



LATE

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

Date: 03/19/2021

Time: 03:21 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate 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 (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 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. 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 HSHS 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 BOE 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.

March 17, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, 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.

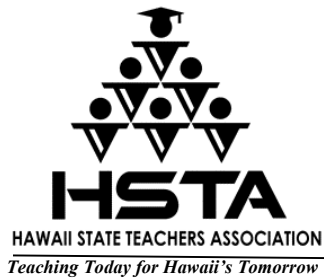
Schools do what they can, but the majority do not have enough. I am grateful for organizations such as the Salvation Army and the local Hilo High and Waiakea High Key Club for stepping up and donating feminine pads for our many needy young female youth/teens in homeless and economically distressed living 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



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SCR 100 / SR 77 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SCR 100/HR 77, 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.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 100

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, & Senate Education Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 19, 2021 (3:21 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SCR 100, which requests that the Hawai'i 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](#).

Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i 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.



The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Education
Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani
Honorable Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Senator Dru Kanuha
Senator Kurt Fevella

Friday, March 19, 2021, 3:21 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 Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports SCR 100** 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.

SCR 100 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.

SCR 100 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 **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

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. Below are a just a few:

Basic necessities for students don't come easy especially in our district. Many families are financially struggling to this day! Poor experience in the educational system I've seen the struggle. I support this bill to help alleviate the unnecessary stresses and mental wellness for young women today. - Ka'ea , District 3 - Kona, Ka'u (96725)

We need to maintain the health and dignity of young women as they grow up. Do not let them become 2nd class citizens because of a normal body function. Dealing with monthly periods is enough of a challenge without having to reuse products which can make them ill or become infected. - Ronda , District 3 - Kona, Ka'u (96740)

Women already face so many hurdles to overcome, access to basic hygiene shouldn't be one of them! I know in some extreme cases girls will skip school due to lack of period products, which in turn can limit their academic success. - Samantha , District 14 - Kapalama, 'Alewa, Kalihi Valley, Ft. Shafter, Moanalua Gardens & Valley, portions of Halawa and 'Aiea (96817)

We need to end period poverty for the health of our keiki. - Alan M , District 14 - Kapalama, 'Alewa, Kalihi Valley, Ft. Shafter, Moanalua Gardens & Valley, portions of Halawa and 'Aiea (96819-1428)

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 18 - Mililani Town, portion of Waipi'o Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia (96789)

A period to many comes as a surprise, it can be frightening, embarrassing, emotional all at the same time. Many times our teens are not prepared with the necessities like pads and tampons. I believe they should be provided to our youth free of charge. - Jessica , District 18 - Mililani Town, portion of Waipi 'o Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia (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 18 - Mililani Town, portion of Waipi 'o Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia (96789)

We have a lot of low income families that struggle to put food on the table. Period products are expensive and should be available to students who might need them in school. - Angela , District 19 - 'Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of 'Ewa Villages (96706)

The United Nations maintains that menstruation is not a girls' or women's issue -- it is a human rights issue. Similarly, the State of Hawaii supports the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and depriving our keiki from accessing menstrual products at public schools would go against our stated commitments to health and well-being (SDG 3), inclusive education (SDG 4), and gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5). As a local planner and advocate for quantitative measures of well-being, I stand behind providing free period products in public schools. - Kendrick , District 19 - 'Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of 'Ewa Villages (96706)

I work as a health provider in high school. I have students who struggle with getting food, they have multiple generations of family members in what is designed as a one family home and feminine hygiene is low on the list for their families. They come to the clinic to get products regularly. Anything we can do to help these young ladies who have so many other obstacles in their lives can help them tremendously. - Michelle , District 22 - Mililani Mauka, Waipi 'o Acres, Wheeler, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, portion of Poamoho (96789)

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 22 - Mililani Mauka, Waipi 'o Acres, Wheeler, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, portion of Poamoho (96789)

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:50:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SCR100. 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.

