



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

Date: 04/06/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: SCR 0100 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 SCR 100.

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 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 (Board)-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 294 school campuses to facilitate access to all students in grades 5-12 during the school day.

Providing unlimited access to menstrual products for free (instead of for a nominal fee) may have the unintended negative consequence of clogged drains and associated plumbing costs. The initial cost to provide free menstrual products to students at Hawaii public schools is estimated to be \$1,317,800.00 (see Table 1). The annual cost in subsequent years is estimated to be \$853,160.00 (see Table 2). In order to develop the cost estimates associated with this proposal, public school and enrollment data were utilized as well as approximate numbers of bathrooms, stalls, and product expenses.

There are approximately 52,643 girls currently enrolled in grades 5-12 in public schools. If each

girl uses two products per day for five days each month and the school year lasts ten months, it is estimated that each girl would utilize 100 products per school year. The Department has asked for legal guidance regarding liability for toxic shock syndrome if tampons are provided to students at school. Until more information on this topic is available, only menstrual pads are being considered for distribution. One menstrual pad costs approximately \$0.14. The total cost for menstrual pads each year is estimated to be \$737,000.00.

The following numbers were used to estimate how many school bathrooms serve girls in grades 5-12 including gender neutral bathrooms: high - 8, middle/intermediate - 5, elementary - 1, and other (any combination of high, middle and elementary) - 3. The total number of bathrooms that serve girls in grades 5-12 in public schools is estimated to be 1,056 and the cost to purchase one dispenser (approximately \$400 each) for these bathrooms is \$422,400.00.

In order to encourage proper disposal of menstrual products, a waste receptacle should be installed in each bathroom stall. It is estimated that there are three stalls in each bathroom. The cost to purchase one waste receptacle (approximately \$50 each) for 3,168 bathroom stalls is \$158,400.00.

After the first year, it is anticipated that 20% of equipment will need to be replaced on an annual basis costing an estimated \$116,160.00. On-going annual expenses also include replenishing the inventory of menstrual products (\$737,000.00). A summary of costs for implementing this measure in all public schools is provided in the tables below.

Table 1. Estimated Initial Costs to Implement SCR 100 in Public Schools

Menstrual Products	Dispensers Initial	Receptacles Initial	Total Initial Cost
\$737,000.00	\$422,400.00	\$158,400.00	\$1,317,800.00

Table 2. Estimated Annual Costs to Implement SCR 100 in Public Schools

Menstrual Products	Dispensers Replacement	Receptacles Replacement	Total Annual Cost
\$737,000.00	\$84,480.00	\$31,680.00	\$853,160.00

Hawaii has administered the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in odd-numbered years from 1991 to 2019 and has tracked health trends over the course of 28 years. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey 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 Youth Risk Behavior Survey 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 Youth Risk Behavior Survey questionnaire development. The majority of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey 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.

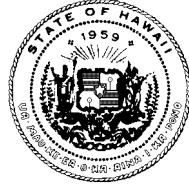
The Hawaii School Health Survey Committee is an advisory committee that includes representatives from the following Offices and organizations:

- 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 Curriculum Research & Development Group
- University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing Hawaii Keiki Program
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Hawaii Health Data Warehouse
- Hui for Excellence in Education

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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.



‘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 SCR100
April 5, 2021

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports SCR100, 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 when 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. Women’s 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 SCR100 in order to achieve equal status for girls, transgender boys, and gender non-conforming students in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Khara

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.>

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 10:08:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates supports SCR 100. Thank you!

SCR-100

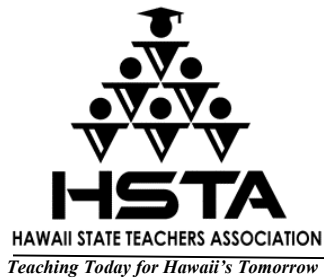
Submitted on: 4/4/2021 2:08:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of 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.



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

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SCR 100 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SCR 100, 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 menstrual 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.



The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education (EDN)
Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti
Representative Lynn DeCoite
Representative Sonny Ganaden
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates
Representative Troy Hashimoto
Representative Takashi Ohno
Representative Sean Quinlan
Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative Ryan Yamane
Representative Val Okimoto

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 2:00 pm

RE: Support for SCR100 - 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 SCR 100** requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public school campuses. Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a locally grown organization committed to addressing menstrual inequity and ending period poverty, or the inability to buy and access menstrual products, through service, advocacy and education.

