



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

Date: 03/18/2021
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 & 430 Via
Videoconference
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: HCR 0178 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HCR 178.

This Resolution describes three distinct activities: To provide free menstrual products to students on all public school campuses, include criteria in the evaluation tool of the Superintendent based on minimizing factors of achieving true gender equity, and add three new items to the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior survey (YRBS) for high school and middle school students.

Passage of this Resolution would have a financial impact on the Department and may adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE)-approved budget. To provide menstrual products to students would require initial and long-term costs for dispensers to be installed, repaired, and generally maintained; receptacles to encourage proper disposal of menstrual products; and on-going supplies. Equipment and supplies would be necessary for multiple female and gender neutral restrooms across all 294 school campuses to facilitate access to all students during the school day. Providing supplies for free (instead of for a nominal fee) may have the unintended negative consequence of clogged drains and associated plumbing costs. In consideration of new duties for Department employees, union consultation may be necessary.

Hawaii has administered the YRBS in odd-numbered years from 1991 to 2019 and has tracked health trends over the course of 28 years. The YRBS is the only survey implemented in the Department that reports on teen health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among youth and young adults, including unintentional injuries and

violence, mental health and suicide, tobacco and electronic smoking device use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, weight and nutrition, physical activity, and protective factors.

The YRBS is administered through a partnership between the Department, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), and the University of Hawaii's Curriculum Research & Development Group. The Department and DOH co-facilitate the Hawaii School Health Survey Committee, which contributes to the YRBS questionnaire development. The majority of the YRBS questionnaire items are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Hawaii School Health Survey Committee helps to ensure that additional items on the survey, such as those proposed relating to "period products," reflect the priorities of diverse stakeholders while maintaining the validity and reliability of the survey data and the ability to track health trends. Any Hawaii-specific survey items must be reviewed and approved by the CDC prior to the finalization of the questionnaires.

The Hawaii School Health Survey Committee is an advisory committee that includes representatives from the following Offices and organizations:

- Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design;
- Office of Student Support Services;
- DOH Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division;
- DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, DOH Family Health Services Division;
- DOH Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division;
- University of Hawaii's Curriculum Research & Development Group;
- University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing Hawaii Keiki Program;
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; and
- Hui for Excellence in Education.

The Department respectfully defers to the BOE on the process and instrument used annually to evaluate the Superintendent.

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

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.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:59:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HCR 178. Thank you!



'Ilima Intermediate Students Testifying for Period Equity in Public Schools
(House Finance Committee, Feb 2020)

March 18, 2021

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

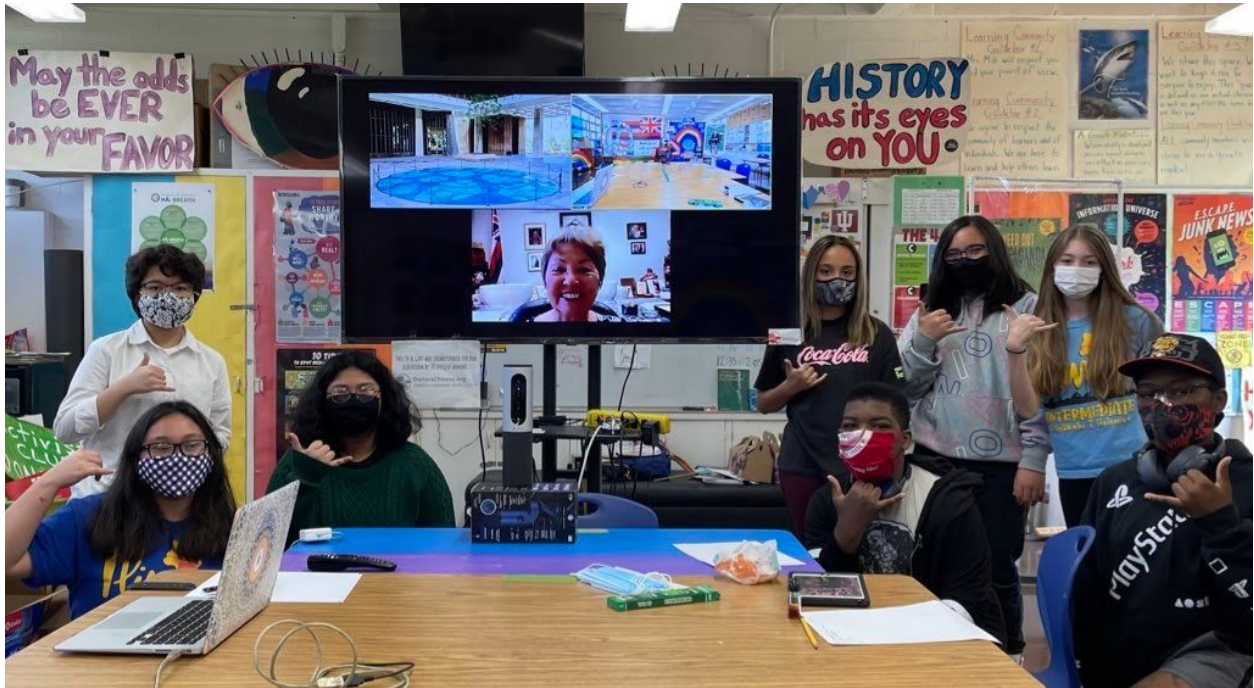
My name is Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin and I teach at 'Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach. I'm the faculty sponsor the campus GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance), a club for students who identify as LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, etc) or as allies of these students, and the Ilima Activist Club for students who are working for change in our community. Both groups of students have been on a 2 year quest for menstrual equity in our public schools. **Myself, and my students are writing to you today in strong support of HCR178 and HR147 which encourages the Hawaii Department of Education to provide free menstrual products in all public schools to all students who need them.**

My students worked with Representative Amy Perruso's office to give ideas for the creation of HB 2430 for free menstrual products in public schools last session, but that bill died when the pandemic closed the legislature.



(Rep. Perusso's Office, after testifying on HB 2430 in Feb. 2020)

This legislative session we worked with Senator Acasio to revive the bill, but SB 966 died in committee this session. We met with Senator Kidani virtually on March 5 to talk to her about this issue and she explained that a resolution would put us in a good position to help raise awareness on menstrual equity next session.



(Ilima Students meeting virtually with Senator Kidani to discuss menstrual equity on March 5, 2021.)