SCR100 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

SCR100 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:

- 47.39% of DOE students were considered economically challenged in 2019-2020
- Approximately 1 in 5 households in Hawai'i are living below the Federal Poverty Line due to the impact of COVID

- 60% of Hawai'i's local families are struggling to meet basic needs
- 64% of Hawai'i's adults living in households with children who lost employment since March 2020
- Based on preliminary data findings by Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, 44% of menstrual product recipients are on some type of government assistance
- Since the pandemic, 1 out of 3 parents are worried about their ongoing ability to afford period products
- Increased access to menstrual products in public schools increased attendance by 2.4% in a study done in New York City

California, New York and Virginia have already passed laws to make period products available for free to students in public schools. [Alabama](#), [Connecticut](#), [Georgia](#), [Illinois](#), [Iowa](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Delaware](#), [Maryland](#), [New Jersey](#), [Washington](#), [Missouri](#), [Florida](#), [Maine](#), [Minnesota](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Vermont](#) and [West Virginia](#) are following suit and introducing legislation in 2021

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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:16:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi my name is Jamie Kapana 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 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.

LATE

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:28:10 PM
Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Milianta-Laffin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



This is a school supply

STATE

'Ilima Intermediate Students Testifying for Period Equity in Public Schools

(House Finance Committee, Feb 2020)

March 19, 2021

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, 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 SCR100 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, 2021 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.

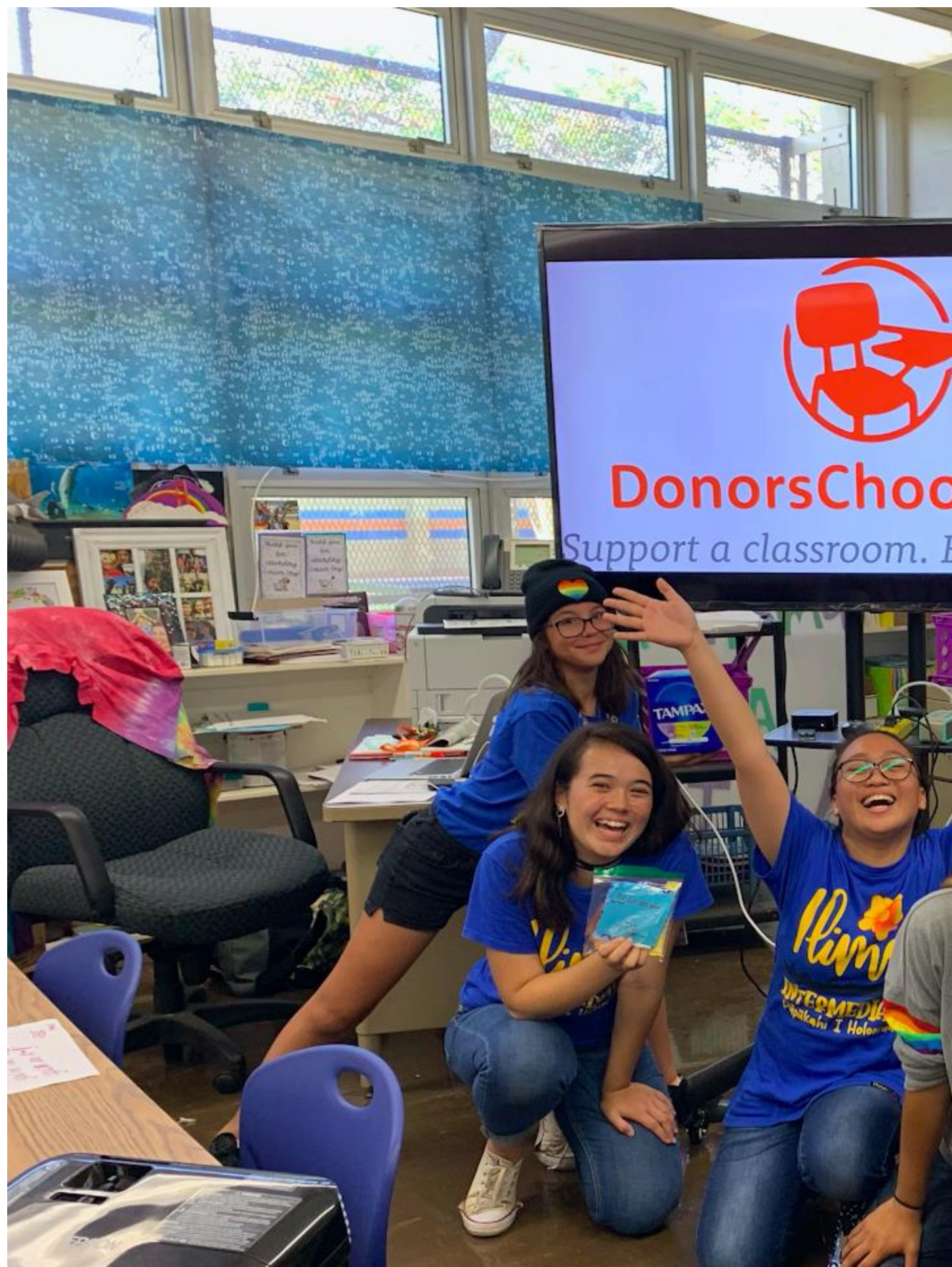
I wrote a grant through DonorsChoose for \$350 to stock the first set, but that level of financing on campus is not sustainable for a single teacher, and proves that this needs to be an item provided on campus.



