

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: SB 2821 SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equality  
DATE: March 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Water & Land  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Branco and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB 2821 SD2**. This measure Requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Appropriates moneys

The Commission deeply appreciates the support and attention of these House committees and the Senate in ensuring that public charter schools are included in the effort to address menstrual equalities for public school students

The Commission looks forward to working with the Department of Education, and any other state agency associated with procuring and providing these items to ensure the most cost-effective method for our schools to meet this need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

**Date:** 03/17/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2821, SD2 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2821, SD2. This bill would require the Department to provide free menstrual products to students on all public school campuses.

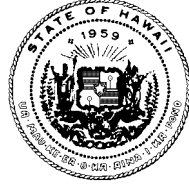
Menstrual products may be difficult for some students to afford or access when they are in need and having these materials available to students for free at school could potentially help them to stay in class and engage in instructional activities. However, passage of this bill would have a financial impact on the Department.

Approximately 45,800 students identified as female are currently enrolled in grades 5-12 in the Department's schools. If each of these individuals uses three products per day for five days every month and the school year consists of 10 months, it is estimated that each person would utilize 150 products per school year. One menstrual pad costs approximately \$0.14. The total cost for menstrual products each year is estimated to be \$1,000,000.00. The Department would opt to not provide tampons because there is a risk for liability in the potential for the user to not follow all labeled directions in the package and the increased risk for infections such as yeast, fungal, and bacterial (e.g. toxic shock syndrome).

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all students.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 16, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2821 SD2– RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.**

Hearing: March 17, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Education (DOE) and the State Public Charter School Commission as to implementation and needed resources. The Department requests the appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding a purpose section; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committee report noted that the appropriation required for this measure is \$1,000,000.

The SD2 amended the measure by:

- (1) Including clarifying information regarding Mai Movement Hawaii's Hoohanohano Initiative;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS recognizes the barriers that individuals face when attempting to access or purchase menstrual products. Often, these barriers prevent vulnerable youth from furthering education and inhibit healthy social interactions. Creating ease of access and free menstrual products for youth has the potential to increase their confidence, educational success, and improve their health and well-being outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**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  
March 17, 2022

The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Woodson and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2821 SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equality

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2821 SD2**, which requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public-school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Appropriates moneys.

Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in a licensed or certified home only receive a \$50 a month personal allowance for their monthly incidental expenditures. Individuals with I/DD who live in these homes must be 18 years or older. However, many of these individuals still attend DoE schooling through the age of 21. The personal allowance these individuals receive has not been increased since 2007. This allowance is for the individual to use on incidental items the individuals may need such as telephone expenses, hobbies, prescription drugs, haircuts, clothing, etc. However, these individuals usually have no money left to spend on most of these items after paying for essential items such as menstrual items, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Females living in these circumstances should not be forced to use this allowance on menstrual products of their choice. We believe this bill is moving our state in the right direction, supporting our individuals that require these menstrual products in their daily lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strongly support of SB2821 SD2**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND WATER & LAND  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2821, S.D. 2

**March 17, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2821, S.D. 2, adds a new section to Chapters 302A and 302D, HRS, to require the Department of Education (DOE) and State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses and public charter school campuses. The measure also appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 23 to DOE and the Commission for this purpose.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

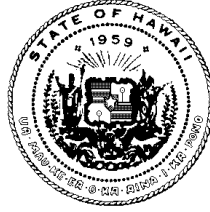
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.





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

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

Support for S.B. 2821 SD2  
March 16, 2022

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

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports SB2821 SD2, which would provide free menstrual products to all Hawai‘i public and charter school campuses. Unlike one year ago, we now have specific data published in the first State of Hawai‘i report on period poverty in partnership with Ma‘i Movement. *Understanding Period Poverty in Hawai‘i* (November 2021) found a concerning lack of material and social support for menstruation, which is resulting in interrupted education for girls and gender non-conforming students.<sup>1</sup> Forty-two percent of 361 survey respondents across the state reported missing or leaving school due to lack of period supplies. Nearly half of respondents did not receive information about menstruation prior to their first period. Sadder still, Ma‘i Movement found that Hawai‘i girls are resorting to socks, baby diapers and even leaves in lieu of period products.

Broadly, period poverty is likely to affect Hawai‘i students because more than half of the state’s public school students come from low income families.<sup>2</sup> If students cannot pay for basic supplies needed to cope with an involuntary bodily function like menstruation, who should? Ninety-four percent of 361 respondents surveyed in *Understanding Period Poverty in Hawai‘i* believe that government should supply free period products.