We were thrilled to see this resolution being offered, and rise in support of it today. Here's our story:

In Sept 2019, after a student had an embarrassing incident bleeding through their clothes during the school day and being bullied for it, my students began discussions about menstrual equity on campus. We began running a service learning project collecting pads and tampons and making a "Menstruation Station" where students can pick up items as they need them.

We went through 300 kits in 3 months.

I wrote a grant through DonorsChoose for \$350 to stock the first set, but that level of financing on campus is not sustainable for a single teacher, and proves that this needs to be an item provided on campus.



(Students creating "menstruation station care packs" with tampons, pads, and wipes. Fall 2019)



(Students creating “menstruation station care packs” with tampons, pads, and wipes. We crowd funded the supplies through DonorsChoose.org (like “Go Fund Me” for teachers, Fall 2019)

It was revealed that it's common practice for school nurses to charge students money to get a pad. 'Ilima is a Title 1 campus where over 50% of students get free lunch; these aren't students who have money on hand. And even if they would HAVE money, *I would never ask a student who didn't have a pencil to BUY a pencil from me; I just give them a pencil because it's a school supply. Menstrual supplies are school supplies when you're a student and should be also freely given if we're committed to equity.* New ACLU research indicated that Title 1 students can miss 3-5 days per year if they don't have hygiene supplies. 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 lack of menstrual supplies is a huge issue. On an average day, I give out 3-5 kits. We have students in foster care who don't want to "bother" their foster parents by asking for menstrual supplies. We have students with moms deployed who don't know how to talk to dad about getting pads. We have the EA's (teacher's aids) from the FSC (life skills) classes coming to get supplies for special needs students. We have trans students who come and borrow my staff bathroom key to use the pads. Girls 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. And we have general middle schoolers with unpredictable cycles who often are 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 this resolution urging HIDOE to make this a priority issue. By providing these items we are showing the same commitment to equity that the nations of Scotland and New Zealand now show their populations by providing these items. Plus, we fight the stigma by talking openly about menstruation, building safer and healthier communities for all. I urge your committee to please do the same.

Mahalo,
Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin
STEM Lab Teacher, Ilima Intermediate School

PS: To see our work, check us out on social media: (Twitter/IG @MiliLaff & Class Page @STEMwithMili)

Statements in Support 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."

“As a person who experiences periods, I believe that we should be provided free period 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. Oftentimes, 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.



Mahalo for Reading, D Prymer (JCHS 9th 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 the resolutions.”



Gabe Tucci-Rugg
Ilima Intermediate 8th 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 the resolutions please.”



Jaimes T. Steele
JCHS 9th 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 they do not have pads. The city decided to buy them for the schools. Our state should do the same. Please support the resolution.



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.

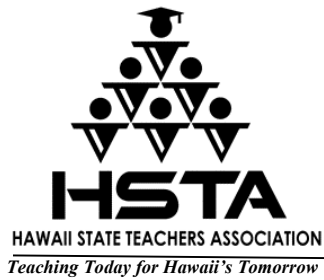
The nurse gives each teacher a small bag with bandaids. If the government bought pads and gave them to the nurse, she could give them to the teachers to have extra if anyone needs them. And if it’s a money thing, if you pass HB 2430 it fixes the issue.”



Ashanti Riparip
Ilima Intermediate 8th Grader

TO-DO LIST FOR SHEDDING MENSTRUAL STIGMA:

- Advocate for menstrual equity**
- Show compassion**
- Talk openly about periods**
- Educate yourself and others**
- Read people's stories**
- Be conscious of language**
- Keep up with the movement**
- Post period-positive GIFs**
- Follow @freethetampons**



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION and THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

RE: HCR 178 / HR 147 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII
PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HCR 178/
HR 147, requesting the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products
to students on all Hawaii Campuses.

In 2019 New Hampshire's legislature passed legislation, that Governor Chris Sununu
signed into law, to provide feminine hygiene products in their secondary public school
bathrooms. **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.

**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 resolution.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:25:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimi Palacio	Going Home Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because we believe that all girls and women should have free access to basic needs, which includes feminine hygiene products, which unfortunately is often an overlooked necessity.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers. We support this resolution because it not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need, when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity - which we fully support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill.



The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education (EDN)
Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2:00 pm

RE: Support for HCR 178 - Requesting the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports HCR 178** requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products to students free on all Hawaii public school campuses. Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a locally grown organization committed to ending period poverty, or the inability to buy and access menstrual products, through service, advocacy and education.

As Native Hawaiian women born and raised in Waimānalo, O'ahu, my sisters and I started the nonprofit to ensure that individuals of menstruation age have the right to access sanitary products, safe and hygienic places to use them, and the right to manage their bodies without shame or stigma.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health, education, gender equality and basic equity crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers.

The cost of menstrual products is not the only barrier or problematic issue many individuals who menstruate face every month. A variety of factors contributes to the pain, unnecessary shame, and difficult experiences many are forced to confront when their period arrives. Some individuals who struggle during their period deal with the reality of limited resources, no home, and abusive relationships. Our transgender community also experiences trouble, painful shame, and multiple barriers when accessing menstrual products. This is unacceptable and we should not tolerate these conditions and environments that could be easily changed.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals requiring low investment:

- **Public Health:** Our children are using menstrual products beyond the recommended safe period of time which is between 4-8 hours, and sometimes for days, because they are unable to access menstrual products. They face potential medical issues including *preventable* infections that make them susceptible to cervical cancer, infertility and toxic shock syndrome, which are serious and can result in death.
- **Basic Equity:** We seek basic equity for our children. Just as we regulate and ensure toilet paper and paper towels in school restrooms, so too should we do the same for menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence, and should not be treated differently from any other basic bodily function.
- **Education Equity:** Lack of menstrual products has resulted in menstruators missing class or school altogether. They can be penalized for failing to pay for pads resulting in restricted participation in school activities. Since menstruation is not an illness, students are not allowed to leave school and will bleed on themselves causing irreparable psychological trauma.
- **Gender Equality:** The lack of access to menstrual products is a clear form of gender-based exclusion and oppression. Menstrual products are vital for the physical and mental health, well-being and full participation of menstruators, including but not limited to girls, women, transgender and nonbinary individuals.

HCR178 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health, mental well-being and academics. Our local data and national statistics prove how critical it is and have been included in the resolution itself.

We urge you to support **HCR178** to help improve the lives of public school students in Hawai'i. We welcome you to contact us with any additional questions you may have.

Mahalo for your leadership and service to Hawai'i during these challenging times.