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

Have an
Amazing
Menstruation
Week ♡
PERIOD!!

Sis, You can
do it
-GSA



(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.”



Ashanti Riparip

Ilima Intermediate 8th Grader

TO-DO LIST FOR SHEDDING MENSTRUAL STIGMA:

- Advocate for me
- Show compassion
- Talk openly about
- Educate yourself
- Read people's st
- Be conscious of
- Keep up with the
- Be



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 19, 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 Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **supports SCR100**, 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



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: Senate Committee on Education
Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani
Honorable Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Senator Dru Kanuha
Senator Kurt Fevella

DATE: Friday, March 19, 2021, 3:21 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 Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition testifies today 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. In addition to resource costs, a lack of access to menstrual products can also cause serious health issues, including emotional duress, physical infection, and disease. Inadequate menstrual support is also associated with other health and psycho-social issues. In addressing these issues, SCR 100 promotes gender equity for girls, women, and transgender and non-binary people and helps ensure the health, safety, and dignity of students in Hawai'i public schools.

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. Research shows that students lacking access to menstrual products experience higher rates of absence and are less able to focus and engage 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 end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

For all of these reasons, the Hawai'i Women's Coalition is pleased to support SCR100.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Contact: hawaiiwomenscoalition@gmail.com

March 17, 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 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.

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.
- **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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:30:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimi Palacio	Testifying for 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 are unfortunately often overlooked as a basic need.

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.

SCR100 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:59:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JoShane Yamauchi	Testifying for Neighborhood Place of Puna	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have served in the Puna district school educational system and truly believe supplying students with menstrual supplies will help our struggling families. I have spoken to teenage girls who would never feel comfortable requesting for feminine products nor do they have the ability to purchase supplies both in or out of school. Please consider providing for the needs of our struggling students.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:01:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 secondary student population 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 SCR 100 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:59:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Ritti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an educator I really see the need to pass this bill.

Currently, students at my school are required to go to the office to purchase menstrual products when they need them.

There are times when I have given them my own to relieve this burden and to ensure they don't miss a big portion of class walking all the way to the office.

At one point, a friend and former colleague of mine shared that she was contacted by the office staff alerting her that one of her students was not supposed to be participating in her club activities because she owed obligations to the school. The obligation ended up being 25 cents owed for menstrual products.

In this case, the incident was sorted out quickly but it really revealed a major sex-based inequity to me. No student should be in a situation where they are not able to have equal access to school activities because they owe the school for period products.

As a teacher, I would love to see period products treated the same way as band aids and other first aid items. Each teacher is given a small supply and students can ask for what they need when they need it free of charge.

This will be much more supportive for our menstruating students and their learning if we remove these unnecessary burdens.

Thank you for your time,

Catherine Ritti

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:42:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 SCR 100 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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:29:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jode Zito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My daughter currently attends an intermediate school where a teacher is providing a product closet for those individuals that need products while at school. She posts signs around the campus letting the students know where the closet is located in her classroom. Any student in need is able to access the products at no charge. My daughter shares, as a student, this gives her great comfort in knowing products are available. While it is commendable that this teacher provides, I do not think it should be the financial responsibility of one teacher who cares and chooses to stock the products as they are costly. It should be the responsibility of the school to provide free products to the students. Products are expensive and those families on limited income may not have the financial resource to provide for the student which can cause undue embarrassment to the student in a classroom setting. I believe providing free products will increase student's mental and emotional well being. Please consider passing this bill so students can have peace of mind if their period comes in the middle of class, or it is heavier than usual, but they weren't prepared, or their family just cannot afford to supply the products monthly. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:02:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

March 18, 2021

Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: Testimony in Support of SCR100

Honourable Senators,

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 to 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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:35:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am writing this testimony in **strong support of SCR 100** to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a fourth-year medical student at JABSOM 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 time and consideration.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:52:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Vo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am both a woman and a medical student. I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. Access to menstrual products plays a key role in school attendance, participation in activities, and overall success. For many of 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.