A small investment in this bill would undo generations of social exclusion, shame and stigma associated with period poverty. Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass SB2821 SD2 in order to achieve equal status for girls and gender diverse students in Hawai‘i.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/11.17.21-Understanding-Period-Poverty-in-Hawaii%CA%BBi-Report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2015/01/more-than-half-of-hawaii-public-school-students-are-low-income/#:~:text=More%20Than%20Half%20of%20Hawaii%20Public%20School%20Students%20Are%20Low%2DIncome,-Reading%20time%3A%202&text=About%2051%20percent%20of%20the,by%20the%20Southern%20Education%20Foundation.>

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



To: House Committee on Education  
Hearing Date/Time: March 17, 2022 2PM  
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2821 SD2

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

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2821 SD2 which would require the DOE and charter schools to provide hygiene products free of charge to all students. This is an important matter of public health but also of equal access to education.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

Sincerely,  
Younghee Overly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Y. Overly", is positioned below the typed name.

Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii  
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net



**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: House Committee on Education  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water & Land  
Representative David Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022

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

**Re: SB282\_SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equality**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports SB2821\_SD2 which requests that the Department of Education provide menstrual products free of charge to students on all Hawai'i public school and charter school campuses.

Menstruation is a natural body function that affects half of our population, and menstrual hygiene products can be very costly. Many of Hawai'i's families are struggling right now and having to make difficult decisions about what they can afford. This is a matter of equity. Individuals with inadequate access to menstrual products often are unable to attend school, face discrimination and harassment, and are more likely to have unhygienic practices around menstruation. Ma'i Movement Hawai'i conducted a pilot program in six schools on O'ahu, Maui, Kua'i and Hawai'i island and found a high need for access to menstrual products. In addition, the program found a correlation between lack of access to menstrual products and school absenteeism.

As gynecologists, we have all taken care of adolescents who miss school for a few days every month because of issues around menstruation. We should be doing all we can to keep students in school.

We respectfully ask you to pass SB2821\_SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:56:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 definitely supports SB2821. This is long overdue. Please pass. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309 and Via Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 2821, SD2**  
**RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.**

Chair WOODSON, Vice Chair KAPELA, and Members of the House Education Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments in support of SB 2821, SD2, which (1) requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses, (2) requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses, and (3) makes an appropriation.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy - one that works for everyone.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that gender and racial equality is a crucial feature of successful democratic societies and effective democratic governments. The lack of adequate access to feminine hygiene products is a form of gender-based exclusion. Menstrual equity is also an issue for marginalized populations, given the costs associated with hygiene products. Our public schools should support women, especially the marginalized, in our system, strengthening democracy for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 2821, SD2. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:59:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Peters	Ho`ola Lahui Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this effort to assure access to free period products by our youth in public and charter schools.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:27:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2821 SD 2.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH





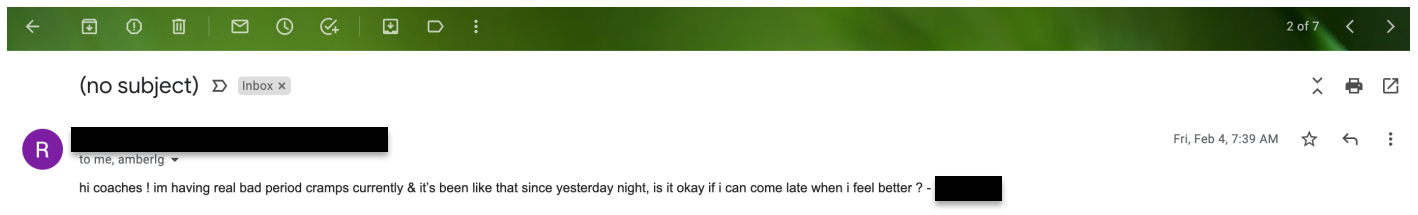
**DREAMHOUSE**  
'EWA BEACH

March 15, 2022

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

**Please accept this testimony as strong SUPPORT for SB2821**, a bill relating to menstrual equity. I cannot tell you how critical this bill is to our students.

I get e-mails like the one below from our female students all the time. Last week, a student sat in my office (principal's office) and threw up into a trash can while I gave her water and, somewhat helplessly, told her it would be okay and not to worry about it.



Our girls are turning into young women, and we (public schools) have them for 8-10 hours a day in our care. Supporting equitable access to products to help each of our young *wahine* grow up in healthy, supportive environments is an honorable, and necessary, commitment we can make together.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at all. Thank you for your leadership.

Alex Teece  
Chief Education Officer  
DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach

**DREAMHOUSE 'EWA BEACH**

91-1245 Franklin D Roosevelt Ave – A | Kalaeloa | HI | 96707



## SENATE BILL 2821, SD 2, RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY

MARCH 17, 2022 · HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
· CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SB 2821, SD 2, relating to menstrual equity, which requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses and requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses.

A national study conducted by the University of Richmond found that **students who are unable to afford menstrual products are six times more likely to be absent or late to school, and four times more likely to leave school early.** If we want to increase achievement and decrease chronic absenteeism, then we need to make menstrual products free and readily available in all schools. Moreover, young women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are often forced to use unhealthy alternatives to quality menstrual products when their families are unable to afford such products, which can lead to serious health conditions, including toxic shock syndrome. Ensuring access to free menstrual products in spaces frequented by young women, including public schools, is a matter of gender justice, healthcare equity, and human rights.