Aloha,
Nikki-Ann Yee
Co-Founder & President
Ma'i Movement Hawai'i

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Parents And Children Together	Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Community Alliance on Prisons	Ke Ola Mamo
AF3IRM Hawai'i	The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together
Breastfeeding Hawaii	Bay Clinic, Inc.
Going Home Hawaii	Trans Hawai'i Project
Trillium Birthing Services	Central Middle School
Hoola Lahui Hawaii	Nest for Families
Kevin Moran Coaching	Malama I Ke Ola Health Center
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	UHM Women's Center
Hale Kipa	Maui AIDS Foundation
Hawai'i Arts Alliance	HHSC Kauai Region
Women Helping Women	Lanai Community Health Center

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT

As of this submission, we had 200+ individuals sign our petition from all Senate Districts and 45 House Districts. Every single person left their own personal testimony, but it was too many to include here. If you would like to read them and hear what your constituents have to say, please head to maimovement.org/talk-story.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:35:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Hamid	AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

AF3IRM Hawai'i testifies in strong support of HCR 178 and an end to all period poverty and reproductive injustice.

March 17, 2021

Committee on Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Moana Olaso, Affiliate Director for I support The Girls Hawaii, supporting the House Concurrent Resolution 178.

Many donors, volunteers, and recipients urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help encourage the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. We all care about provisions like basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products, and with your support, you show that you care about our keiki and their future.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 encourages the Hawai'i Department of Education to promote common goals:

- **Gender Equality:** Lack of access to menstrual products is a form of gender-based oppression. Menstrual products are essential to reproductive health and should be deemed as such. Menstruators should have the opportunity to maintain their dignity when in school.
- **Public Health:** The medical issues facing individuals without access to menstrual products, including preventable infections that can cause susceptibility to cervical cancer and infertility, are life-threatening.
- **Basic Hygiene:** Just as we all expect toilet paper and paper towels to be readily available in public restrooms, we can and should expect the same of menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural occurrence, experienced by over half the population throughout their lives, and should not be treated any differently.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health and safety. For your reference, here are some of the challenges people who cannot access menstrual products face:

- **Medical Consequences:** Lack of access to menstrual products can cause physical infection and disease and can lead to cervical cancer.
- **Civic Consequences:** Students who lack access to menstrual products may choose not to attend school in order to avoid having to use products incorrectly or wear stained articles of

clothing in public. People who menstruate deserve to participate fully in public life, and therefore they deserve access to menstrual products.

We care about access to menstrual products because over the last 2 years, tens of thousands of products were selflessly donated to our organization so that students were able to stay in school. Many times, students feel that they have no choice but to leave school or not to attend, due to the lack of availability of free menstrual products in school. Should we not be able to give these products freely if we currently don't ask for kids to pay for toilet paper when needed?

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help improve the lives of public school students in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

E. Moana Olaso
Affiliate Director
I Support The Girls Hawaii



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 18, 2021

Committee on Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **supports HCR178**, which requests the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

We should have a bare minimum expectation that our schools provide all students a safe and healthy learning environment, which is fundamental to setting our students up for success. Unfortunately, such a minimal expectation is not currently afforded to students who menstruate, putting them at a significant disadvantage if their families are unable to afford basic menstrual products. This lost learning time and student engagement is very likely to result in long-term damage to students' post-secondary education and career opportunities.

As more students begin to return to campuses with the decline of COVID-19 cases, this is an opportunity to ensure they are returning to environments that meet their health needs. The investment the state would make to provide these basic menstrual products would be paid back through less need for expensive remedial services to make up for lost time at school. Furthermore, this investment would also support many Hawaii families who have been hit hard financially by the pandemic, as evidenced by the number of families receiving food assistance from schools and local organizations.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro

Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 178

TO: Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, & House Education Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 18, 2021 (2:00 PM)

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** HCR 178, which requests that the Hawaii State Department of Education provide menstrual products to students upon request.

As the resolution notes, menstrual hygiene is a public health, gender equality, and human rights issue that was formally recognized by the United Nations in 2014. California, New York, and Virginia currently make menstrual products available to public school students without charge. Last year [Scotland made menstrual products available to all women requesting them without charge](#).

Hawaii's working families have been hit especially hard during the protracted economic downturn precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing levels of housing instability and food insecurity have accompanied job losses and reductions in working hours. Prior to the pandemic DOE determined that almost half of its students were economically disadvantaged.

Young women in need should not have to bear the deep shame and humiliation of not having access to menstrual products that can be readily provided by designated school personnel. To the extent that a lack of access to menstrual products may cause young women to miss school for days or even weeks, it frustrates their ability to participate fully in their educational opportunities, including co-curricular activities. Prolonged use of menstrual products is injurious to health and well-being.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions. Many of our clients and participants have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 17, 2021

To: House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

I am testifying in support of this resolution as I have witnessed the utter tragedy and shame that many of our homeless and low-income female students and families experience by having to go without feminine hygiene pads as for the families I work with, these items are considered “luxury” items. Some students have even been “scolded” for using the restroom during work/class time to make home-made pads out of wadded toilet paper. Some students have also missed school due to having periods and are embarrassed to go to school due to having no access to pads.

Schools do what they can, but the majority do not have enough. I am grateful for organizations such as the Salvation Army and the local Hilo High and Waiakea High Key Club for stepping up and donating feminine pads for our many needy young female youth/teens in homeless and economically distressed living situations. Most recently, the Mai Project has donated, but there still are not enough pads to meet the needs of all our needy female youth/teens.

We recently passed out over 200 pads to Kau High and Pahala Elementary which has over 165 homeless youth of which over half are young female teens. Families are extremely grateful and they expressed to me and school staff that the pads are a greater necessity than even hand sanitizers and PPE. Even prior to the pandemic, nearly all schools requested hygiene pads as a higher priority than even school supplies as this is something under the radar for most organizations that donate to schools.

Please help solve this problem for our most vulnerable and needy youth as these items are needed, but our kids will not come up to ask for these. Help save the dignity, self-esteem and confidence of our young female/teens in Hawaii so they can better learn and thrive in our community.

Respectfully,

Courtney Hamakawa
DOE- East Hawaii Community Homeless Concerns Liaison

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:38:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

BREASTFEEDING HAWAII

P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe Hawaii 96744

www.breastfeedinghawaii.org

TO: Rep. Woodson, Chair and Members of the House Education Committee

Rep. Lowen, Chair and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

RE: HCR178/HR 147 Requesting the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to Students on All Hawaii Public School Campuses

Date: March 18, 2021 2pm

I am Patricia Bilyk, an APRN and Board Member from Breastfeeding Hawaii. I am representing Breastfeeding Hawaii today.

