



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2024 Regular Session

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference

By:
Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2003, Relating to Menstrual Products

Purpose: Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department.

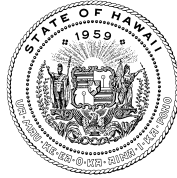
Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports House Bill No. 2003, which would provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms maintained by DAGS.

The Judiciary supports the intent of this measure to address period poverty and help members of the public to have access to essential hygiene products that they may not otherwise have. Access to free menstrual products would provide equitable access to public facilities and reduce barriers faced by individuals at state buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2003.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

JANUARY 31, 2024, 8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 329 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2003

RELATING TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 2003 which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department.

DAGS understands the importance of the availability of feminine hygiene products at designated DAGS-managed building restrooms. DAGS Central Services (CSD) will collaborate with DAGS Public Works Division (PWD) to determine the appropriate physical locations of the dispensers in each restroom to meet building code, safety, health, and accessibility requirements. Our team looks forward to working with stakeholders on implementation.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
January 31, 2024

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB2003 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2003**, which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

Currently, individuals with I/DD residing in licensed or certified homes receive a fixed \$50 monthly personal allowance for incidental expenditures. This allowance, established in 2007, is intended to cover various needs such as telephone expenses, hobbies, prescription drugs, haircuts, clothing, and other incidental items. However, it has become increasingly apparent that essential items like menstrual products, shampoo, and deodorant are often competing for these limited funds.

Females living in these circumstances should not be compelled to allocate their sparse allowance to meet their basic menstrual product needs. House Bill 2003 represents a positive step forward in addressing this issue, ensuring that individuals with I/DD have access to necessary menstrual products without compromising their personal allowance for other essential items. We firmly believe that this bill aligns with our commitment to advocating for the well-being and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities. By removing financial barriers to menstrual products, HB2003 supports the daily lives of those who require these essential items.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB2003**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

H.B. 2003 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** H.B. 2003 which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department.

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is in the process of deploying donated menstrual products at our public libraries but recognize that a consistent source of funding will be needed to make the products available throughout the year. We note that the language of the measure may need to be clarified as public libraries are public buildings, but are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 2003.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

January 30, 2024

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 2003, RELATING TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2003, Relating to Menstrual Products. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 2003, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2003. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:slr



To: Health and Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday Jan. 31, 8:30 AM

Re: Testimony in Support of HB HB 2003

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports HB 2003** which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms. This is especially important for people who may identify as transgender or non-gender conforming and may fight discrimination.

HHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHRC finds great need for products in our outreach on the streets of Honolulu and this bill will go a long way at not only fighting the stigma but increasing access.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center



The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti
Honorable Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
Committee Members

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 8:30 am

RE: Support for HB 2003 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 2003**, which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of public buildings maintained by that department and appropriates funds. We **offer an amendment** to the bill to place signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings to indicate the location of free menstrual products.

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a locally grown organization committed to addressing menstrual inequity and ending period poverty, or the inability to buy and access menstrual products, due to factors including but not limited to financial constraints, lack of menstrual health education, feelings of societal shame or stigma surrounding menstruation, and inadequate access to clean facilities to maintain proper hygiene. We recognize the all-encompassing societal challenges inherent in tackling the broader issue of period poverty and menstrual inequity that disproportionately affects students, low-income and houseless girls and women, trans and gender non-conforming individuals, and those who are incarcerated. Access to period products is a fundamental human right.

Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence experienced by nearly half the population and an estimated [302,000](#) menstruators (aged 10-44 years) in the State of Hawai'i, for much of their lives. Yet, negative sociocultural stigmas associated with menstruation have left many people who experience menstruation feeling shame and without access to resources. Menstruation should not be treated differently from any other basic bodily function, and menstrual products are instrumental to the general health and welfare of those who menstruate. In fact, the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) adopted new policies in 2021 that recognize the adverse physical and mental health consequences of limited access to menstrual products and seek to increase their availability in the workplace and schools.