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i recognizes the all-encompassing societal challenges inherent in tackling the broader issue of period poverty for the local community from our own personal experiences growing up on Hawaiian homelands in Waimānalo and through this work.

The average cost of one menstrual product is \$0.15 and SCR 100 is essentially requesting the DOE invest \$7.50 - \$15 per year per student to address a need that impacts public health, education, gender equality and basic need for half of the student population. Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is particularly concerned with statewide statistics from the DOE and Aloha United Way that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed "economically disadvantaged" in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Furthermore, based on preliminary data collected through our programs, 44% of our recipients requesting period products are on government assistance, and 1 out of 5 participants in a pilot program has stated they have had to prioritize other essential household items, such as food or utility bills, over buying period products.

We have also been made aware of multiple anecdotal reports that some local area menstruators are putting their health at risk entirely due to a lack of access to menstrual products. For instance, some menstruators are choosing to use period products in excess of the recommended time frames or unhygienic alternatives such as socks, toilet paper, diapers, or newspapers. In addition, these and other menstruators also report having to miss school, as well as that they are experiencing further emotional stress as a result of their access to period products.

The cost of menstrual products is not the only barrier or problematic issue many individuals who menstruate face every month. A variety of factors contribute 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 and nonbinary 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.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals requiring low investment:

- **Public Health:** By using menstrual products in excess of the recommended time frames, menstruators 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. This potentially places an additional financial burden on the state should they be on Medicaid, where the number of residents on Medicaid has increased 24% amid the pandemic.
- **Basic Equity:** 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. The notion that providing menstrual products would result in pilfering is also unfounded and biased.
- **Education Equity:** Lack of menstrual products has resulted in menstruators missing class or school altogether. They can be penalized for failing to pay for menstrual products 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.

We urge you to support **SCR 100** 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
Pua Mohala Healing & Advocacy Services	

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT

As of this submission, 219 individuals signed 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. Below are a just a few:

I am a teacher at an elementary school and have provided these products to so many girls along the years. They are embarrassed to ask but wouldn't have to if it were available to them at school for free. Mahalo - Maile , District 5 - Naalehu, Ocean View, Capt. Cook, Kealakekua, Kailua-Kona (96725)

Because not all families can afford to live in Hawaii and buy period products - Jen-Nai , District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihee, Waiehu, Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapu (96793)

Women need free supplies because mainly, we don't have an option to "opt out" of having a period. They're natural to our body's development, and that in itself is why products should be free. We need more equality and justice. This idea is a big milestone, showing how policies can positively reshape humanity. It's the 21st century and girls need more power and more rights at a young age. - Janelle , District 9 - Kahului, Puunene, Old Sand Hills, Maui Lani (96732)

In my era 1992-2010 my hs health room used to provide all period products for each child . Now they don't provide any for our young women . - Mariah , District 13 - Haiku, Hana, Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku, Paia, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Molokini (96763)

Young women should always have it available no matter what! Not everyone has money when needed for supplies. - Dawn , District 13 - Haiku, Hana, Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku, Paia, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Molokini (96763)

Students who menstruate should have free and easy access to period products because they are medical necessities. Free period products support gender equity and public health. It also offers a learning opportunity for all students to understand human bodies and reduces shame related to menstruation. - Caryn , District 24 - Makiki, Tantalus, Papakolea, McCully, Pawaa, Manoa (96822)

Girls should not be at a disadvantage in school or in life because of their sex. We have shamed women for menstruating and yet do not provide the tools for them to manage their period. Our male dominated government needs to think about the needs of young girls to lift them up (not put them down). - Michelle , District 27 - Nuuanu, Liliha, Puunui, Alewa Heights (96817)

Nobody should have to feel embarrassed during their periods, from leaking, asking for pads from other students, etc. it's a private matter, and should be able to be privately handled by each student. These products should be available to students during their day. - Carly , District 34 - Pearl City, Waimalu, Pacific Palisades (96782)

I want all girls to have the access to feminine products for their period. This will cause less stigma if offered to all girls at schools, I was shame and often forgot to bring and had to "borrow" or "beg" from another girl, even went home a few times. I work in an area where period poverty is rampant at KPT housing and girls often come to my office embarrassed needing products. - Tina , District 36 - Mililani Mauka, Mililani (96789)

Because these products are essential. - Warren , District 36 - Mililani Mauka, Mililani (96789)

