

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

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

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FOR: HCR178 SD1
DATE: April 16, 2021
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) deeply appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR178 SD1** which requests the convening of a working group to discuss the role of the authorizer, its relationship with charter schools, the accountability for the use of public funds, and whether or not legislation is required to effectuate any desired changes.

The Commission is grateful for the opportunity to discuss and clarify its role as an authorizer and its relationship to the public charter schools it authorizes. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to improve its effectiveness in authorizing high quality schools, which has a direct relationship to the success of the public charter schools that it authorizes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 4:49:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Members of American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii supports SCR100, requesting the DOE to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses. The access to menstrual products would positively impact the health, mental well-being and school work of the students.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair of AAUW of Hawaii.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 10:50:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha EDU 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)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

April 12, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Menstrual Equity; Menstrual Products; Schools; Education

Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Raegan Cordero, Social Work Student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa
SUBJECT: HCR178 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE
FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL
CAMPUSES.

Hearing: Friday, April 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

POSITION: Raegan Cordero supports this measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawai'i public school campuses, include new 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 for high school and middle school students.

The passage of the bill would allow for students who menstruate to have easier, affordable access to period products. Families who are economically disadvantaged can not always afford the ridiculously high cost of a box of tampons each month which averages out to around \$7 to \$10 a box. This cost can be further amplified if more than one member in a family menstruates. Access to free supplies would alleviate the stress that having a period provides. In addition to this the bill provides the inclusion of three new survey questions to be approved on the HYRB survey. These questions acknowledge the cost burdens of menstruation as well as acknowledge a normal bodily function which is stereotypically shameful and embarrassing. These survey questions allow for space to discuss menstruation on both a medical and political level.

As a college student who has more than once studied the cultural significance of menstruation both in the U.S. and other countries, passing bills such as HCR178 is important to both those who menstruate and those who do not. The simple provision of free menstrual products on

campus helps eliminate the “period taboo” and acts as another method of education surrounding menstruation. After reviewing past testimonies, it was clear the cost of dispensing machines and installation appeared to be a concern. However, a student’s health and rights to services and products which aid in their wellbeing and classroom attendance is of the utmost importance. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HCR-178

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 10:47:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 178 Re Requesting the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to All Hawaii Public School Students.

Patricia L. Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN

Testimony

Chair: Michelle N. Kidani

Vice Chair: Donna Mercado Kim

Title of Resolution:

HCR 0178 Requesting the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to Students on all Hawaii Public School Campuses.

Date: 16th of April 2021

Time: 3:00pm

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Aloha, my name is Tanya Kiaaina, I'm a student at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. I am in support of this resolution because I feel that every person that is attending a public school should have free access to good hygienic products. It is cruel for every person to have access to education, it is mandated, regardless of the potential of a menstrual session. This will encourage person(s) to remain in the school setting instead of having to interrupt academic instruction to contend with the purchase of or the lack thereof menstrual product(s).

I remember when I was a seventh grader, in middle school, experiencing my menstrual period for the first time. It was a scary time, not really knowing what was going on with my body. I found myself in the health room at, and thankfully, the nurse was there to inform me of what I was going through and supplied and educated (told) me on how to apply (use) product (menstrual pad). In the early seventies, and at the age of twelve, parents were not equipped to talk or teach their daughters about, "Their Period", will at least not my mom. But thankfully, I had the opportunity to get firsthand education from my public school's nurse's aide. Also, was incredibly grateful their had free supply to contribute to their students

at such a sensitive time in one's life. So, I genuinely believe it is imperative to supply all schools with free menstrual products for their students.

Again, I am in support of the resolution.

Tanya Kiaaina

April 16, 2021

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

I am a student from Kalani High School and proud to **SUPPORT HCR178.**

The average woman in the United States spends \$150-\$300 a year on feminine hygiene products. Although low-income and homeless girls and women struggle to purchase the products, food stamps, Medicaid, or health insurance can not cover the cost. As a result: one in five American girls miss all or part of the school day due to their periods. Period products are a basic necessity of females—it must not be the reason for preventing Keiki from going to school.

HCR178 requests the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses.

Free menstrual products promote education equity and gender equality by increasing the school attendance of girls. It will also elevate the health and well-being of students. When women use makeshift products to substitute pads and tampons, it can lead to critical health impacts such as vaginal and urinary tract infections, severe reproductive health conditions, and toxic shock syndrome. Free menstrual products at school will protect students from health risks and encourage continuous learning no matter their financial status or gender.

All girls have a right to go to school. We need HCR178 to ensure the school attendance of all students in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time,

Mana Iketani

Kalani High School Junior

HCR-178

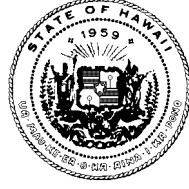
Submitted on: 4/15/2021 1:37:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.



LATE

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

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

Support for HCR178/HR147
April 16, 2021

Aloha Chair Kidani and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HCR178/HR147 which requests the Department of Education provide free menstrual products to all Hawai‘i public school campuses. Although we lack specific data, period poverty is likely to affect Hawai‘i students because more than half of the state’s public school students come from low income families.¹ If students cannot pay for basic supplies needed to cope with an involuntary bodily function like menstruation, who should? The government. Further, gender equality demands that we invest in ending the social exclusion, shame and stigma associated with period poverty.

Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass HCR178/HR147 in order to achieve equal status for girls, transgender boys, and gender non-conforming students in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

¹<https://www.civilbeat.org/2015/01/more-than-half-of-hawaii-public-school-students-are-low-income/#:~:text=More%20Than%20Half%20of%20Hawaii%20Public%20School%20Students%20Are%20Low%20Income,-Reading%20time%3A%20&text=About%2051%20percent%20of%20the,by%20the%20Southern%20Education%20Foundation.>