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · [kriscoffield@gmail.com](mailto:kriscoffield@gmail.com)**



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**Papa Ola Lōkahi**

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

**House Committee on Education**

Representative Justin Woodson

Representative Jeanne Kapela

**House Committee on Water & Land**

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Patrick Branco, Vice-Chair

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 2:00 PM, Videoconference**

**RE: SB 2821 SD 2 – Relating to Menstrual Equity**

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice-Chairs Kapela and Branco, and Members of the Committees on Education and Water & Land,

Papa Ola Lōkahi **supports** SB 2821 SD 2, which takes action to end “period poverty” – the systematic lack of access to menstrual supplies, such as pads and tampons – by providing funding so that free menstrual products are available in all public and charter schools.

29.5% of those who responded to the “Understanding Period Poverty in Hawai‘i” survey identified as Native Hawaiian, which may indicate that Native Hawaiians face disproportionate impacts of period poverty. The components in this measure would allow the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to address period poverty as a vehicle to increase educational and gender equity and ultimately contribute to public health. The scope of these efforts would also ensure students in rural communities, who may have fewer options to access menstrual products regardless of cost barriers, have an additional resource.

Papa Ola Lōkahi supports efforts that provide access to necessary health resources, allowing students to participate in school and society fully. Ensuring students have access to menstrual products free of charge may also help alleviate stress and shame, which lack of access to these products may cause, and increase overall health and well-being. SB 2821 SD 2 is one of multiple vehicles in this Legislature that works to increase access to health resources, which is a part of health equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this critical legislation.

*Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.*

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

is the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

**Board of Directors**

*Member Organizations*

*Ho‘ola Lāhui Hawai‘i*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Mālama Ola Nā ‘Ōiwi*

*ALU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamo*

*E Ola Mau*

*University of Hawai‘i*

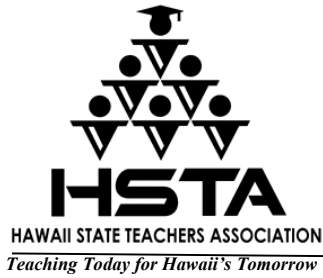
*Hawai‘i State Department of Health*

*Nā Pu‘uwai*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

**Executive Director**

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*



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

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

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2821, SD2– RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support SB2821, SD2**, relating to menstrual equality. This bill requires the Department of Education and the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses and makes unspecified appropriations.

In 2019 New Hampshire's legislature passed legislation, that Governor Chris Sununu signed into law, to provide feminine hygiene products in their secondary public school bathrooms. **We must also move towards providing free feminine hygiene products in secondary school bathrooms.** Again, many states are moving in this direction or have already implemented such legislation.

**By providing these products for our middle and high school students we will promote gender equity in our schools as well as ensure that girls from lower income homes do not miss out on their education simply because their families can't afford to buy these products. Additionally, making these products accessible in bathrooms will help prevent the embarrassment girls face of having to try to hide their sanitary pads or tampons to avoid the attention of male classmates while heading to the restroom or the struggle of trying to find a feminine hygiene product from a classmate or teacher when their period comes unexpectedly.**

To increase gender equity in our state and schools and to ensure access to feminine hygiene products regardless a student's financial situation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association urges you to **support** this bill.



**Bill:** Senate Bill 2821 SD2  
**Title:** Relating to Menstrual Equality  
**Position:** SUPPORT  
**Committee:** House Committee on Education  
**Date:** March 17, 2022 2:00pm

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

We, the members of the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus, give strong support to SB2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality, requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public and charter school campuses. We support this legislation because:

- Ensures all students have access to menstrual hygiene products. This is particularly important for students whose families are struggling financially and have limited means to purchase these products;
- It is a health concern, essentially because people cannot “opt” out of having their periods. This impacts student wellbeing as menstruators are resorting to using leaves, school paper, old rags, diapers, newspapers, and socks when they do not have period products. This opens for the possibility of deadly infections that are PREVENTABLE;
- Reduces the amount of time that students miss school because they do not have access to menstrual hygiene products. A 2021 study by Kotex found that two-thirds of students agree that too many people have to miss out on valuable school time because they do not have the period products they need;

- It is time to destigmatize the need for menstrual hygiene products. These products are now generally only available in the school nurse's office for a FEE.