Free menstrual products are necessary in our state public buildings because such facilities serve the people of Hawai'i and have long provided a safety net for some of our most vulnerable populations. While we were advocating for free menstrual products in all Hawai'i public and charter schools in 2022,

we started to work with the Senate to install dispensers that provide them for free in the Hawai‘i State Capitol bathrooms. Since then, we have worked with the State libraries, courthouses on O‘ahu, Maui, Hawai‘i island, and Kaua‘i, the House of Representatives, and Kaua‘i county on several pilots to expand access to free period products in public-serving facilities. We have anecdotal evidence that access to free period products helped menstruators who were caught off guard or unprepared at the start of their period and are welcomed by many in these spaces.

Further 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 menstrual products at home. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources. Moreover, 46% of adult menstruators reported in a national study, [State of the Period](#), that they are afraid their career growth could be negatively affected if they ask for accommodations. Oftentimes, menstruators suffer through humiliating menstrual moments in public, like bleeding through their clothes or on chairs, which adversely affect their productivity, attention, and social-emotional well-being. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products ensures more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities and reduces barriers faced by visitors to state buildings. Just as the Women’s Legislative Caucus led the change to provide diaper changing stations to make it easier for families visiting the Capitol in both men’s and women’s bathrooms, we want to meet the needs and protect the dignity of all menstruating people.

Since menstruators do not have the option to cease their period or flow, menstrual products should be deemed essential. We regulate and ensure toilet paper and paper towels are available in restrooms to meet basic needs for health and sanitation, and menstrual products are no different. It is well-established in research and our own statewide data that when menstruators have limited access to resources during menstruation, they seek other coping methods. This includes but is not limited to the practice of using unsafe and potentially harmful alternatives, like leaves, paper towels, and socks, using menstrual products beyond the recommended time, or going with none at all. As a result, menstruators face potential medical issues, including preventable infections that make them susceptible to cervical cancer, infertility, and toxic shock syndrome, which are serious and can result in death. It’s a public health concern and unhygienic not to have access to menstrual products, no less so than lack of access to toilet paper.

Lastly, the free provision of menstrual products in public buildings alleviates the burden of period poverty. Menstrual products are becoming economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals in our State. We know from the [Alice in Hawai‘i: 2022 Fact and Figures report](#) that the number of Hawai‘i households struggling to make ends meet reached a new high in 2022, at 44% of households. Equally concerning, 15% of households have income below the federal poverty level, representing a sharp increase from 9% in 2018. According to recent data from the [Household Pulse Survey](#) at the end of 2023, 63% of local households report difficulties paying for usual household expenses; of those, 52% are biologically female.

We also know from our work that those struggling to meet basic needs are likely to be the same individuals impacted by period poverty. The [2021 report conducted by Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma‘i Movement Hawai‘i](#) revealed the extent of the issue in the state. The exceptionally high cost of living and wage gap for women specifically exacerbate period poverty in Hawai‘i. 90% of respondents believe menstrual products are expensive, and nearly 30% of respondents reported that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining them, of which cost was

the most cited reason. Menstruation also impacts participation in daily activities, with half of respondents reporting missing school or work because of it. Menstrual products are vital for the physical and mental health, well-being, and full participation of menstruators. Failure to consider period needs is a form of sex-based discrimination that disproportionately affects menstruators.

There is growing support nationally and globally for expanded access to free menstrual products. Scotland became the first country in the world to pass legislation in 2020 that offers menstrual products free of charge to anyone who needs them. Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) introduced sweeping legislation to address menstrual needs in the federal bill [H.R. 3646 - Menstrual Equity For All Act of 2023](#). In the past few years, [Ann Arbor](#), [Austin](#), [Utah](#), and [Washington DC](#) have passed legislation to make menstrual products free and available in state facilities.

We urge you to support **HB 2003** and welcome you to contact us with any additional questions you may have. Mahalo for your leadership and service to Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

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



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti
Honorable Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
Committee Members

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 8:30 am

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: **Support for HB2003** - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings
Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and committee members,

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

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition respectfully submits testimony **in strong support of HB2003**. The free provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of menstruators. A [national study](#) commissioned by Free the Tampon found that 86% of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 79% have had to improvise a tampon or pad out of toilet paper or something else. Women, māhū, trans men, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people who menstruate deserve to have their basic needs met.

