminine hygiene products like tampons and pads.

For example, some students didn't have an adult in their household who knew to buy them these items like a single parent, grandparents, guardians, or foster parents. Other times it was because the child was too embarrassed to share this information with those they lived with and sometimes it was, unfortunately, a matter of money.

As we strive for equity in education in our public schools, let's have these basic products available free of charge so all students can learn without worry about their next "accident" in class. While it may seem like an uncomfortable topic for some to broach, women's health shouldn't be something that's ignored because it's uncomfortable to discuss.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I truly appreciate your time and thoughtfulness when considering this bill.

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:44:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan Mandado | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chairwoman Luke and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I'm the Chief Academic Officer of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School. I'm in full support of this measure.

Our female students should come to school with the appropriate supplies to take care of their physiological needs. It is time we commit to ensuring a safe environment for female students.

Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:10:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daphne Okunaga | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a teacher I was vulnerable students struggle with adolescence on a daily basis. Students feeling comfortable and confident greatly impacts their academic ability! So if a student doesn't have easy access to feminine hygiene products during school, it impacts their academic learning and often socially and emotionally hurts them. I've seen girls go home crying because they are embarrassed and girls who timidly ask teachers for pads because they don't want go ask their dad or older brothers to buy them. I long ago stopped wondering why my students dont have all their supplies for schoolwork or how come no one fed them breakfast and just buy extra supplies and food for my classroom. So I ask, how is feminine products different? It's NOT! I believe in providing ALL supplies that students need to be their best for learning!!

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:18:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caterine Picardo Diaz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I strongly support this bill and its intent to reduce menstrual shame and menstrual poverty. Menstruation is a normal bodily process that happens to majority of women and non-binary people with wombs every month. Menstrual products should not be taxed, they are essential items.

Mahalo,

Cate

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:42:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jamie Lemon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

February 19, 2020

To: Sylvia Luke, Chair

Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair

Members of the Finance Committee

From: Jamie Lemon

Subject: Support of House Bill 2430, Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products

Hello, my name is Jamie Lemon and I am currently a Junior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support HB 2430. This bill would exempt feminine hygiene products from the general tax and provide the DOE with money to supply students with menstrual products for free on secondary campuses. This is much needed as many women can not not afford to purchase these essential products. In addition, passing this bill would further women's equality.

According to a study conducted by Harris Insights and Analytics on 1,000 girls aged 13 to 19, one in five of the girls stated that they can't afford to purchase menstrual hygiene products. In addition, 25% of them have missed class because they didn't have access to tampons or pads. When women can't afford to buy menstrual products, they have to resort to unsanitary things such as rags, toilet paper, and even napkins which can lead to infection. No woman should have to

risk illness or miss out on education simply because they can't afford something that is essential to them. By getting rid of the "tampon tax", feminine products would become much more affordable to women and lower the thousands of dollars women spend on them in their lifetime. Supplying schools with pads and tampons to hand out to students for free would also mean that no student would ever have to miss school because they don't have access to the products.

Another benefit of passing this bill is that it helps promote menstrual equality which in turn, promotes women's equality. According to Time Magazine, the United Nations has declared menstrual hygiene a public-health, gender-equality and human rights issue. By taxing menstrual products, it's ignoring the fact that they are essential products that are necessary for women. It's not fair to tax something that people can't live without. Getting rid of this tax would acknowledge that they are necessary and would help us become closer to equality.

Thank you and I truly hope you support this bill.

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:58:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kendall Larson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

February 19, 2020

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice-Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, Members of the finance committee

From: Kendall Larson

Subject: Support of House Bill 2430, Relating to Feminine Hygiene Products

Hello, my name is Kendall Larson, and I am currently a Junior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support HB 2430. This bill provides free, quality menstrual products to public school students and ends the "pink tax." Basic health care for our students is of extreme importance because not every student has easy access to menstrual products. By providing schools with free menstrual products, students can receive necessary quality resources that are just as important as bandaids and ice packs.

Lack of access to menstrual products can cause physical infection and disease and can lead to cervical cancer. We need to recognize these medical concerns because our student health should always remain as the utmost of importance. Furthermore, students who lack access to menstrual products are more likely to skip school. The embarrassment of menstrual accidents frightens students to the point that they would rather skip school than risk such accidents. Ending the "pink tax" and providing students with free menstrual products will help women in Hawaii maintain personal hygiene.

Thank you, and I genuinely hope you support this bill.

Sincerely,

Kendall Larson

LATE

HB-2430-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 3:00:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ariel J Mittag-Degala | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I believe feminine hygiene products should not be taxed. I support this bill.