Breastfeeding Hawaii strongly supports HCR 178/HR 147. We also support and concur with the testimony provided by the Ma'i Movement Hawaii Team.

Thank you for hearing this Resolution. We sincerely hope you will help these young, poor girls in our school system to have what they need each month by passing it out of your Committees.

Patricia L. Bilyk APRN, MPH, MSN

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:00:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
histudentcareresources	HI Student Care Resources	Support	No

Comments:

As a youth run organization, it is very important to us that all students feel comfortable in our schools and have the right feminine products available for them.



*American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Hawai'i, Guam & American Samoa Section*

TO: House Committee on Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
House committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair

Re: HCR 178
Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports HCR 178 which requests that the Department of Education provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses.

Menstruation is a natural body function that affects half of our population. This is a matter of equity. Just as schools provide toilet paper and towels for students to maintain hygiene, schools should have menstrual products. As gynecologists, we have all taken care of adolescents who miss school for a few days every month because of issues around menstruation. We should be doing all we can to keep students in school.

We urge you to support HCR 176.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:29:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Algire	Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!	Support	No

Comments:

We support the resolution and the following ways it improves:

- **Public Health:** Our children are using menstrual products beyond the recommended safe period of time which is between 4-8 hours, and sometimes for days, because they are unable to access menstrual products. They face potential medical issues including preventable infections that make them susceptible to cervical cancer, infertility and toxic shock syndrome, which are serious and can result in death.
- **Basic Equity:** We seek basic equity for our children. Just as we regulate and ensure toilet paper and paper towels in school restrooms, so too should we do the same for menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence, and should not be treated differently from any other basic bodily function.
- **Education Equity:** Lack of menstrual products has resulted in menstruators missing class or school altogether. They can be penalized for failing to pay for pads resulting in restricted participation in school activities. Since menstruation is not an illness, students are not allowed to leave school and will bleed on themselves causing irreparable psychological trauma.
- **Gender Equality:** The lack of access to menstrual products is a clear form of gender-based exclusion and oppression. Menstrual products are vital for the physical and mental health, well-being and full participation of menstruators, including but not limited to girls, women, transgender and nonbinary individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support!

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:53:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khara Jabola-Carolus	Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

Comments:

Chair and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HCR178. The State should make every effort to address period poverty as a requisite for women's equality.

Accordingly, the Commissions asks the Committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:30:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

It is exciting to see this resolution here. Saddened that the senate did not hear the bill.. but this is a start. This request came from students. It is important to honor them by passing this resolution and next session passing a bill with funding. Hawai`i is a leader in so many ways. We should be stepping out like New Zealand in the lead on this issue. As a long time elementary educator, I can attest to lost days and time as well as some embarrassing moments for students due to lack of menstrual products. This is a win/win. Pass this resolution and prepare to write the bill.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:11:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luanna Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am requesting that the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to students on All Hawaii Public School Campuses. This resolution is important because it comes from the work of student organizers that identified the issue of menstrual inequity in their middle school. Here are a few posing with “Paddy the Pad.”

Department of Education maintains a healthy school environment by providing free products to students such as toilet paper and hand soap in restrooms, yet the Department of Education does not provide students with free menstrual products. On top of that, the DOE’s extracurricular funding disproportionately benefits students who do not menstruate.

This is a serious barrier to learning, as a 2019 nationwide study conducted by the University of Richmond found that students who were unable to afford menstrual products were 5.89 times more likely to miss school, 5.82 times more likely to be late to school, and 4.14 times more likely to leave school early compared to those who could afford menstrual products. At a time when almost 60% of Hawai’i households are struggling to make ends meet, we need to ensure that all students who menstruate have access to these products.

Let’s show our young people that we hear and respect their voices by passing this resolution!

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:11:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important resolution.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:18:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Children need to not experience barriers to education because they have a period! It's sexist and perpetuates sexism

As a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, I wholeheartedly support Representative Amy Perusso's HCR 178.

According to the American Medical Women's Association, period poverty refers to the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and educations, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management. Providing free menstrual products in our secondary schools is one step in ending this unnecessary literal embarrassment. In February 2020, the Wall Street Journal reported that "More than a dozen state legislatures have recently introduced bills that would require public schools to supply free tampons and other menstrual products in their bathrooms. California, Illinois, New Hampshire and New York have already enacted similar legislation, and a number of school boards and universities have started providing the products for free.

Proponents and activists liken tampons and pads to toilet paper and soap—essential hygiene products already supplied by public schools. They argue making these products free in bathrooms would reduce absences caused by students' menstrual cycles and destigmatize the historically taboo topic in high-school hallways."

Representative Perusso's HCR 178 identifies how period poverty uniquely affects our island population and includes the valuable assessment regarding menstrual equity and access to menstrual products in our schools. I might add, as a matter of equity, the fact that condoms are available, without cost, to public high school males. Seen in this light, it also appears to be a TITLE IX issue.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:39:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen & Rep. Justin H. Woodson,

Please consider my testimony:

Tearing down statues – it’s finally come to Hawaii.

Proposed as a House resolution, and strongly backed by HSTA, (by the way, doesn’t HSTA have better things to do? Also, shouldn’t they poll the teachers of McKinley High since they solely exist to represent them?) HR148 recommends changing the name of McKinley High School back to its 19th century name, Honolulu High and to remove the statue of former President William McKinley. This is because of his role in the annexation of Hawaii.

We strongly oppose this action for the following reasons:

1. There’s no common standard being applied. Do we cancel everyone who was directly involved in the annexation? What about statehood? How closely involved did they have to be involved? Can only people of European heritage be cancelled? What if a person of color committed a heinous crime? How bad does the crime have to be? Killing someone? What about the missionaries who supported annexation? We’re looking at you, Punahou. Also, who’s standard of morality are we using? Judeo-Christian? Postmodern? With no commonly-accepted standard, this never ends.
2. History should never be erased. We don’t have to accept something as our heritage, or even morally right, to acknowledge it as our history. Rigorous debate with open minds and free speech is the way

forward. What message do we send our young people that ugly and even morally derelict parts of history must be erased, white-washed? How will they learn? It's a dangerous precedent at a philosophical and practical level. Whether or not the children of Hawaii benefitted from becoming American citizens is ripe for wonderful and rigorous debate. Let's have it.