Local data from the [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) explored the extent of period poverty and menstrual inequity in the state. Nearly 30% of respondents reporting that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining period products, **of which high cost was the most cited reason**. 84.7% believe menstrual equity is a real problem, like food and housing insecurity.

By providing menstrual products in state buildings, Hawai'i helps ensure those who menstruate have equal access to public facilities, irrespective of their gender or economic status.

HB2003 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, and gender equality for girls, and transgender and



Hawaii Women's Coalition

non-binary people. For all of these reasons, the Hawai'i Women's Coalition is pleased to support **HB2003**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

PERIOD.

January 30, 2024

Testimony in support of Hawaii House Bill 2003 - ENSURES FREE ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO MENSTRUATE IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

PERIOD. is writing to testify in strong support of HB 2003, which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services maintain a free stock of menstrual products, free of charge, in each covered restroom, in each covered public building. This bill takes practical and essential steps to address menstrual inequity for all people who menstruate, by also ensuring products are available in gender-neutral restrooms, and in the absence of that, at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

Hawaii has already required free menstrual products in schools, and it is time to ensure free menstrual products are also available in public spaces

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public
- Increasing access to menstrual products in public spaces reduces health risks, alleviates the burden of period poverty, and protects the dignity of all people who menstruate.
- Menstrual products are a basic necessity like toilet paper and hand soap.

Establishing wider access to menstrual products would help ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the state.

As a global youth-fueled nonprofit that strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma through service, education, and advocacy, PERIOD. is proud to follow the lead of Hawaiian menstrual equity organizations like the [Mai'i Movement](#) in support of HB 2003. Our strong network of over 200+ volunteer PERIOD. Chapters around the world support the increased access of free menstrual products in public buildings, and applaud this bill.

We at PERIOD. urge all members of this committee to increase access to menstrual products in public buildings and unanimously support HB 2023.

Mahalo,



Michela Bedard
Executive Director
[PERIOD.](#)



Damaris Pereda
National Programs Director
[PERIOD.](#)



January 31, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB 2003 – RELATING TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2003, which will require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department.

HMSA appreciates the legislature's intent to ensure that members of the public have access to essential hygiene products that support public health.

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations



P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe, HI 96744
www.breastfeedinghawaii.org

TO: Representative Della Au Belotti, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Health and Homelessness Committee

FROM: Patricia Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN, IBCLC (Retired)

RE: HB 2003 Relating to Menstrual Products

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:30am

Good Morning Rep. Belotti, Rep. Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness, I am Patricia Bilyk representing Breastfeeding Hawaii. We stand in SUPPORT of HB 2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building in Hawaii.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is a 501c3 non profit organization whose mission is to protect, support and promote breastfeeding in the State of Hawaii. We further work to promote greater menstrual equity for menstruating girls, women and gender-diverse people.

We feel it is important for menstrual products to be free and available in all public women and men restrooms . These products are a basic necessity just like the need for toilet paper and hand soap. We further feel it is important to provide these products for the tourists that visit our Islands.

We encourage you to support this bill. Mahalo for hearing our thoughts on this issue.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:21:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	ACOG Hawaii Section	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

American College of OBGYNs Hawaii Section supports this measure

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:10:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Wilbur	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in very strong support of this measure.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:29:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:42:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siobhan Coad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

This is an important step in addressing menstrual inequity at the State level and will help to protect the dignity of all menstruating people. The burdens of period poverty are well documented and this legislation shows that our government is actively working to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Siobhan Coad, MSW

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:00:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Meinecke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 2003 to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms in public buildings maintained by the department.

For too long, menstruating women have suffered stigma and embarrassment around menstruating, especially when they are caught off guard in public with their period. What's worse is that many tampon and pad machines are either broken, out of order, or only take quarters. In a time where fewer and fewer people carry around loose change, it becomes difficult for a woman to access a menstrual product during her time of need. Can you imagine going to a department building for important meeting or appointment and having to line your underwear with toilet paper out of necessity? Tampons and pads are a basic human right, and we should do our part in providing these in all public restrooms.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:19:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. -breanna zoey (she/they)

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:19:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerestin Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I have experienced times in my life when I have needed access to period products and had no money or way to get them.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:50:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Porras-Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:04:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I have experienced/witnessed/believed **[insert your personal story if you feel comfortable]**.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee, PsyD

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:14:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I have experienced/witnessed/believed **[insert your personal story if you feel comfortable]**.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:16:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Rosenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:45:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and HLT Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2003, which would require the provision of menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Importantly, the bill also requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

Having worked in local public health for over 15 years, I have witnessed how improving access to health products beyond clinic settings can vastly improve community health. Both global and national research attests to the importance of providing low-threshold access to menstrual products. For example, refer to Rawat, et al (2023) at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10318639/#Sec1title>.