This is always in need and important to start to empower young girls instead of shaming them when they have their mai. - Renee , District 37 - Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele (96789)

Because no child should have to go out these products, school should be a safe haven. A lot of girls go without at home because they simply can't afford it. This would give the young girls/parents peace of mind. - Leesean , District 37 - Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele (96789)

I work for a non-profit organization with youths/teens and many of them do not have feminine products, so I am forced to purchase items with my own money, they even ask for extra so that they'll have extra products for when they're away from me. - Jasmine , District 44 - Waianae, Makaha, Makua, Maili (96792)

Periods are not a choice and some families are struggling to make purchases of something that should be easily accessible. - Kiani , District 47 - Waialua, Haleiwa, Pupukea, Kahuku, Laie, Hauula, Waiahole, Waikane, Sunset Beach, Punaluu, Kaaawa (96791)



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: House of Representatives
Committee on Education (EDN)
Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti
Representative Lynn DeCoite
Representative Sonny Ganaden
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates
Representative Troy Hashimoto
Representative Takashi Ohno
Representative Sean Quinlan
Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative Ryan Yamane
Representative Val Okimoto

DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 2:00 pm

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: **Support for SCR 100** - Requesting the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. Members currently include 29 organizations and agencies (private, public, membership), as well as individuals. The coalition encourages the inclusion of interested parties and in achieving equitable representation.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition respectfully submits testimony **in support of SCR 100**. The provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of students. Research shows that 86% of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 34% have needed to leave what they were doing to retrieve period products. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources, which can be particularly burdensome on youth, 47% of which were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID.

By providing menstrual products in schools, Hawai'i helps ensure its students have equal access to education and are empowered to reach their full potential, irrespective of their gender or economic status. A lack of access to menstrual products is associated with serious health and social issues, including emotional duress, physical infection, and disease. Research also shows that students with inadequate menstrual support experience higher rates of absence and are less able to focus and engage



Hawaii Women's Coalition

in the classroom. Absenteeism can lead to significant performance gaps and is linked to social disengagement, feelings of alienation, and adverse outcomes even into adulthood.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity for girls, and transgender and non-binary people.

For all of these reasons, the Hawai'i Women's Coalition is pleased to support SCR 100. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Contact: hawaiiwomenscoalition@gmail.com



I SUPPORT THE GIRLS
HAWAII

April 5, 2021

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

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

My name is Moana Olaso, Affiliate Director for I support The Girls Hawaii, supporting the Senate Concurrent Resolution 100.

Many donors, volunteers, and recipients urge you to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 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.



I SUPPORT THE GIRLS
HAWAII

• **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



'Ilima Intermediate Students w/ Our Menstrual Equity Mascot - Paddy the Pad (March 2021)

April 6, 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. **Myself, and my students in the 'Ilima Intermediate Activist Club are writing to you today in strong support of SCR 100** which encourages the Hawaii Department of Education to provide free menstrual products in all public schools to all students who need them. We know that having access to free menstrual products on campus helps support all our learners in coming to school regularly, and fights the stigma around menstruation in society.

Our 'Ilima 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 legislative session, but that bill died when the pandemic closed the legislature. This legislative session we worked with Senator Acasio to revive the bill, but SB 966 died in committee this session. **My students are grateful for all the help we've received from both Representative Perruso and Senator Acasio's offices on this issue and in moving this resolution forward.**

We'd also like to thank you, **Chair Woodson, and Vice Chair Kapela**, for making students feel welcome to testify in this committee. The positive feedback they received at the last Ed Committee empowered them so much that they wanted to testify on additional bills and resolutions.

We stand on our testimony from the previous hearings that you can see in the records. Today we'd like to counter something shared by the Hawaii Department of Education when they testified on this resolution. HIDOE said that the cost of providing menstrual supplies to all students would be over \$1 million dollars, due to the need to install machines in bathrooms.

This is the 'Ilima Intermediate Menstruation Station. It's a simple cardboard box decorated by students. It has pads and tampons donated by students, EWA'lution 96706, and I Support the Girls - Hawaii Chapter. Stored in my classroom, all students on campus know they can get whatever supplies they need. We have signs in the bathrooms to direct students to my classroom.



We, the students who proposed that HIDOE provide menstrual supplies to all students, never asked for machines to be installed. We believe we have a much cheaper idea that would be easy to implement on campus. Meet - the "band aid" bag!