SCR-100

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

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

AF3IRM Hawai'i testifies in strong support of SCR 100 and an end to all period poverty and reproductive injustice.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:34:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 100 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

LOOKING BACK AT MY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL YEARS I DO RECALL HEALTH ROOM AIDS PROVIDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS WHEN A STUDENT UNEXPECTANTLY STARTED THEIR MENSTRUAL FLOW OR MENSTRUAL FLOWS WERE EXTREMELY HEAVY DURING PHYSICAL ED. THIS IS A NO BRAINER FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHY DID THE SCHOOLS STOP PROVIDING THE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS??

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:21:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 that all period having people should have access to free menstrual products. There are many situations in the school system where period having people are ashamed to ask or too poor to afford menstrual products. Like toilet paper and paper towels, menstrual products should be free in school. Mahalo for all of your hard work and service to Hawai'i.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:28:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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: 3/16/2021 3:57:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this resolution and request that the Department of Education provide these products in its schools. Girls and young women should have access to feminine hygiene products wherever they are.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:44:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 SCR100. 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.

SCR100 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)

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:31:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandy Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*“Aloha, my name is brandy and I am a resident of Hawai'i. I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have *experienced/witnessed/believe embarrassing moments in school of not having access to pads in school. Sometimes using the toilet paper to make a temp pad. Missing class or just worrying about if I have leaked any blood on my clothes over my class time. Leaving school because of a blood leaking on clothes. Sometimes running out of pads from home and not having in school would have me in the health room calling my parents to go home. It's also very embarrassing getting teased by boys for leaking. I hope you consider this Hawaii can be leaders in the pacific showing what we mean when we say we take care of our people. Let's have Hawai'i lead for once in this country be the example to all!!! New Zealand our cousins in the pacific is leading in front of us!! If they can so can Hawai'i!!!!Mahalo for all of your hard work and service to Hawai'i.*”*

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:13:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Jasmine Slovak. I strongly urge the Committee and our Legislature to pass Bill SRC100 into law.

This is an easy progression of our values of equity, education, and health!

As a woman who graduated from the public school system in Hawai'i, the cost of feminine products did create additional pressure in a household where all dollars were counted. I often had to roll toilet paper instead; we should offer the dignity to our rising wā• hine to have the medical supplies they need to ensure that they can focus and learn in a medically and socially secure environment to the best of our known abilities.

Ensuring menstrual equity will ultimately provide equity in education to all students regardless of race, gender, or background. It is a small investment of \$10-\$20/year for each student to have menstrual products in school - a minor amount considering the market and social impact of the future workforce.

We urge you to support HCR178/SCR100 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 service.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:33:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Siralyn Agustin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SCR100 because it is unfair to have students pay for a natural biological function. Schools don't tell students to pay for toilet paper in the bathrooms so it is unfair for menstruating students to have to pay for period products. Menstruating students have created this culture of secretly asking other classmates to check if they have leaked through their clothes and asking for period products from people they're not even close to because students cannot rely on schools to provide for their basic necessities. In addition, period products needs can vary between different students. Some students have heavier periods and heavier flows compared to others which requires them to change their pads or tampons more frequently. I have experienced and seen classmates who have had to resort to using paper towels and to accommodate for the lack of resources available to their needs. If the DOE provided period products to students free of charge it shows support and solidarity for menstruating students.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:26:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writting in support of SCR 100 in which the Department of Education provide FREE menstrual products for all students. This very basic human need to be met by the Department should a student need them. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

JarraeTehani Manasas

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:03:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou, I appreciate this bill. Please support SCR 100 to provide free menstrual products to young women in all public high schools. Mahalo for your time on this important matter.