3. The name McKinley does represent the former president. But to its vibrant community, it also means so much more. It represents the shared experiences of thousands of alumni and students. It represents the stories of people who arrived in Hawaii and lived remarkable lives of service and accomplishment. These are stories of great triumph, and dare I say, stories of the American dream. To them, the word "McKinley" inspires pride in tradition. Not only will their name and letterhead be changed. So will their alma mater songs, traditions and so much more.

Debate will continue to rage in this country about the nature of our founding, our leaders and the very soul of our place. Debate will continue to rage about the proper way to rectify wrongs of the past, especially to the Hawaiian people. But the solution is not less debate and erasing the past. Cooler heads should prevail. Raising young people to be people of courage and critical-thinking does not mean protecting them from things that may offend them.

This action would send the wrong message to young people, McKinley's esteemed alumni and the entire state.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:11:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ethan Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is something all schools should be providing for our students

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:39:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jingwoan Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am an elementary school teacher with a strong interest in equity in education. I support this effort to remove shame or stigma around menstruation, and to lighten the financial load of paying for menstrual products for families already struggling with the pandemic. Many young people around the country are now asking for this, like the Hawai'i public schools students and teachers who have been working persistently on this for the past two years. Like toilet paper and soap, menstrual products are essential, and the need for these should not take away from a child's learning time. Let's do what we can to promote equity around this very tangible issue. Thank you for your consideration.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:43:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HCR178. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:48:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha 'oe,

I am writing in support of this Resolution as a 7th-grade girl who was terrified of going to school with my period in case I leaked. I was always so ashamed of my period while I was in school. I was always over-prepared with extra clothes and pads because there was never a time a leak didn't occur. At the time, I had no idea my period was extra heavy. I thought it was normal. I was going to write a long letter, but I figured keep it short and keep it real. Young women need to have access to these products for free as it is a basic need. Please support this Resolution.

Na'u nÅ•

Hope Pualani McKeen

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:01:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou, I appreciate this bill very much. I believe we should provide free menstrual products for young women in public high schools. Mahalo for your time on this important matter.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:02:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kecia McDonald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 16, 2021

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kecia McDonald and I'm testifying today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 178.

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help encourage the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. By supporting this resolution, you show that you care about providing basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 encourages the Hawai'i Department of Education to promote common goals:

- Gender Equality: Lack of access to menstrual products is a form of gender-based oppression.

Menstrual products are essential to reproductive health and should be deemed as such.

- Public Health: The medical issues facing individuals without access to menstrual products,

including preventable infections that can cause susceptibility to cervical cancer and infertility,

are life-threatening.

- Basic Hygiene: Just as we all expect toilet paper and paper towels to be readily available in

public restrooms, we can and should expect the same of menstrual products. Menstruation is a

natural occurrence, experienced by over half the population throughout their lives, and should

not be treated differently.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health and safety. For your reference, here are some of the challenges people who cannot access menstrual products face:

- Medical Consequences: Lack of access to menstrual products can cause physical infection

and disease and can lead to cervical cancer.

- Civic Consequences: Students who lack access to menstrual products may choose not to attend school in order to avoid having to use products incorrectly or wear stained articles of clothing in public. People who menstruate deserve to participate fully in public life, and therefore they deserve access to menstrual products.

I care about access to menstrual products because I am a mother and certified K-12 Health Teacher and this issue affects or will affect half of our students during their time with the DOE. I worked at an intermediate school where we had to set up an elaborate system of teachers who would keep and replenish, at their own expense, menstrual products. If a student happened to not be in or near one of these period-friendly classrooms at her time of need it took away from instructional time to go in search of a source to supply what was needed. This then caused disruption to another classroom of students so that the teacher could pause and distribute the products. Or the student would be embarrassed to cause attention to the situation and would hide out in the bathroom until the next passing period. The logistics of creating an "underground railroad" so to speak of pads and tampons is disruptive and distracts from the essence of schooling. Introducing period products as a regular school supply would normalize their use and create a straightforward system of distribution that would reduce the impact of lost class time and emotional stress that currently falls on our female students.

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help improve the lives of public school students in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Kecia McDonald

West Hawai'i Complex Area Resource Teacher

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:05:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Prymer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Angela and I am a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. I am testifying in support of this resolution because I *believe our students deserve free menstrual products in school. There are so many who miss school due to not having these supplies handy. These supplies are just as important as pencils and computers.* I support our kids and I support this bill. Mahalo for all of your hard work and service to Hawai'i.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:06:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HCR178 as our young women need that extra help. It's such an awkward enough time as it is growing up and having to deal with so many other issues in school. I can remember when growing up that I wasn't very close to my mom so I didn't even know what periods were and had to learn the hard way in school thinking I was dying but thankfully my friend had an extra feminine pad to save the day! I remember feeling so embarrassed and if she didn't have any I don't know what I would have done besides sit and cry and try to hide in the bathroom all day. So yes, we must be the voices for these young women. Please support HCR178. Mahalo

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:23:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
takiguchi@gmail.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Michelle and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in support of this resolution because I believe all period having people should have access to free menstrual products in school. Depending on financial ability or shame, some period having people don't have access to menstruated products. Like toilet paper or paper towels, menstrual products should be free in school bathrooms. Mahalo for all of your hard work and service to Hawai'i.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:46:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HCR179. The current and former students of McKinley High School should make the decision and not the legislature or the Board of Education or the Superintendent. President Washington and President Jefferson had black slaves as servants. Is Congress proposing to change the name of our nation's capitol from Washington D.C. to some other preferable name or remove the Jefferson Memorial museum?

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:12:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Cha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 18, 2021

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandon Cha and I'm testifying today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 178.

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help encourage the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. By supporting this resolution, you show that you care about providing basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 encourages the Hawai'i Department of Education to promote common goals:

- Gender Equality: Lack of access to menstrual products is a form of gender-based oppression.**

Menstrual products are essential to reproductive health and should be deemed as such.

- **Public Health:** The medical issues facing individuals without access to menstrual products,

including preventable infections that can cause susceptibility to cervical cancer and infertility, are life-threatening.

- **Basic Hygiene:** Just as we all expect toilet paper and paper towels to be readily available in public restrooms, we can and should expect the same of menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural occurrence, experienced by over half the population throughout their lives, and should not be treated differently.