This bill takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for considering this important bill to promote health equity in Hawai'i.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:53:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Period products should always be free.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:05:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shantell Calarruda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I support this because I believe it will alleviate the burden of period poverty.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:09:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Menstruation and menstrual health is a matter of health and human rights. The issue of menstrual inequity and period poverty is an ongoing problem that needs to continuously be addressed. The provision of free menstrual products in public building would reduce health risks, aid in alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protect the dignity of all menstruating people.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:16:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Galase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Menstrual equality will ensure that our young women can thrive without the burden of paying for menstrual products if they can't afford it. This is a health issue, a female confidence issue, and an issue that can be helped by providing these products in certain public spaces. Every person in our community relies on an important woman. Let's support our women.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:33:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN on Oahu and I am in strong support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:08:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a husband, support this measure.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:09:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trina Orimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2003, which requires DAGS to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires critical access for all menstruating people by providing products in all gender-neutral restrooms and, in the absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

Free period products are necessary to advance health equity in our state and ensure that all people have access to the necessary services provided in public buildings.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. Mahalo for your support of our community.

With gratitude,

Trina Orimoto

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:10:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to period products is as essential as having toilet paper in a bathroom. Ensuring access to this necessary sanitary product recognizes the need for equal care of Women in our society. It brings the topic from taboo to norm. I believe our government should lead the way in advocating for this important right.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:10:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystine Ann Cabrera	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Krystine, and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am here to support Bill HB2003, which will require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered public building. As a graduate student, I have personally struggled with affording and obtaining the necessary menstrual products during my cycle where I have used toilet paper as an alternative. This struggle has led me to actively advocate for menstrual equity and fight period poverty. In August 2022, I won a \$500 grant from the Pad Project, which provided me with 2,376 menstrual pads to distribute in the East-West Center Residence Halls. While this was helpful, I believe we can do more to address the issue of period poverty. That's why I'm in full support of Bill HB2003. The availability of menstrual products in public buildings would help those who cannot afford to purchase them regularly and provide options for those who need different products for their body and flow. During the Fall of 2022, I hosted two film nights focused on period poverty and had discussions with students who shared their struggles with affording menstrual products. Many students reported that they often put menstrual products last on their priority list, so they can afford food, and pay their rent, which has been difficult with the recent inflation. They even skip class when they have their menstrual period, which is unacceptable. Access to menstrual products is a basic need for all menstruating people and should not impact essential activities of our daily lives. Furthermore, homeless individuals cannot afford these products and have to resort to unsanitary options, such as toilet paper, or no options. The lack of access to menstrual products can lead to health risks, so having these products accessible would protect menstruating people in Hawai'i.

The bill would allow products to be accessible in a sustainable way. In February 2023, I won a \$5,000 grant, which allowed me to purchase various menstrual products to be placed in each female and gender-neutral restroom of our residence halls. Although helpful and well utilized, this is not sustainable because I cannot apply for grants every year to cover these expenses for menstruating individuals. After all, my time as a student there will eventually end. Therefore, having these products readily available would make a difference because it would give access. In conclusion, I believe that Bill HB2003 can make a difference in the lives of menstruating individuals who do not have access to menstrual products.

Thank you for your time.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:45:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness,

I am in strong support of HB2003. This is an important step towards menstrual equity for members of our community who cannot afford to pay for period products. Not everyone will need these products at no cost, but we should ensure that those who do need them have access.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:38:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Parker-Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

My name is Bevin Parker-Evans and I am a resident of Omao, Kaua'i from district 17. I am testifying in support of House bill number #2003. As a resident of Kaua'i, I was able to witness first hand the important impact of introducing menstrual products to our local Kaua'i Middle and High School restrooms in the past few years. Suddenly the 40-50% of homes and families struggling to make ends meet were able to get some relief for their female children when they were attending school during their menstrual cycles. Thank goodness for this type of support when it comes to gender, socioeconomic, and racial injustice of "Period Poverty" in Hawai'i.