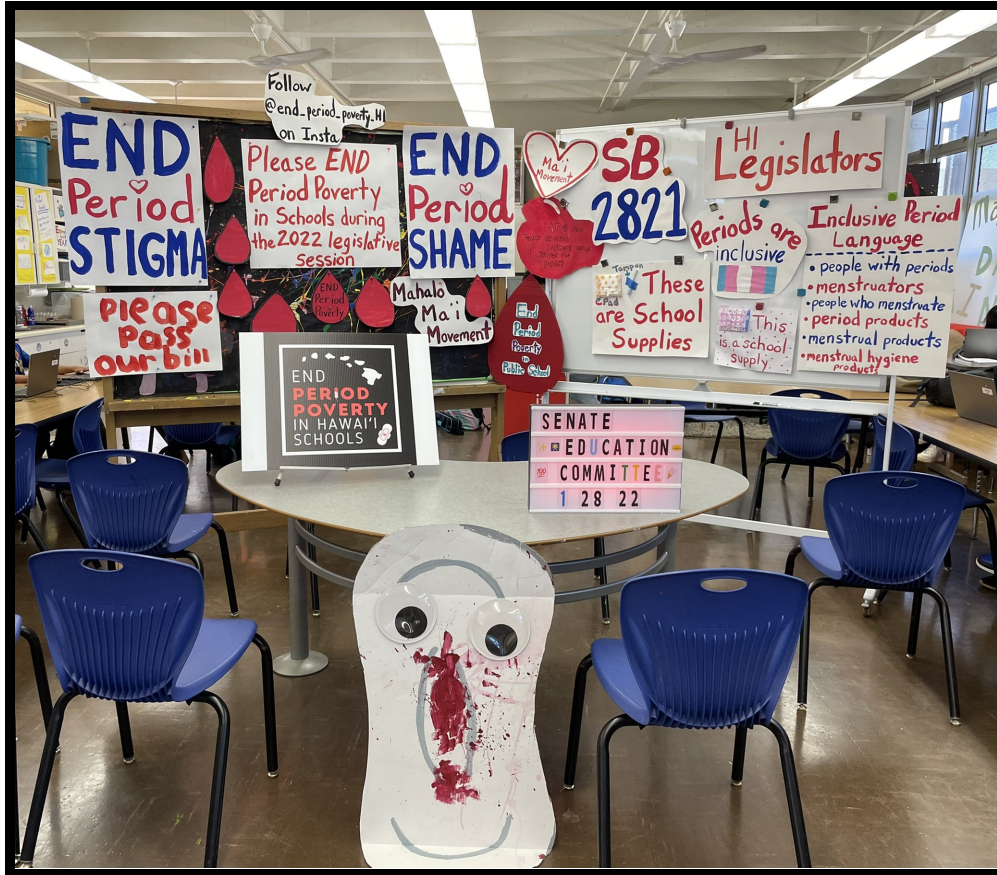
This legislation would have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of students experiencing Period Poverty. It will also serve as ho'omaha for those who have experienced the shame and stigma associated with being caught "unprepared" when their menstrual cycle begins unexpectedly while at school. The Hawai'i State Women's Caucus strongly urges this committee to pass SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo nui loa!

Vickie Kam, HIDOE Educator

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus



Testimony Background designed by 'Ilima Intermediate Students - Spring 2022

March 17, 2022

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
 Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
 Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

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

My name is [Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin](#) and I teach at 'Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach. **Myself, and the students I sponsor in the 'Ilima Intermediate Activist Club and the Rainbow Royales Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Club are writing to you today asking for your support of Senate Bill 2821 SD 2** which directs the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. By supporting this bill, you show that you care about providing basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products.

The recent study conducted by the [Ma'i Movement, and the HI State Commission on the Status of Women](#) found that when students lacked access to period supplies, they sometimes

use newspaper, diapers, leaves, folder paper, napkins, socks, toilet paper, or old rags in place of clean and safe menstrual supplies. Also, 8 out of 10 students in Hawai'i have faced difficulties getting period products when they need them. This data shocked us, and we hope that the realities of what that study learned, will help our state move forward to correct these gross inequities.

My students and I believe the that voting “yes” on SB 2821 SD 2 supports the following:

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

SB 2821 SD 2 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.

The journey for menstrual equity in our public schools has been a long but important one. We know that impactful social justice movements require passion and persistence, and we've been so grateful to work with great leaders at the legislature on this issue over the past few sessions, specifically **Representative Amy Perusso** and **Senator Laura Acasio**. Without a doubt, they've raised the prominence of this issue, and we've been proud to work with them and many other partners to keep our fight moving forward.

You can see this history of period poverty work on Instagram at [@end\\_period\\_poverty\\_hi](#).

We'd also like to thank **Senator Kidani** for meeting with my students last year, and **Senator Kouchi** for his support this session. The positive feedback they received from both legislative



leaders has empowered my students to stay involved on this critical equity issue, even though our bills have failed during the 2020 and 2021 sessions.

While we've been testifying on these issues for 3 years, our argument remains the same.