Teachers at almost every HIDOE school get a “Band-aid Bag” to start the school year from the campus clinic (pictured). 5 pads could be added to the bag for students, with refills available in the clinics free of charge.



Adding pads to the yearly “Band-Aid Bag” would not have a significant cost. At \$9.49 for 60 pads, it would be roughly \$0.16 cents per pad x 5 per “Band-Aid” bag, costing \$0.80 cents per class to have supplies on hand. \$0.80 cents per teacher, at 46 teachers at our school, means **the entire school could be menstrual supply ready for students for \$36.80.**



ALWAYS Maxi Size 2 Super Pads With Wings Unscented, 60 Count

Visit the Always Store
 ★★★★★ 3,287 ratings | 5 answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "always maxi pads with wings"

Price: **\$9.49** (\$0.16 / Count) ✓prime

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get \$70 off instantly: Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

Style: Super, Wings



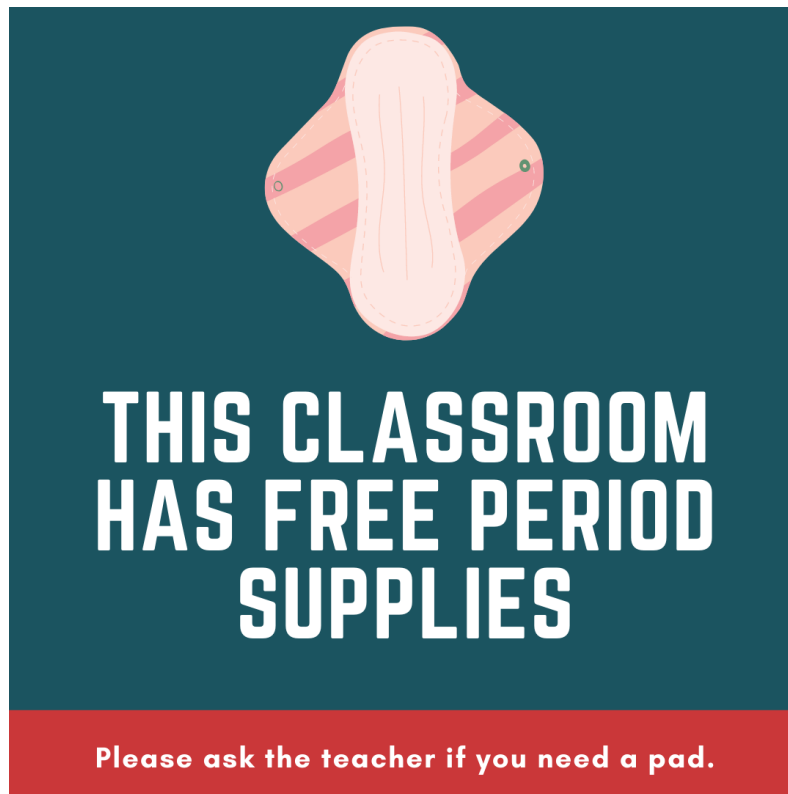
Size 60 Count (Pack of 1)
Brand Always
Material Cotton
Scents Unscented
Unit Count 60 Count

About this item

- Did you know that 60% of women are wearing the wrong size pad? This can lead to leaks. Step up in size to help stop leaks
- ALWAYS My Fit helps you get the best protection by tailoring your pad to fit your flow AND panty size. Use the sizing chart in the images to find your fit
- LeakGuard Core absorbs in seconds for up to 9 hours of protection

If a student on campus has a peanut allergy, bright signs must be posted in all classrooms that say “This area is intended to be a peanut free zone. Please do not bring peanuts, or items

containing peanuts into this area.” Copying this idea, having signs like this one made below on canva.com for free by a student in just 5 minutes, could let students know they can ask teachers for supplies in each classroom.



We believe that menstrual equity in public schools is possible, and without the significant costs cited by HIDOE. We look forward to working with HIDOE to end period poverty in our public schools as soon as possible.

Mahalo for Reading & Joining Us in Supporting SCR 100,

Sarah “Mili” Milianta-Laffin & The ‘Ilima Intermediate School Activist Club

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 4:59:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT and SUPPORT and SUPPORT

As stated before this is a perfect way to show students that the legislature does support their participation in the process. It will benefit all schools and students.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 6:03:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 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 SCR100. 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 8:20:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Ishihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Emma and I would like to submit my testimony in strong support of this resolution. Inequalities among students due to menstruation is a large barrier to education in schools. Many people I know have gone home for the day or missed class due to a lack of proper equipment at a vital time. I am in strong support of providing pads and tampons to people who menstruate in schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support,

Emma Ishihara.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 7:58:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 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 SCR100 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 an unstable housing situation which made it difficult to ask for something so basic, Menstrual products!