House Concurrent Resolution 178 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health and safety. For your reference, here are some of the challenges people who cannot access menstrual products face:

- **Medical Consequences:** Lack of access to menstrual products can cause physical infection and disease and can lead to cervical cancer.

- **Civic Consequences:** Students who lack access to menstrual products may choose not to attend school in order to avoid having to use products incorrectly or wear stained articles of clothing in public. People who menstruate deserve to participate fully in public life, and therefore they deserve access to menstrual products.

I am a high school teacher, and while I am a male and have never had to deal with relying on feminine hygiene products in my life, I can only imagine the struggle and stress it creates for my students who do need it who come from difficult a socioeconomic background. I do not want my students to have to stay at home and miss out on education for lack of access to basic necessities! We don't mandate that our students bring food or water to school in order to succeed, we shouldn't do this for feminine hygiene products either!

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help improve the lives of public school students in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Brandon Cha

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:26:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that young women should have access to menstrual products free of charge in public schools (age appropriate); the socio-economically disadvantaged are hit the hardest with this reality, leaving them susceptible to bullying and body-shaming. When this bill is passed, female students will be able to focus on furthering their education in a positive environment, leading to a greater Lahui!

Mahalo,

Jason Medina

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:26:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of `Alewa Heights and am in strong support of HCR178. When I worked as a program manager of a homeless shelter, one of our regular expenses was for period products. As we are all too aware, some families are struggling and are simply unable to afford these products. No student should feel shame or be bullied because of their ma`i. Instead, they should be able to live in dignity when they are in school.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:43:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Kunimitsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am Jodi Kunimitsu, a math teacher at Maui High School. I write in strong support of HCR178, requesting the DOE to provide free period products to our students. Period products are important supplies for students to have in order to be successful at school. When students do not have access to these supplies, they are forced to either stay at home, find a way to hide the fact that they are bleeding through their clothes, and/or be embarrassed from actually leaking somewhere. None of these options are acceptable and all can be avoided if students had access to free period products on campus. Furthermore, this is an equity issue, because only those who are biologically female have periods. They are the only students that are at risk of missing school due to having a period. If you think that students having access to period products is a personal responsibility, please think about the cost of period products and the fact that many of our students are on free and reduced lunch programs. Should they be disadvantaged further due to a bodily function they have no control over? Would you charge students for toilet paper? Why are they being charged for period products? I strongly urge you to pass HCR178. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Jodi Kunimitsu

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:05:36 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee, I strongly support this resolution because access and availability to menstrual products for students is difficult. There are many barriers that prevent students from gaining what they need during their time of need. I think it also goes a little further in taking a step towards normalizing these conversations amongst this younger generation along with removing stigma and shame from an entirely natural process. Thank you.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:59:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been teaching high school and middle school for 8 years, both at Waianae High School on Oahu and now at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School on Kauai. At the start of each year (when students are in person) I make the announcement that anyone with a period can ALWAYS feel free to come ask me for period products. The kids laugh or squirm in their seats, but I let them know that it's a part of life for half of us and nobody should be ashamed to ask for supplies if they need them. I then bring my own personal supply of pads, tampons, and pantyliners to school and always make sure to keep it fully stocked so that students don't need to walk all the way across campus to the health room losing 10+ minutes of class time for what should be a much shorter bathroom break. Many students utilize my personal supply of products, and they appreciate that I allow them to choose the option that works best for them. I also have traveled with school groups at both schools and I have been the only chaperone to speak up reminding the organizing (non-menstruating) teachers to add "menstrual products" to the packing list. I then bring my own supply on the trip and still end up giving much of it to students in need.

Students who don't have period products miss out on class instruction. I've had students confess to me that they have "gone home sick" because they leaked and didn't have extra supplies on hand. Some of these students may not be able to afford enough supplies, and others may just be adolescents with changing bodies who are not used to menstruating and lack the confidence to ask for help. When I was attending Kaiser High School 15 years ago, I myself left school early a few times because I was still learning about how my body worked and was not prepared with enough supplies to get through the day. I'm not sure if Kaiser would have been able to provide me with anything to use in an emergency. The school never shared that kind of information with us, and as a 14 year old, I was mortified to ask. This is something that schools can change easily by providing menstrual products in every bathroom, or by giving a supply to each teacher. I have a first aid kit with band aids, alcohol wipes, gloves, and gauze in my classroom that the school provides to me in case of an emergency. Nobody questions that all classes should have a first aid kit, yet if a 12 year old gets her period for the first time in my classroom, the DOE has provided me with nothing to give her. That seems completely outrageous to me.

Students and families should not have to worry about how to afford menstrual products. Students should not be using handfuls toilet paper or paper towels at school to make it

to their last class. Students should not have to leave school early or stay home altogether because they are afraid of running out of supplies and having nowhere to get extras. Students should KNOW what is available to them and where to go if they do have a need for supplies at school. Half of our students should not be punished for having different needs because of their biology. Menstrual products should be provided at schools for all students who menstruate. Schools should share these products by providing a supply to each teacher or keeping bathrooms stocked, and then by making it clear to students each year where the supplies are available. I support HCR 178 and hope that we can show some love to our students who menstruate by providing them with a basic need in the same way that we supply toilet paper, soap, and band aids.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:52:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tami Whitney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because period products should not be a luxury.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational, and accessibility barriers. Support of the resolution not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality, and education equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:00:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Argueta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Argueta and I'm testifying today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 178. I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 178 to help encourage the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. By supporting this resolution, you show that you care about providing basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products.

As a 5th grade educator in House District 5, I am urging you to consider the message this would send in regards to gender equality, public health, basic hygiene, medical and civic consequences. Providing our female students with these basic necessities is instrumental in developing a more equitable, just society.