Immediately, I thought to myself about this wonderful benefit given to Kaua'i female youth, and how it might be an additional bonus if the state of Hawaii could provide something similar for female adults who are also in need of economic support when it comes to the increased high cost of imported menstrual products. Not only would state buildings benefit from this bill and their employees and visitors, but it would also be a very good thing for all public buildings, including public covered restrooms inside our county buildings, for obvious reasons. Our people are served by the State of Hawai'i and the County governments for business and everyday needs. Many women go to the buildings at least twice per month. Recently, I was at a public restroom where there was a plumber conducting a repair to the toilets. Unfortunately, the entire bathroom was flooded and the two toilets were both inoperable due to the fact that inappropriate cloth rags had been substituted for menstrual pads by a woman during her period and the result was a significant clog and plumbing issue in this bathroom. According to the plumber, he said that it was now a common occurrence with women substituting notebook paper, leaves, socks and other cloth items or diapers for the period products they no longer can afford for their menstrual cycles. Not only was this woman's dignity taken away from her when this accident occurred, but now she felt responsible for the significant costs of repairs and the non-access to the bathroom by others. Providing free menstrual products to women in need may prevent further plumbing issues in our public restrooms and the cost to the state may actually be greatly reduced by eliminating unusual items of a non-flushable type.

Women who work for the government and women who do business inside of government offices deserve to be protected from "Period Poverty" by strengthening our support for women living here in Hawai'i without any penalty, especially due to the high cost of living and the high cost of imported expensive menstrual products.

Obviously, Hawaiian households, particularly on the neighbor islands, have struggled since before Covid lockdown to keep their families safe, keep food on the table and protect themselves from having to move out of state due to the high cost of living in Hawai‘i. Purchasing everyday needed items for personal hygiene has become very difficult. “Period poverty” and menstrual inequity are serious threats to menstrual health, and it can affect mental health as well as our overall general health. The serious impact on public health, gender equality, access to education, workplace equity, and the ability to lead a normal life is a serious detriment to our population of women struggling everyday to live and work in the State of Hawai‘i.

Please, I urge you to support this bill HR 2300 to give funding for the support of the women of Hawai‘i and their health and well-being.

Aloha,

Bevin Parker-Evans

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:54:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauralee Dice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2003. Menstrual products must be equally accessible for everyone. With the rising costs in Hawaii, sometimes it comes with a decision to pay for food or utilities versus other needs such as hygiene or period products. Having these period products available in public restrooms would alleviate some of these pressures and unwanted stigma that individuals and families face in Hawaii. I am a concerned woman, sister, aunt and a person who works daily with menstruating youth. I believe that this would help menstruators tremendously.

Thank you,

Lauralee Dice

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:33:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:45:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhea Jose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Menstrual hygiene is a human right. The importance of allowing access to menstrual products to our community is crucial. I run a menstrual equity initiative at my workplace and we have received a plethora of testimonies that express the relief they feel, physically and mentally, that there are products available in restrooms that are free of cost. Many of our demographic are from low-income, marginalized communities. by this, we learned the importance of reaching this need!

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:34:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimionalani Gamble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2003

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:34:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in the state of Hawai'i, and as a woman in a professional field, I am no stranger to the quiet, stigmatized whispers of, "Do you have an extra tampon?" either from myself or my colleagues. When efforts were first made to keep women out of public life, one key approach was to make public bathrooms unavailable to women, and while we have made significant strides from that time, we can still do better. By making menstrual products available at no cost in public buildings, we are throwing off the prejudices of history, and inviting new perspectives and efforts from everyone in our community. We are welcoming marginalized voices, and telling the people of Hawai'i that everyone deserves to be treated equally, regardless of their gender or sex. Thus, I urge you to pass HB2003, and hope that with its passage, we can do away with the "extra tampon."

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:51:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emi Shigekane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Emi Shigekane and I attend Yale University, but call Kailua home. I am testifying in support of bill HB2003 because I strongly believe that access to menstrual products is a hygienic necessity that we shouldn't have to keep fighting for.