None of my schools had it and I couldn't ask anyone at school. We need to end the stigma and take care of our students basic needs . 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 11:17:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 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 write in strong support of SCR100, a resolution that takes steps to end period poverty and menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

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.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH
1177 Queen St. #2707
Honolulu, HI, 96814

April 4, 2021

House Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of SCR100/SR77

Honourable Representatives Woodson, Kapela, and Member of the Committee on Education,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist on O'ahu writing in support of this initiative to end period poverty in Hawai'i.

I encourage you to support the resolution as lack of access of menstrual products to those in school can result in not only inadequate educational opportunity, but also psychological trauma and preventable medical conditions that can be serious and even life threatening.

As a majority of Hawai'ian families have reported concern about their ability to purchase menstrual products in the pandemic, I urge we join the 21 other states that have passed or are proposing this year to provide products in schools, an action that studies show has increased school attendance, and is likely to prevent health complications.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration in protecting the health and welfare of all of your constituents.



Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

Testimony presented to the House of Representatives
Committee on Education
April 6, 2021 at 2:00pm
By Farrah-Marie Gomes, Ph.D.

HB SCR 100 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE
MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Committee Members,

I am providing testimony today in strong support of SCR 100 which requests the Department of Education (DOE) to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawai'i public school campuses.

I am a resident of Hawaii Island and am part of the approximate 50% of the state's population that menstruates. I grew up in a home where four of us menstruated each month and I never realized just how fortunate I was that I never needed to think about where my feminine products would come from next month. I simply opened the cabinet and there was always enough products for all of us.

It wasn't until I started working at a local university over 15 years ago that I became exposed to students who couldn't count on this provision. Some of these students do not even know where their next meal will be coming from or where they might be sleeping tonight, let alone where they are going to get feminine products for their next monthly cycle.

That is why I have become involved in raising awareness about equity issues, especially those that negatively impact women. I am a member of the Hawai'i County Committee on the Status of Women where we recently approved \$2,500 to assist with providing feminine products to Hawai'i Island high schools. We know that implementing new measures can take some time and we didn't want any schools to be without products for the remainder of this already challenging year.

Feminine products are a necessity for women. It is a biological need. Women do not choose this option. It comes as a result of being born female. That is why I strongly support SCR 100.

I realize there are details that need to be worked out about who, how and where to distribute products. The devil is always in the details, but that doesn't mean we give up. If there is a will, there is a way. I encourage us to do right by and for our young women attending DOE schools, some of whom find themselves in embarrassing situations that are a function of their biology. I encourage us to find a way to make this availability possible so that no young woman will ever have to be ashamed of her experiences and instead, can feel supported by her school.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 100.

Mahalo,



Farrah-Marie Gomes

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 9:56:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Itai Bradshaw-Lang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have experienced being in school without menstrual products, or any way to get them. I have experience wadding up toilet paper to stuff in my underwear, and then trying to keep my butt to the wall when blood invariably leaked out, praying no one would see. It's humiliating, but what is more important is that the only thing on my mind was my predicament. I wasn't thinking about school, or what I was supposed to be learning. Lack of access to menstrual products completely destroyed my chance to learn, multiple days a month. It had a huge impact on my school experience.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics from the Department of Education and Aloha United Way reveal that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed “economically disadvantaged” in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents nationwide are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products. There is anecdotal evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The resolution addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 10:07:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri L Skillman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha ~

I am writing in support of SCR100 because I have experienced times as an adult female when menstrual products were not available in a restroom in an emergency. It is impossible to convey the panic and desperation that one feels in such instances. This is a problem not only in public schools but in the restrooms at the state university campuses too. 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. SCR 100/SR 77 is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty and menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality, and education equity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Teri Skillman

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 3:42:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colby Takeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will support health equity in our schools; please pass this important effort!

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 6:19:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 100 Requesting the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to students on All Hawaii Public School campuses!

Patricia L. Bilyk, RN, MSN, MPH

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 8:47:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am testifying in support of this resolution because period products should be treated as products like toilet paper/soap/paper towels, necessary products provided by public places. Because period products are not a 'luxury item' to those who menstruate.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics from the Department of Education and Aloha United Way reveal that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed “economically disadvantaged” in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents nationwide are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products. There is anecdotal evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The resolution addresses this issue 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.