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HCR 178 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. Not all students who menstruate have equal access to menstrual products, so students who have unpredictable periods or heavy bleeding may opt to stay home or leave school early. A 2019 nationwide study found that students who were unable to afford menstrual products were 5.89 times more likely to miss school. Multiple states have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools. Menstrual products are not a luxury; they are a necessity and every student has the right to feel clean and safe at school.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:30:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clare-Marie Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of SCR100 to request that the DOE provides menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a third-year medical student and an aspiring obstetrician-gynecologist. The patients I currently help to provide care for as a medical student include adolescents who menstruate, and this will continue to be a patient population I will care and advocate for as a future obstetrician-gynecologist. Having free menstrual products on campus available to students is absolutely critical in ensuring that every person has the access to care they deserve. Additionally, the DOE has an opportunity to help abolish the negative stigmas that exist in our society, such as feeling embarrassed or ashamed of menstruation, and help create a positive environment that normalizes menstruation and empowers youth to embrace their physiology. Not only will this aid in boosting adolescent self-confidence, but it also will provide the access to care that vulnerable populations, such as our homeless or impoverished keiki, may otherwise not have access to. Several states including CA, IL, NY, and NH have already passed legislation to provide menstrual products in schools to improve conditions for menstruating adolescents. I hope that Hawaii will soon join these states in providing free menstrual products in schools, as this is of the utmost importance to improve the mental health, physical health, and overall wellbeing of our youth.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:55:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:08:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR100 because of an embarrassing moment I experienced, unexpectedly, in grade school in the early eighties in front of the entire class!! With no menstrual products or sanitary napkins on campus, I was sent to the Nurses Room in a pool of blood.

First of all, menstrual products in public schools are necessary, and furthermore, it should be part of the "budgeting cost" when distributing it across the State at NO COST for students!! Having it accessible and monitored by the Nurse on campus, it will provide a secured notion and productive mindset of self value. No one should go through the same humiliation I experienced, and hope the Department Of Education will understand that this is a natural female cycle, and can be traumatizing for most first time adolescent experience. The Department of Education is like a co-parenting vehicle when it comes to making the right decisions or providing the right tools in motion for the next generation. Better yet, think as a parent when formulating your decision on this SCR100 measure!!

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:13:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anna and I am a resident of Hawaii isand. I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have believe all children in Hawaii should have access to basic necessacities including mentration products for our girls. Requiring schools to provide these products free of charge is a wellness issue. Girls already face so many adversities when it comes to puberty and changes while trying to learn in school. Removing the worry would allow girls to focus and remove the stigma around periods.

Mahalo for all of your hard work and service to Hawai'i.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:41:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a person who was born from a woman, like every other human being, I believe that my mother should have had access to free menstrual products at clinics, hospitals, and other public places. As a girl who grew up in poverty, I should have had access to menstrual products in school, work, and public bathrooms. As a mother, I don't want my daughter to struggle with the access and cost of managing her periods. As a woman, I believe it is our right to have access to free menstrual products because women already carry the responsibility of bearing children in their womb for months, then giving birth. Females are born with the responsibility of managing menstruation as soon as they reach puberty, this is not a choice, it is biological. Females naturally menstrate for one week every month, for about 40 years, that's over 3,000 days of her life. During menstruation, females are tasked with purchasing feminine hygiene products and dealing with hormonal changes such as mood swings, cravings, headaches, body aches, cramps, frustration, and embarrassment. What happens to the girls who cannot afford them and do not have access to menstrual products? Does she walk around with blood stained pants? Or does she miss school to avoid embarrassment? Please make feminine hygiene products accessible in public schools.

Thank you,

Inthava Phanthanouvong

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:43:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this resolution because I have believe girls should be focused on their education and not have to be preoccupied with concerns that they can't even afford menstrual products.

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.

SCR100 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.

Adriann Gin, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:46:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Sarah Michal Hamid and today I testify in strong support of SCR 100. SCR 100 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:10:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important resolution.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Senate Committee on Education

My name is Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. I was born and raised on Maui, and I am a constituent of the island. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SCR 100**, relating to providing free menstrual products for students in all Hawai'i public schools.

This bill is important to me because, as a female, being able to readily access and use menstrual products is a necessity. In high school, I have had friends approach me and whisper in my ear to ask for an extra menstrual product. Sometimes I had one; other times I did not. If I did have one, I would have to discreetly remove the product from my backpack, careful not to let the typically bright color of the wrapper show or make much noise that would indicate that I was holding a menstrual product, and hand it to my friend, who would then hide it within their clothes while making their way to the bathroom. I was fortunate enough to be able to bring extra products with me to school, just in case, but for others, they do not have that privilege. Similar to how many students rely on free and reduced price lunch for their meals, many rely on schools to provide menstrual products that they cannot otherwise obtain elsewhere.