**Period products are school supplies.** If a student comes to my classroom without a pencil, I give them a pencil. If a student comes to my classroom without menstrual products, I give them those also. In the absence of government and legislative support, we've had to count on donations from the community, through amazing groups like the Ma'i Movement, I Support the Girls - Hawaii, and EWAlution 96706 to keep our "Menstruation Station" stocked. As a teacher, I've also used DonorsChoose.org to crowd-fund the current supplies we have in this station. Since August 2021, we've given out over 400 free menstrual care packs at our school.



While community care is important, good policy can support community care and educational equity. We urge you to please support this bill.

Mahalo for Reading & Joining Us in Supporting SB 2821 SD 2,

Teacher Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin &

The 'Ilima Intermediate School Activist Club & Rainbow Royales GSA Club



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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Education  
Honorable Chair Justin Woodson  
Honorable Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela  
Committee Members

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 2:00 pm

RE: **Support for SB2821** - Requires the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products for free to all students on all campuses

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

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2821** requiring the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to make menstrual products for free to all students on all campuses, and also makes appropriations. Furthermore, we fully support the Senate Committee on Education's recommendation as noted in their committee report which makes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 required for this measure. 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 education, societal shame or stigma, and inadequate access to a clean facilities to maintain proper hygiene.

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i recognizes the all-encompassing societal challenges inherent in tackling the broader issue of period poverty that disproportionately affects students, low-income and houseless girls and women, trans and gender non-conforming individuals, and those that are incarcerated. We are particularly concerned with [statewide statistics from the DOE](#) that found 47% of students in the DOE system were deemed "economically disadvantaged" in 2019. The [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) also revealed the extent of period poverty and menstrual inequity in the state with nearly 30% of respondents reporting that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining period products, of which cost was the most cited reason.

During the resolution hearings in the 2021 session, it was apparent there were still many unanswered questions about the need, cost, implementation, and potential impact of providing period products free to all students. As a result, we are conducting a statewide pilot, [The Ho'ohano Initiative](#), in six schools on O'ahu, Hawai'i island, Maui, and Kaua'i in the 2021-22 academic school year. There are public, charter, Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools, ranging from elementary through high school in urban and rural communities. The pilot program aims to increase student access to period products, including but not limited to pads and/or tampons, by distributing them free of charge throughout each campus. During the pilot, we regularly met with administrators, reviewed product utilization, and assessed the impact of free period products on student attendance, performance, and well-being.

The pilot serves approximately 2,353 students and distributed 38,280 period products since the start of the 2021-22 school year in August 2021 at DreamHouse ‘Ewa Beach, Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate School, Ka’ū High & Pāhala Elementary School, Princess Ke’elikōlani Middle School, and Farrington High School. The average use is 25 products per student and average cost is \$4-5 per student between August and December 2021. In the midyear assessment, 40% of students reported using the products provided. Although the pilot is still ongoing, we found that product usage was impacted by a number of factors, including but not limited to the percentage of students that qualified for free and reduced lunches, estimated number of students in unstable housing, product access and availability to students, and COVID-related absences. For example, Ka’ū High & Pāhala Elementary School, which had the highest average product use and cost per student, is the most geographically isolated school in the pilot with 100% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch, and a high number of students in unstable housing. Furthermore, the schools with the highest and lowest average product use per student to date had approximately the same total cost (approximately \$2,000 midyear), but differed in the number of students enrolled, population demographics, and demonstrated need.

Students were encouraged to freely take the number of products they needed at school. There were no reported incidents of excessive use. We are also aware that the cost of menstrual products is not the only barrier or problematic issue facing many individuals who menstruate face every month. A variety of factors contribute to the pain, unnecessary shame, and difficult experiences many are forced to confront when their period arrives. Some individuals who struggle during their period deal with the reality of limited resources, no home, and abusive relationships. Our transgender and nonbinary community also experience trouble, exacerbated feelings of shame, and other nonbinary-related barriers when accessing menstrual products. Therefore, like meal distributions during school breaks, we sought to supply products at school and home by implementing Take Home Kits, which contained an estimated number of period products needed based on the length of the school break.

The procurement and delivery of period products, such as pads and tampons, was carried out by Ma’i Movement Hawai’i through centralized purchasing with a single vendor for cost efficiency. There was no restriction on purchasing period products, such as pads or tampons, but we met with each school to discuss the quantity needed of each product type and monitored or adjusted the amount ordered based on subsequent use. All schools ordered both pads and tampons, and we noticed tampon requests increased in relation to grade levels. On average, schools requested an allocation of 50% pads and 50% tampons of total quantity at high schools compared to 70% pads and 30% tampons at intermediate and middle school level, and 80% pads and 20% tampons at elementary schools.