Alani Bagcal

96815

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Monday, April 5, 2021, 2:00 AM, CR 309 & Via Videoconference

Aloha Respective Senators for the Committee on Education. My name is Brooke Mizuno and I am testifying in full support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 100, "Requesting the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to Students on All Hawaii Public School Campuses."

I am testifying in support of this resolution because I believe every female should have the available menstrual products to take care of their physical and mental health each month, Although I have never attended public school, I have heard and read experiences from girls my age skipping school because they did not have enough money to purchase their essential feminine products. It causes students to miss classes, exams, sports and more. It can lower their middle school and high school experience. Period poverty isolates these girls from their social and school life. It is a huge issue that women face every month. I am very grateful that this has never happened to me before but it also motivates to want to bring change to this matter for all women. No female should miss school over something that is not in their control. This lack of support is also another example of gender inequality that women have to face each month. During the menstrual week, they should have support in every way we can provide for them. Just because they are in public school, it should not lower their quality of their school experience. Menstrual products should be accessible to all students for it is not their fault in the economic position they are in.

According to the Hawaii State Department of Education, 47.39% of public school students were considered economically challenged from 2019-2020. Nearly half of around 80,000 students in the public-school system are likely to skip school for not having the accessible products to take care of themselves. That statistic has a risk of increasing due to COVID-19 being the reason of many people for losing their jobs and causing them to be below the Federal Poverty Line. This inclines these students to drop out of school to take care of themselves and other priorities. This bill not being passed only allows this issue to continue further and worsen. All girls in public school are justified in receiving free menstrual products at their schools.

SCR100 is an initiative that contributes to fighting the battle against period poverty and encourages to improve equity of education, basic equity, gender equality, and public health. As a fellow woman, high school student, and local, I am hoping you make the right and just decision in supporting this resolution. We must improve the lives of the future adult women for they deserve to have a well-balanced equation without their economic status getting in the way of it.

Thank you for your time and giving me the opportunity to testify to support this bill,

Brooke Mizuno

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:02:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SCR100 fully! I can't imagine a school requiring every student to supply their own toilet paper and soap to care for their bodily functions while at school yet we expect all those who have a period to provide their own period products to care for a basic bodily function that they have zero control over. Imagine urinating in your pants and then being expected to sit in class, pay attention, retain information and participate fully. No, that distraction would be too much. Sadly, so many students have to worry about their period causing leaks, not having access to the products they need for various reasons: limited supply at home, cost at school, being caught off guard by an unexpected period, their period being heavier than anticipated do not enough supplies on hand, etc. Whatever the reason they experience anxiety and stress about being able to care for their bodies and about having an embarrassing leak while still being expected to learn and function as the other students do. The school years are pivotal in setting our youth up for success. Let's remove the barrier of not being able to care for their own bodies while at school.

These earlier years in puberty are also the years when irregular and unpredictable periods are the norm. So even if you are lucky enough to have a family who can supply you with period products you rarely have enough right when you need them. Throughout my junior high years it was common for me to miss 2-3 half days of school each month because of my period. I would inevitably leak and have to go home to change and clean up. If I could have had easy access to the products I needed I wouldn't have had to try to "stretch" the length of time between changes and inevitably end up with an issue causing me to miss precious time in class. I can't imagine how hard this is for those who can't afford period care on a regular basis. They are at such a disadvantage which could easily be eliminated by SCR100. Please don't let a basic bodily function stand in the way one more students education. Mahalo for reading my testimony and for all the work you are doing to help our communities.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:39:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wallace Engberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have believe individuals who menstruate should have the additional burden and cost of period products simply for being born with a uterus. Periods cost individuals and families so much money and the lack of appropriate products can cause folks to skip school and beneficial activities and social gatherings/events due to not having proper period products to make them feel safe and leak-free.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics from the Department of Education and Aloha United Way reveal that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed “economically disadvantaged” in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents nationwide are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products. There is anecdotal evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The resolution addresses this issue 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:52:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adriann Gin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this measure because I believe all female students, regardless of barriers to resources, should receive a bare minimum of support so that they can focus on their learning and personal growth rather than the anxiety, stress, and shame that results from a lack of support and/or resources for basic feminine hygiene products.