I care about access to menstrual products because our students shouldn't have to worry about getting their basic hygiene needs met. While at school, students should be taken care of in every aspect and having menstrual products plays a key role to fulfilling that promise to our students.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

With aloha,
Kevin Argueta

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:28:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Mackey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Education Representative Justin Woodson, Chair & Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair

My name is Anna-Marie Mackey I am a resident of the Big Island and I am writing to support HCR178. I believe all young people should have access to the things they need to care for themselves. It is especially import that young girls have access to free mentrsal products while attending school. School should be a safe place for learning and growing where the worry about proper menstrual care is not on the minds of our young girls. Please support this measure so that Hawaii's youth can safely attend school without concern. Period poverty is a serious issue and with your help to pass this measure, we can solve that problem for girls in school in Hawaii.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:44:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha EDN Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I am testifying to SUPPORT HCR178. I have three school age nieces in Hawai'i who deserve to have access to healthcare product in their local schools.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers. Support of the resolution not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:45:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers. Support of the resolution not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

Aloha my name is Sarah Michal Hamid and today I testify in strong support of HCR 178. HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:06:58 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raechelle Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing in strong support of HCR178. I feel that Hawai'i public schools should be offering free menstrual supplies. As a teacher, I keep menstrual supplies in my classroom just in case. I bought them with my own money to support my female students. Some of my students have gotten their periods really young, some as young as 4th grade. It can be quite an ordeal for some of my students who lack support at home. I have had to educate and help my students figure out how to navigate getting their first period. Nothing in our current public school system has anything in place to support our female students and their period. It really breaks my heart.

In addition, I am a mother of two daughters who are also public school students. My oldest is in Middle School and I worry about her. I know she will not get support at school because I did not get any support at school when I first got my period. I remember how daunting it was to go through the whole day at school when I got my first period. I felt alone and I don't want my daughter to go through the same thing. It is sad to think that all these 28 years later, nothing has changed.

I strongly feel that more needs to be done to support our girls. Menstrual supplies is a basic school supply and should be freely supplied at every public school in Hawai'i. Yes, our elementary students are even getting their periods. If we supply first aid supplies for free, why not menstrual supplies? Menstrual supplies should not be seen as a burden. Our girls are not a burden. That is why I strongly support HCR178. The time is now to uplift and support our girls in our public school system. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,

Raechelle Villanueva

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:31:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karla Silva-Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting our young women is important to me as both a former educator in our DOE schools, a woman, an aunty and the mother of a daughter. By offering feminine products in our schools we are providing a basic and critical health care need to many who may not otherwise have adequate access. We need to, as a community close the disparities and end period poverty through an avenue where we know our keiki will undoubtedly benefit. Without shame, fear or judgement.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:46:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important resolution.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:06:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Jasmine Slovak, I urge the Committee and the Legislature to pass this bill into law. This is a great win for our rising wā• hine, to ensure that our young women are receiving the medical supplies that they need to care for themselves and ensure that they are able to focus in school. Imagine if a student who had an injury had to walk around school bleeding without any medical assistance, how well would they do in school, how well would they do socially? These feminine care products are not always affordable by families, and much like school meals and proper nutrition, our public school values embody meeting our keiki's basic needs so that they can focus on learning in a secure and safe environment.

Again, I strongly urge our government leaders to recognize that this is an easy win for equity, our education system on behalf of our future women!

Mahalo nui loa for your service.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:39:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I provide care for many adolescents who are menstruating. Access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many of my patients who have unpredictable menstrual periods or heavy bleeding, going to school during their menses can be a major source of anxiety, and some elect to stay home during their periods, which impacts their ability to succeed in their education. Multiple states (CA, IL, NY, NH, etc) have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. Hawaii has long been at the forefront of health-related legislative changes to improve the quality of life of our community, and passing this resolution will continue that proud tradition and support our youth as they grow and develop.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:58:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Kapana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jamie and I support HCR178 because I believe that period products should be free in all public schools. Students shouldn't have to worry about the shame of not being able to afford a basic necessity. I know that you don't know me or my story but growing up I had times that some would consider rough. I went through the foster care system and although I didn't have it the worst. It wasn't ideal. I moved around often from the age of 15-16 and because of the stigma of periods it was hard for me to ask for something so basic. Of course I figured out how to get what I needed but I just remember how awkward it felt. We need to end the stigma and teach our students how normal this is. How can we do this? By offering these products to students for free!

How amazing would it have been if schools provided these products to students without the shame so they feel safe/seen/understood.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:26:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR178.

John Rogers

Ewa NB #23 Board Member

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:29:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tanya torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being able to afford menstrual products is a luxury yet having them is a necessity. Does that make sense? Half the world's population has a mensrual cycle that they have no control over yet they are forced to pay a fine for it whether that be monetary, pain, or even ridicule (in the context of publicly bleeding in middle school). I am a woman who grew up in Hawaii public school system. I wish I could say that my school supported me as a woman and provided me access to a life neccesity that my family sometimes wasn't able to afford. Majority of my school had free/reduced lunch, including me. Food is considered a neccesity. Though I understand that having something to alleviate the uncomfortableness of bleeding for a week straight may not be up to par with hunger and malnourishment, but I would argue it is a life neccesity for girls everywhere. At the end of the day, the less a child has to worry about simple life neccesities, the more they can focus of what really matters, their education, their relationships with people, and their future. I support this bill because I believe it will do just that.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:31:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maddy Walsh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Maddy Walsh, I am a senior at the University of Hawai'i, a Kahuku High School alumni, and a young woman with a period. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 178.

I remember being a freshman at Kahuku High School, unable to participate in gym class and other courses throughout the day because I started my period unexpectedly and wasn't carrying any menstrual products on me. I remember hearing the stories of my friends with excruciatingly embarrassing rememberances of period stains, being unable to control their menstrual bleeding in class, on the school bus, etc.

Half of the population menstruates while at school. Being able to take care of your body while in school is integral to productive learning and academic success, not to mention exceling in sports and other extra-curricular activities.

This resolution will enfranchise so many young people around the state and give them the resources needed to take charge of their life and their time while in school and become confident, productive members of society. I don't want to look back when I'm older and see young kids and teens experiencing the same hardships I did while I was in middle and high school.

I urge you to pass this extremely critical piece of legislation, for all of Hawai'i's youth.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:56:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christalynn Tabb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Menstrual products are basic necessities for women and young girls, but is yet expensive and many women and girls simply don't have access to these products.

Even though tampons and other period products are an essential need for women, consumers still have to pay a sales tax on them in over 30 states.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:00:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Mattos and I am the Director of Education & Outreach for a local nonprofit, Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii. I am writing today in support of HCR178. I have been in education for over 20 years, and worked in previous jobs that provided justice education and direct relief for women experiencing poverty, and not able to access menstrual products. I have heard stories firsthand of young women that have had to skip school because they couldn't afford menstrual products. I have also heard of women that have been so desperate for access to products, they have traded physical labor or other means to be able to afford menstrual products. Poverty is something that has many causes and needs many solutions. Since women are not able to simply "stop" having their periods, it is a critical service to be able to provide them these hygienic products without the burden of a financial cost.