We **strongly support** leaving the language of SB2821 permissive to allow schools to purchase the period products their students need. In response to liability and health concerns around tampons, according to a 2020 study [“Device-Associated Menstrual Toxic Shock Syndrome”](#), toxic shock syndrome (TSS) was classically associated with high absorbency tampon use in the 1980s. However, there are multiple forms of TSS, many of which have no connection to menstruation or tampon use and occur in both males and females. In the last 40 years, the incidence of tampon-induced TSS has declined now that changes were made to

tampon absorbency, composition, public health education and labeling regulations. The current incidence of menstrual TSS is 0.5 to 1.0 per 100,00 population.

Since period product distribution was no longer cost prohibitive for schools, we encouraged increased access and availability to students in multiple locations throughout their respective campuses. As a result, schools placed period products in locations such as bathrooms, individual stalls, health room, classrooms, main office, counselors' offices, athletic department, and teen center (if applicable), with all schools placing period products in multiple places. Some schools reported a few incidents of product misuse in the bathrooms at the start of the pilot. However, they were able to effectively and quickly mitigate the situation through educating the students and working with the custodial and facilities teams. Since then, there have been no reported incidents or misuse. In fact, faculty are reporting the opposite: *“Allowing menstruating students to care for themselves without shame or stigma during the school day is absolutely important. I can see that reflection in how these students have felt more empowered and confident in the classroom.”* (Middle Charter School, O'ahu)

By allowing students to get free products in multiple locations on campus, the pilot decreased barriers to access and the practice of using unsafe and potentially harmful alternatives, like leaves, folder paper, and socks, reported at the beginning of the school year. This is unacceptable and we should not tolerate these conditions and environments that could be easily changed. Faculty and students also agreed that embarrassment was the biggest barrier to getting period products, followed by cost and education. The midyear assessment revealed an improvement of 17% - with only 16% of students reporting embarrassment as a barrier compared with 33% at the beginning of the year. Only 27% of students reported they weren't able to get a period product when they needed them at school and the number of faculty that reported witnessing students experiencing difficulties accessing period products dropped from 56% to 1%. One O'ahu high school student commented that *“It was very helpful to have quick access to period products because there were some days where I would unexpectedly get my period and it made me feel more reassured knowing I could go to the health room or teachers classrooms to get the products I need.”* An intermediate faculty member on Kaua'i also commented on the impact of the program on non-menstruating students, citing that *“Boys seem to be less sensitized to the occurrence.”* The program not only addresses menstrual equity directly related to financial constraints, but also speaks to the broader issue of basic needs for menstruating students and breaks down stigma and systemic barriers.

Absenteeism is one of the most powerful predictors of student success or failure. Chronic absenteeism, or missing 15+ days, is a key priority for Hawai'i public schools. While few students were chronically absent because of their periods, the pilot establishes a clear link between access to period products, absenteeism and education loss. After only one semester of the pilot, students reported missing fewer classes (7% improvement) and fewer school days (9% improvement) with access to period products. At the start of the pilot, one out of four faculty reported students missed at least one school day and one out of two reported they missed class or left school on the pretest survey. Now, 37% reported that having period products helped students to reduce missed classes or absences. As expressed by a Maui Middle School teacher, *“This gives girls the chance to keep coming to school, if these products are available. They don't end up in the health room and can continue coming to class.”* Additionally, 29% of faculty observed that providing period products had a positive impact on students' social and emotional well-being.

The data collection shows that needs varied from school to school. From our initial December 2021 report, we estimated an annual cost of \$4-5 per student based on product use at that point in time. While we continue to assess continued costs, based on patterns in ordering and use, we forecast an estimate of \$5-8 per student annually. We will continue to work with the department on finalizing costs as we review product utilization for the duration of the pilot.

We envision distribution to schools by the department to be similar with other mass distribution of products, like PPE or toilet paper and soap, with opportunities for schools to purchase additional products as needed. We modeled our purchasing in the same manner with an initial bulk purchase intended to last the school for two months and ordering on a need basis. With that being said, implementation at each school is critical to the impact of free period products on students. There is currently no clear policy for the provision of period products. Some of our pilot schools and others that we work with reported that period products were allocated in their school budget, but often, many faculty and staff purchased out of their own pocket or through community donations. Consequently, there was also an inconsistent practice of charging students or limiting access. In the best-case scenario, there was no fee levied, but in some cases students paid anywhere from \$0.25-\$1.00 per product. This is not a nominal fee, especially when taking into consideration the number of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch in our schools. Our state policies and budgets must reflect our state priorities and if left to ambiguity, inconsistent practices such as those aforementioned will happen and our students will continue to be negatively impacted. It is not enough to make appropriations for the purchase of period products.

The bill requires the Department of Education and State Public School Charter Commission to make period products free to all students on their respective campuses to ensure that the safety and health of our students remain a priority. Upon completion of the pilot, we will issue a final report on purchasing and implementation guidelines based on learnings from the schools to serve as a model for other schools. The bill also includes all schools because [a 2021 report by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) found that 26.1% of 361 respondents began menstruating in elementary school.