Menstrual products are essential and should be considered a right and not a luxury to procure. Denial of access to such products demonstrates an explicit gender-based exclusion and oppression. Menstruators cannot control nor cease their menstrual cycle and should not suffer simply because of their biology. The bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality, and education equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and I hope you use your position of power to lift our lāhui, prioritizing the health of menstruators across our islands.

Mahalo,

Emi Shigekane

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:01:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 30, 2024

Aloha Chair Au Bellati, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB2003 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, HB2003 requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

In 2021, Ma’i Movement Hawaii and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women published a study to better understand the ways that period poverty affects the menstruators of our state. The study found that 50% of respondents had missed school or work due to their periods and that nearly 30% of respondents had difficulty obtaining period products due to various barriers including cost, knowledge, accessibility, and stigma. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities and reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs. This bill also protects the dignity of all menstruating people and promotes greater menstrual equity in the State.

Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as any other bodily function. It is a biological process, and people who menstruate cannot simply “opt out” of having their periods. Thus, menstrual products are a basic necessity like toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. The state currently provides soap, toilet paper, and paper towels in its bathrooms (and continues to stock them when vandalism or theft occurs) because those are basic necessities that people need to address

their bodily functions. The state doesn't expect non-menstruators to provide their own rolls of toilet paper in each of its buildings, yet it currently does expect menstruators to provide their own menstrual products. This is unfair and has been the status quo for far too long. The State of Hawaii can do better, and the people of Hawaii deserve better.

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Sarah Kern

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:07:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, & Committee,

Two years ago, a coalition of teachers, students, and concerned community members gathered together to fight "period poverty" in our schools. Public school in Hawaii now have period products for any student who needs them. This is good, people first, policy. As our students now expect to have access to this materials in their schools, public bathrooms are the natural next step towards creating an equitable society. Please support.

Mahalo,

Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin,

Teacher, Ilima Intermediate School

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Airabella Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belati, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by producing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in the absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I support this because I have experienced period poverty firsthand and believe that no individual should go through period poverty.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:19:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I am writing in strong SUPPORT of this bill. Access to menstrual products is critical to people's ability to attend work and school and participate in society. Providing products in public spaces will allow people to access these whenever they may need and alleviate the financial and mental burdens of menstrual hygiene products on menstruating people.

Mahalo,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:54:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:40:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support having free period products available in Sate buildings

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:21:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I strongly support this because I believe that menstrual products are a basic necessity like toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products that are regularly supplied in public buildings for public use.

These common restroom items support our humanity and raise us all to an equal level of decency and equitable access to amenities in public facilities regardless of our economic status, financial barriers or extent of preparedness for menstruation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Cyd L. Hoffeld

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:18:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Biological females menstrate. To infer otherwise is ludicrous and causes me to question where or not our Legislature is driven by silly politics or aloha for our under privileged females.

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:34:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Jane Kwan, and I was born and raised in Honolulu. I am currently a senior attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am testifying in support of HB2003 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building.

I strongly support this because I believe the lack of access to period products is a fundamental equity concern that can have a significant impact on an individual's physical and mental health. Given that about half of the population experiences menstruation, which can last for several decades, the financial challenges that many individuals face when acquiring these products is greatly concerning. It can also be a risk to their health if they substitute with unsafe materials (rags, leaves, etc). Thus, period products should be considered a basic need akin to toilet paper and provided in all covered restrooms of public buildings.

For students, experiencing period poverty can also be detrimental to their education. In a recent survey of University of Hawai'i students conducted by Ma'i Movement Hawai'i and George Mason University, about 43% of menstruating students have experienced period poverty in the past year. About one in five of those students have experienced it monthly. Several student participants have also reported academic disruptions as a result of it. Having free menstrual products in the restrooms would undoubtedly greatly alleviate these problems.