This is an important issue in our state because period poverty is a public health issue. Period poverty refers to inequities related to menstruation, such as a lack of access to safe and sanitary menstrual products and/or being unable to manage periods safely and without stigma or discrimination. Just like my friends in school, many females and non-gender conforming people are embarrassed to ask others for a menstrual product because of the stigma surrounding menstruation, resorting to whispering in a trusted friend's ear and having a product sneakily passed to them. They also have to miss school because of their periods, which takes their focus away from assignments and projects. Menstruation should be considered a normal and natural biological function that is vital to reproductive health, and providing free menstrual products at secondary public schools will enable students to access these products and better manage their periods.

Can I count on you to support SCR 100?

Thank you very much.

Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:38:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because menstrual products are a life necessity for half the world's population but aren't deemed as so. Girls are forced to have and pay for these products. What happens when they can't? Some are ridiculed or bullied, some steal, some even sacrifice their education by staying home from school. These are things I hope the Dept. of Education would want to prevent. Just because society deems these products at luxury tax value, doesn't mean Hawaii's youth has to fall victim. We have a lot of low income students in Hawaii's public school system. I was one of them. One less thing for a student to worry about, means more focus on bettering themselves and their education.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:04:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniela Martinez	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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:24:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 SCR100.

SCR100 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health, mental well-being and academics. People who menstruate are deserving of having their needs supported by giving them access to a necessary resource to take care of themselves.

Menstrual equity is a public health concern. The potential medical issues facing individuals without access to menstrual products, including infections that can cause susceptibility to cervical cancer and infertility, are serious. The fact that these issues primarily affect vulnerable communities, especially along income lines, should move and motivate public health advocates. Greater access to menstrual products through elimination of sales tax and free availability in places accessed by vulnerable communities can have a real impact on the health of these communities for a relatively low investment.

Menstrual equity is a basic equity issue. Just as we have regulated the provision of toilet paper and paper towels in public restrooms, so too should we do the same for menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence, experienced by over half the population for much of their lives, and should not be treated differently than any other basic bodily function.

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

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:28:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:30:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charzelle Flynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. The department of education should take this initiative to support those who are unable to provide feminine products for themselves.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:25:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Providing free menstrual products helps all students access education - period poverty is not something that should keep women and girls limited in the United States.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:00:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:53:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 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 the DOE providing menstrual products on public school campuses. As a female medical student, I have witnessed firsthand how important access to menstrual products is and can improve school attendance, participation in extracurricular activities, and alleviate financial stress. 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:58:55 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT the Senate Resolution SCR 100/SR 77 providing menstrual products to Hawaii Public School girls . I also concur with the testimony already submitted by Ma'i Movement Hawaii Team on this Resolution.

Patricia L Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:48:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Reinhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to voice my support of SCR100, to provide menstrual products to all girls in public schools. Obtaining menstrual products is often stressful for young girls. Girls in at risk situations, who may not have great support at home, will benefit the most from the support of the DOE in this provision. Providing menstrual products is a small thing that we can do to help girls to succeed in school. I believe it is well worth the funding.

Thank you for your support,

Joanna Reinhardt, MPH

MD Candidate, JABSOM 2023

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:51:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara McAllaster	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 planning to go into Obstetrics and Gynecology and I assist in providing 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.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:27:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support.

LATE

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:04:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi everyone! My name is Taylor Robinson, a junior at Pearl City High School, and the Creator of Hawai'i Student Care Resources, which is a youth organization made and led by students to take feedback from our peers and fix issues that are important in order to help students feel more comfortable and ready to learn at school.

I am here, on behalf of my organization, today to strongly support HCR178 because as a student and menstruator myself, I know how important it is to have these readily available for all students.

There have been many instances where I've forgotten my own products or felt ashamed or in too much pain to ask anyone to use theirs. Having these available in all school will not only benefit students of all ages but help those who can not afford to buy their own and others who don't attend school because of this. This will create a more comfortable and clean school environment.

I hope you can take my words to heart as I am a STUDENT reaching out to you and addressing that this is something that would really benefit us. Thank you!

LATE

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 3:24:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Algire	Testifying for 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!

LATE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Friday, March 18, 2021, 3:21 PM, CR 229 & Via Videoconference

Aloha Respective Senators 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: 3/18/2021 10:26:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Surbhi Bansil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of SCR100 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a medical student and I will be providing care for many adolescents who are menstruating in the future. 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,

Surbhi Bansil

LATE

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:27:45 PM
Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of SCR100 to request that the DOE provide menstrual products on public school campuses. I am a current medical student and understand that 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,

Eileen Chen

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:44:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:21:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Hori	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. 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.