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics from the Department of Education and Aloha United Way reveal that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed “economically disadvantaged” in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents nationwide are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products. There is anecdotal evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The resolution addresses this issue 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.

Adriann Gin, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 10:11:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Myers, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I stongly support this resolution to provide menstrual products in public schools. Menstrual poverty, when lack of access to menstrual products, forces girls and women to stay home during their periods, is not something we should consider acceptable in one of the richest countries in the world. Providing menstrual products, much as we provide toilet paper and tissues, allows for students to take care of their basic health needs and continue their education. This resolution would help ensure equity in education access, especially supporting girls in poverty and demonstrating that we as a community value their education.

As a doctor, I see patients every day who struggle to afford basic necessities for themselves and their care. Treating patients at the hospital because they cannot afford to buy tylenol to treat themselves at home is insanity - similarly, forcing girls to miss school because they cannot afford menstrual products is incredibly short-sighted, focusing on cost saving now at the expensive of the future.

Please pass this resolution to support healthcare basic for girls so they are able to focus on their education.

Thank you,

Theresa Myers, MD

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 11:52:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Dear Representative Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair

SCR 100 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics from the Department of Education and Aloha United Way reveal that, respectively, 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed “economically disadvantaged” in 2019, and 60% of local families are struggling to meet basic needs due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents nationwide are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products. There is anecdotal evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The resolution addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity. I strongly support this bill and respectfully ask for you to support it as well.

Thank you.

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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:04:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Pinnow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii state public school graduate, I have encountered other peers of mine asking for menstrual products during class. Even among people I did not know, it was an unspoken agreement that “I got you.” Discreetly passing pads under your desk, hushed whispers during class, knowing glances toward each other, these are all universal experiences for students with a period. Universal experiences that could be eliminated by simply providing these materials in schools.

Not having access to menstrual products impacts the quality of education during a student’s period. The average period lasts 4-8 days, equivalent to around 24-48 hours of curriculum. To miss that much curriculum due to the lack of access to something as essential as menstrual products is disappointing. In order to create an equal environment for all students, we cannot keep ignoring the impact that period poverty has on our students.

Essential hygiene products, such as soap, toilet paper, and paper towels, are extremely important to ensure the health of students. Access to menstrual products is not just an equity issue, but also a hygiene issue. Using menstrual products for longer than recommended puts students at risk for toxic shock syndrome and other infections. It is not fair to deprive students of their education because their school failed to provide the materials necessary for their health.

All students deserve the right to have an accessible, unobstructed education. Missing school due to lack of access to menstrual products is something that can be easily remedied with providing them in schools. I am in strong support for SCR 100 and the benefits that it will have for our students.

April 6, 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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:27:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariel Colburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ariel Colburn. Hawai'i is my home, I was born and raised here on O'ahu. I am currently obtaining my Master's in Social Work to advocate for our communities here in Hawai'i. I am in full support of this bill.

As a woman who once was that young girl who was the only girl in the family and had to deal with the awkward and uncomfortable stages of puberty during middle school, I strongly urge you to go through with this bill. The stigma for menstruation is already terrible, I kindly ask that you help end that stigma by giving middle schools the opportunity to get free products. This would show youth that it is normal, it is natural, and it won't make them feel isolated.

Free products can help prevent youth from being absent in school as well. Some youth do not have the privilege to purchase these products themselves and instead, use alternatives, which can be dangerous to their health and safety. Some youth may run out of their own personal stock of products that they packed. I remember being in the seventh grade and skipping class to hide in the school bathroom because I had gotten my period and did not have any pads. It wasn't until one of my classmates came in and let me use her phone to call my mom. My mom had to leave work early because I was too embarrassed and ashamed to go to school for the rest of the day and I cried. My friend was kind enough to give me her jacket to wrap around my waist and walk me to the office where one of the school admin staff gave me a pad from her purse and waited with me until my mom got there.

Teachers and school staff already do so much for our keiki. In middle school, I had a teacher who always had a pack of pads in her room for us, which she purchased with her own money. I imagine she refilled her stock often because she was known for having the pads in her classroom and everyone always went to her when we needed one.

Having these free products in school would help youth to go to school more, help everyone understand that menstruation is natural, and it would help teachers stop using their personal funds.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui for your time and patience.

Me ke aloha,

Ariel Colburn

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:29:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 2:00 PM, CR 309 & Via Videoconference

Aloha Respective Representatives for the Committee on Education. My name is Kaylana Kaniaupio and I am testifying in full support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 100, “Requesting the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to Students on All Hawaii Public School Campuses.”