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i is working with community organizations and businesses to provide much needed education and sustainable alternatives to these products, especially to women who need access. There is a huge need for the menstrual products to be available, so that all women are not ashamed or need to skip school, not have hygienic needs met, and take away from getting their regular education.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would like you all to consider if you had a daughter, wife, niece, who needed access, and had limitations to getting menstrual products. Please know that it is possible and so important to have menstrual products available.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rebecca Mattos

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:01:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
daniela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If we got free toilet paper in schools then the same logic leads us to understanding the need for free menstrual products. This will let young women know they are supported by their community. That their menstrual cycle is not something to be afraid of but just a normal part of life. Supporting this bill is supporting the normalization of menstruation. We need menstruation to feel like less of a burden and more normal.

Daniela M.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:22:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in strong support for HCR178. People who menstruate are deserving of having their needs supported by giving them access to a necessary resource to take care of themselves.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers. Support of the resolution not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

HCR178 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:23:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HCR178.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:55:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Kaiser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an Ob/Gyn practicing in Honolulu and writing in support for this resolution. As a physician taking care of women of all ages, I spend a significant amount of time talking about periods to my patients. I am always saddened to hear how many girls and women are embarrassed or afraid to talk about their periods. Worse, many patients cannot afford basic products like pads, tampons, or menstrual cups. These are not luxury goods - they are health care needs for people who menstruate. Menstruating is normal! Please consider supporting our students by normalizing periods and making menstrual products accessible. Thank you!

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:27:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trina Orimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Access to period products should not be a barrier to education. Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:12:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR 178. Providing menstrual products to school aged girls in Hawaii is a matter of safety and equity. As an OBGYN, I have cared for patients who have missed school due to menstrual concerns. Access to the appropriate supplies can help to decrease the number of missed school days.

Thank you for your time,
Sara Harris, MD

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:00:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Yang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Not having necessary or sufficient menstrual products should not be a barrier to students getting the education they need while menstruating. If we can provide toilet paper and drinking water, we can provide menstrual products.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:44:35 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Condry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HCR178. It is important because nearly 1 in 5 American girls have missed school due to lack of period protection. Period products are ineligible for coverage under food stamps and SNAP benefits. This leaves people with the choice between buying tampons or providing other necessities for their family.

Please support this bill. Help ensure our keiki do not miss school over something we can provide. Mahalo!

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:30:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Kwong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a medical student and I provide care for many adolescents who are menstruating. Access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many of my patients who have unpredictable menstrual periods or heavy bleeding, going to school during their menses can be a major source of anxiety, and some elect to stay home during their periods, which impacts their ability to succeed in their education. Multiple states (CA, IL, NY, NH, etc) have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. Hawaii has long been at the forefront of health-related legislative changes to improve the quality of life of our community, and passing this resolution will continue that proud tradition and support our youth as they grow and develop.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kelsey Kwong

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:28:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it addresses a health issue. As a woman, I can understand why students would not attend school without access to menstrual products. Some of the questions suggested for a survey are being answered by the bill.

The school system will never be able to track absences attributable to menstrual cycles. I suggest it would lead to understanding why this bill is important. If you do not have access to products, you will not be in school. Can you imagine a mother having to make a decision between purchasing menstrual products for her daughter(s) or other necessities or paying an electric bill, or food, or gas. This doesn't only happen during a crisis. Many families are struggling without the pandemic as a cause. Leaving school early would be caused by an accidental leakage or overflow. Young girls are very self conscious especially if their clothing gets soiled.

These questions do not need to be on a survey. These questions may even be left blank.

How do you allocate the dollars to support this? Start out with a pilot program? Make it a mandatory part of the school budget? It's a good question but need not stall the passing of this bill. Menstrual products should be treated like PPE. A school supply available from the health office.

Passing this bill will take courage. This bill addresses women's health. It can send a message of understanding social conditions in the school system.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:14:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amandalin Rock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to you in full support of passing this bill. As a woman myself I understand the additional financial burden that sanitary products can add. Young women in school already face so many difficulties as they are learning and growing and finding who they are. Not having sanitary products when you need them can be a source of embarrassment and shame. Young women should be able to focus on their responsibilities and their schooling and not have to worry about whether or not they have the supplies they need to get through the day when they're menstruating. I hope you all see the importance of this bill and vote in favor.

Mahalo, Amandalin Rock

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:54:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Brennan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. As a female medical student I have witnessed firsthand how access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many patients who have unpredictable menstrual periods or heavy bleeding, going to school during their menses can be a major source of anxiety, and some elect to stay home during their periods, which impacts their ability to succeed in their education. Multiple states (CA, IL, NY, NH, etc) have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. Hawaii has long been at the forefront of health-related legislative changes to improve the quality of life of our community, and passing this resolution will continue that proud tradition and support our youth as they grow and develop.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:56:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that all individuals of menstruation age have the right to access sanitary products, safe and hygienic places to use them, and the right to manage their bodies without shame or stigma. It is important that we solve this issues in schools to ensure gender equality for all students. Without this bill, young women are at a significant income and social disadvantage relative to their male peers.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:06:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edith Neumiller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support providing free period products for girls in all public high schools.

Mahalol,

E. Ignacio Neumiller

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:54:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Tsuhako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee on Education,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a first-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa and I provide advocate for many adolescents who are menstruating. Access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many individuals who have unpredictable menstrual periods or heavy bleeding, going to school during their menses can be a major source of anxiety, and some elect to stay home during their periods, which impacts their ability to succeed in their education. Multiple states (CA, IL, NY, NH, etc) have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. Hawaii has long been at the forefront of health-related legislative changes to improve the quality of life of our community, and passing this resolution will continue that proud tradition and support our youth as they grow and develop.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Amanda Tsuhako

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:00:18 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Supporting this resolution to request the Department of Education to provide menstrual products is a great idea. I think we should do all we can to reduce inequity in schools.

Please support HCR178.

Sincerely,

Christopher Edwards

Honolulu, HI 96822

HCR-178

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:34:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eunyoung Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a second-year medical student at the John A Burns School of Medicine. Access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many students who have unpredictable menstrual periods or heavy bleeding, going to school during their menses can be a major source of anxiety, and some elect to stay home during their periods, which impacts their ability to succeed in their education. Multiple states (CA, IL, NY, NH, etc) have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. Hawaii has long been at the forefront of health-related legislative changes to improve the quality of life of our community, and passing this resolution will continue that proud tradition and support our youth as they grow and develop.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Eunyoung Park