**SB2821** is an initiative that takes steps to end period poverty in Hawai'i and promotes common goals requiring low investment in public health, basic equity, education equity, and gender equality. We urge you to support **SB2821** to help improve the lives of public and charter 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!

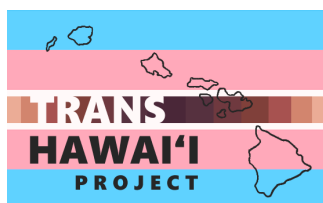
Aloha,

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

## ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Parents And Children Together  
 ACLU of Hawai'i  
 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists,  
 Hawai'i Section  
 AAUW of Hawai'i  
 Hawaii State Teachers Association  
 Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates  
 YWCA O'ahu  
 Hale Kipa  
 Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center  
 Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii  
 Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services  
 Community Alliance on Prisons  
 AF3IRM Hawai'i  
 Breastfeeding Hawaii  
 Going Home Hawaii  
 Trillium Birthing Services  
 Keiki Kaukau  
 Zen Den Midwifery

Hawaii Foodbank  
 Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui  
 Hawai'i Arts Alliance  
 Women Helping Women  
 Pua Mohala Healing & Advocacy Services  
 The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together  
 Bay Clinic, Inc.  
 Trans Hawai'i Project  
 Princess Ke'elikolani Middle School  
 Nest for Families  
 Malama I Ke Ola Health Center  
 UHM Women's Center  
 Maui AIDS Foundation  
 HHSC Kauai Region  
 Lanai Community Health Center  
 Days for Girls International  
 The Pad Project  
 Alliance for Period Supplies  
 The Hanawai Sisterhood



## CONSTITUENT SUPPORT

As of this submission, over 300 individuals signed our petition from all Senate Districts and 48 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](http://maimovement.org/talk-story). Here are just a few of the comments provided:

*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 5 - Naalehu, Ocean View, Capt. Cook, Kealakekua, Kailua-Kona*

*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 40 - Ewa, Ewa Beach, Ewa By Gentry, Iroquois Point*

*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 40 - Ewa, Ewa Beach, Ewa By Gentry, Iroquois Point*

*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 36 - Mililani Mauka, Mililani*

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

*As a teacher, I keep a stash of period products in my classroom. I tell my coworkers of a student ever needs them, send them to me! All products are bought by me. - Rosalie, District 15 - Wailua Homesteads, Hanamaulu, Lihue, Puhi, Old Koloa Town, Omao*



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

**TO:** Honorable Chair Justin Woodson  
Honorable Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela  
House Committee on Education

**DATE:** Thursday, March 17, 2022, 2:00 pm

**FROM:** Hawai'i Women's Coalition

**RE:** **Support for SB2821** - Requires the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products to all students on all Hawaii public and charter school campuses

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, 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 SB2821**. 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.

The [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) revealed the extent of period poverty and menstrual inequity in the state with 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**. The impact of inadequate access to period products on education loss was clear in the report with 42% of respondents missing class or leaving school early because they did not have period products. Compared to a [national study commissioned by Always](#), Hawai'i fared worse. In that study, 1 in 5 struggled to get period products and 1 in 5 girls in the US have missed school.

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





## Hawaii Women's Coalition

inadequate menstrual support 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.

**SB2821** is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity in Hawai‘i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity for girls, and transgender and non-binary people.

For all of these reasons, the Hawai‘i Women’s Coalition is pleased to support **SB2821**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hawai‘i Women’s Coalition

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:31:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD	'Ahahui o na Kauka - Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**'Ahahui o nā Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians) supports improved access to free menstrual products at all public schools.**



March 16, 2022

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Representative Jeanne Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: **HB – Relating to Menstrual Equality**

Aloha Representative Justin H. Woodson, Representative Jeanne Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Education-

My name is Jessica Histo, and I am the founder and president of the Hawai'i Diaper Bank. I am writing in support of **SB 2821, Requiring the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses.**

Menstrual equality especially among our developing keiki is so important. Students should not have to worry about missing school or the embarrassment of potential “accidents,” because they or their family can’t afford something as fundamental as a feminine hygiene product. Thankfully organizations like the Ma‘i Movement have been providing assistance to wāhine all over Hawai‘i. However, I believe like other basic essentials, our elected officials should be working to help all of our children especially within the school setting where they should feel safe and supported.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2821. Please feel free to contact me with any other questions or concerns.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jessica Histo  
Founder and President



[jessica@hawaiidiaperbank.org](mailto:jessica@hawaiidiaperbank.org)  
(808)-385-1167

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

March 16, 2022

To: Representative Justin Woodson Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Education

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2821 SD 1 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY

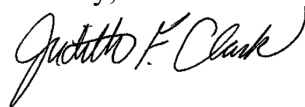
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2821 SD 2 Relating to Menstrual Equality.