As someone who has attended public school for most of my life, I have witnessed many disparities and inequities that are essential to supporting my education and school experience. A big problem facing many students today is the issue of period poverty. Each month, menstruators are challenged with ensuring they have adequate access to obtaining menstrual hygiene products to protect them while on their period. Unfortunately, many of these menstruators do not have the financial means or access to required products to protect them during the 5-7 days while on their period. This has caused many of these students to be absent from school thereby leaving them behind on their work by missing important lectures, exams, and activities. More notably, these absences are forcing students to miss out on much needed time spent with their peers which is vital for their social and emotional health. Menstruators desperately need more support from our public school system. They deserve the same right to an education as their counterparts and they should not be faulted for not having appropriate access to care for their physical health.

There are currently 80,412 students enrolled in the Hawai‘i public school system in grades 7-12 (Hawai‘i State Department of Education, 2021). Roughly half of these students are menstruators which means that an estimated 40,206 students are potentially at risk for missing school each month due to their monthly cycle. According to the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education, chronic absenteeism is considered a “red alert” priority. Students placed in this high-risk category are headed for academic trouble and potentially dropping out of high school. If period poverty is not addressed within our school system, we are choosing to let our students fall behind. It is critical for the Hawaii DOE school system to take action now. Menstruators deserve to have free menstrual products provided on all Hawai‘i public school campuses. I urge you to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 100, “Requesting the Department of Education to Provide Free Menstrual Products to Students on All Hawai‘i Public School Campuses.” As a current high school student, female, and resident of Hawai‘i, I am humbly requesting that you do what is right and support this resolution. All students deserve the right to an education and the right to accessing appropriate healthcare. We cannot afford to let the future of our state fall between the cracks. Take action now for a happier and healthier Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kaylana Kaniaupio

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:19:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please allocate money to DOE to provide menstrual products to students who request them. Many students cannot afford the products and shouldn't be in the embarrassing position of having to ask for money to pay for them.

Mahaloa for allowing me to provide testimony;

Barbara J. Service MSW 9ret.)

Senior advocate

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 9:25:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Other states have been doing this already. New York is one example. In reading about some of the states already doing this funding was not a show stopper.

I find it hard to believe the amount of written testimony from the DOE and the negative connotations. No one thinks you wave a magic wand and it happens. The DOE makes it sound like it is too much work.

Pointing out the implementation plans and then making it sound as though its too expensive and too difficult.

But its about time the DOE recognizes that their ONLY purpose is to SERVE our STUDENTS!!

If only these women would go back to the days when they were in school and started their period. Or think of it being the first time and YOU ARE IN CLASS!

If you can't remember, then imagine. AND the DOE is offering TWO PADS A DAY! REALLY! REALLY? Then the DOE throws in the "nominal fee" phrase. Are they on another planet? Who dreams this stuff up?

Also worried about clogging toilets and plumbing costs. Well wadded up toilet paper will do the same thing.

To top this off, seeking legal guidance regarding liability for toxic shock syndrome if tampons are provided to students at school.

Until more information on this topic is available, only menstrual pads are being considered for distribution. LISTEN! NO YOUNG WOMEN IS GONNA CARE IF IT IS A PAD OR TAMPON. Forget the Legal Guidance, stalling the process, just get PADS!!

Ever tried to roll up toilet paper to use because you don't have a pad? The embarrassment of having to ask another student and to top it off, LEAKAGE!

The DOE can't figure this out, maybe absenteeism isn't important. I hear NO empathy, NO concern, from the DOE only naysaying.

One menstrual pad costs approximately \$0.14. The total cost for menstrual pads each year is estimated to be \$737,000.00. I WOULD CHALLENGE THESE NUMBERS! HAVE YOU HEARD OF BUYING IN BULK?

Here's where the Board is getting thrown under the bus. 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 (Board)-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 294 school campuses. Providing unlimited access to menstrual products for free (instead of for a nominal fee) may have the unintended negative consequence of clogged drains and associated plumbing costs.

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH... But most of us know that many teachers try to have products available. Again, teachers paying out of pocket. Why? Because they do it for our STUDENTS!

Maybe someone needs to remind the DOE who they SERVE!!

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 11:21:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 12:04:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe it is our responsibility to ensure 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. Menstruation places an outsized burden on females and this bill is a key step to ensuring gender equality in our public education system.