I work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Women's Center, where a stock of period products (supplied by donations) is available for students in need of it. Since the start of the Spring 2024 semester (about one month), already 60 products have been distributed. This highlights the need for more accessible period products for students on campus. In my personal experience, I unexpectedly got my period right before a final exam (which was worth a significant portion of my overall grade), and I did not have any pads with me. I questioned the front desk of the university library, a very public place, and learned that they did not stock supplies in any of their bathrooms. Thankfully, I knew my workplace had pads available so I was able to get what I needed and make it to my final exam on time. If not for the Women's Center, taking that exam would have been a very uncomfortable experience and would likely have impacted my performance. However, my experience is

nothing in comparison to those who struggle with access to period products regularly and face greater financial and mental burdens because of it, which is why this bill is so important.

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

Jane Kwan

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:28:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romina Jo Opuencia Banayo	University of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as an OBGYN in Hawai'i I'm

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:36:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Bellati, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Amato, Rep. Ilagan, Rep. Kobayashi, Rep. Marten, Rep. Nishimoto and Rep. Garcia,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB2003, making period products free in our state buildings. This supports health and sanitation. Just as we expect toilet paper, handwashing sinks, and diaper changing tables to be available for all in state buildings, we should also expect period products to be available.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2003.

Urging Strong Support for HB 2003: Addressing Gaps in Public Service Provisions

“If not me, who? If not now, when?” -Rabbi Hillel

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and HLT Committee Members,

I urgently recommend your aye vote for House Bill 2003

We all undertake a form of maintenance with our natural bodily functions which is not a luxury and preserves our dignity. Let’s picture the following: Imagine how unthinkable it would be if public restrooms were without toilet paper? Rushing to find a Kleenex when we sense a sudden sneeze or runny nose. Encountering dysfunctional soap dispensers or sink faucets to wash your hands. Now consider the anxiety and discomfort of unexpectedly needing period products and finding yourself without options in a public space. This should not be a reality for anyone. Period products are as crucial as baby changing stations or running water in our public restroom facilities.

Any concern about “slippery slope” with regards to frivolous funding arguments like high-tech fixtures, interior decoration, or contraceptives is unfounded -it’s about providing a feasible and common-sense policy solution towards standard amenities in public facilities for half the population. Remember when legislatures across the nation advanced societies from the times of cesspools and abolished discriminatory “Whites Only” facilities? Without question, period products consider the same evolution, and already states including ours have been recognized elevating public health and sanitary needs by providing these basic offerings in public school restrooms in what is recognized as part of the upcoming “World Toilet/Bathroom Revolution.”

We are the changemakers responsible for moving the needle within Hawai’i’s standards of living. Assesst Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) locals, deal with immense pressure with staggering inflation and growing costs amounting to mass exodus from so called paradise, and HB 2003 helps those struggling. Countless families have benefitted that their keiki are having the tools needed to succeed in school from SB 2821 enactment (involving many of you in 2022) greatly improving economic opportunities. Implementation in men’s restroom is useful for possibilities where fathers, partners, and male colleagues can assist in situations obtaining products for the women in their lives. HB 2003 positions Hawai’i’s public restrooms to be 21st century ready for all people.

Mahalo nui & muchisimo gracias,

👉 Rudy Ramirez



HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:11:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Bill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Health & Homeless Committeemembers -

I strongly support HB2003. As staff co-located in the UHMānoa Women’s Center, I see the need every day. There are people who cannot afford the basic necessity of period products. The Women’s Center offers free period products and has voluntarily spearheaded programs to provide both INFO re: WHERE students can find period products on campus (at least since 2015) and FREE period products since 2022 (including donated period products from a variety of folks, including Ma’i Movement).

The national and state conversations re: period poverty and period products initiated by groups like Ma’i Movement have brought attention to a long-standing need. As research specific to UH Campuses shared by Ma’i Movement shows, at least 20% of UH students report “period poverty” on a monthly basis. And that study was conducted prior to current inflation.

Period Products should be considered the same as other hygiene items like toilet paper and hand soap – available to the public for free.

HB 2003 brings attention to the need and UH campuses are engaged in conversations, but **students can not** shoulder the cost.

As a woman, I am pleased to see this conversation (which impacts at least 50% of our community) gaining ground -- period products are as fundamental as toilet paper. Support HB2003.

Thank you,

Teresa Bill (Taxpayer & UHMānoa employee)

HB-2003

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:17:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in the state of Hawaii, and we need this bill to pass.

Ricardo Molero Bravo, MD