Feminine hygiene products are a basic necessity for adolescent girls. For low income students, the cost of feminine hygiene products is a burden. 1 in 5 teens have struggled to afford period products. 84% of teens have either missed or know someone who has missed school due to lack of feminine hygiene products.. In St. Louis, Missouri, 46% of low-income women had to choose between a meal and period products. (freetheperiod.org).

When feminine hygiene supplies are not accessible to students, there are educational, health, and social impacts. Using a pad or tampon for a lengthy period of time can result in strong, unpleasant odors and bleeding through one's clothing. Students may choose to be truant from school to avoid the embarrassment, and the taunts and bullying from their peers. Stale menstrual blood may increase risk of vaginal and urinary track infections.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: March 17, 2022

Where: Conference Room 309

## TESTIMONY

By Kau'i Burgess

Director, Community & Government Relations

RE: **SB 2821, SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equality**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kapela, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha kākou!

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SB 2821, SD2, which requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses and also requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. This measure also makes appropriations.

In our support of Ma'i Movement Hawai'i and our work with Brandy-Lee and Nikki-Ann Yee, co-founders of Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, we've learned and recognized that though there are many challenges that our children and youth face in Hawai'i, menstrual inequity does not need to be one of them.

According to the 2021 Study by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, 26.1% of survey participants began menstruating in elementary school and 62.8% began menstruating in middle school. Furthermore, 21.6% of respondents reported missing a full day of school because they did not have access to period products. Advancing this bill will remove menstruation inequity as a barrier to the continuity of education of public school students throughout Hawai'i.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui; nurture the child and the people thrive. **Please advance this measure.**



## HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
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Michael Robinson, MBA, MA  
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Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
Pharmacare Hawai'i

Titimaeta Ta'ase, JD  
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: March 16, 2022

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Education

Re: Support SB 2821, SD2, Relating to Menstrual Equity

Hrg: February 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM via Videoconference

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **support of SB 2821, SD 2**, which seeks to address period poverty by making menstrual products available free of charge on all public school campuses and public charter school campuses.

Lack of access to menstrual products prevents many menstruating youth from fully participating in society and school. In a recent survey conducted by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i,<sup>ii</sup> 42% of respondents reported having to miss class or leave school early because they did not have period products, with 21.6% reporting having missed a full day of school because they did not have access to period products. Cost was the most commonly identified barrier to obtaining menstrual products.

Additionally, period poverty can have devastating health consequences for those who experience it. Reusing or wearing menstrual products for too long can lead to infection, which can increase the risk for serious health problems, such as cervical cancer or infertility. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2821, SD2.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Fernandes', is written over a white background.

Amanda Fernandes, JD  
Policy and Advocacy Director

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<sup>i</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, 2020, *Understanding period poverty in Hawai'i*, <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/11.17.21-UnderstandingPeriod-Poverty-in-Hawai%CA%BBi-Report.pdf>.



March 16, 2022

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

**Re: S.B. 2821, S.D. 2, RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.**

**Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 2:00 p.m., via videoconference**

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee on Education:

Hawaii Women Lawyers (“HWL”) **supports S.B. 2821, S.D. 2**, which requires the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to provide hygiene products that support public health, such as toilet paper, menstrual products, and hand soap free of charge to all students on all public school campuses; and makes appropriations.

The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Menstruation is a natural and inescapable experience for women and girls. However, this normal bodily function can create numerous challenges, raising not only health and hygiene issues, but also social and human rights issues, especially for those who lack access to adequate menstrual products. Students may be forced to use items that are not sufficient, safe or sanitary to manage their menstrual hygiene or they may make the decision not to attend school at all when they are unable to access supplies.

Providing menstrual products in Hawaii schools ensures that students have access to critical health and hygiene resources that will allow them to have equal access to education regardless of their gender or economic status.

**S.B. 2821, S.D. 2** recognizes the importance of access to basic needs and its impact on gender and education equity; and HWL supports this bill.

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





**TO:** Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Kapela and Branco, and Members of the House Committees on Education and Water and Land

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** March 17, 2022; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309/Video Conference

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2821 SD 2 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY**

**We support SB 2821 which requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses, requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses, and makes appropriations.**

Pre-pandemic, in 2019-2020 roughly 47% of DOE students were considered economically challenged. It is estimated that the pandemic has pushed 60% of local households to struggle meeting basic needs. In a recent statewide survey conducted, 80% of students surveyed faced difficulties getting period products and 50% of faculty members reported students missing at least part of a school day due to lack of access to period products. People living in poverty are most affected by lack of access to period products. These individuals often cannot afford sufficient period products and so disproportionately suffer the medical and psychological impact of reusing products, using products for longer than indicated, not using any products, or resorting to other unsafe or unsanitary materials as a replacement for period products. Lack of access causes shame, embarrassment and, at times, even missing school. Providing period products in our schools positively supports students and impacts not just their physical well-being but also their academic, emotional and social well-being too.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **SB 2821 SD 2**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe, HI 96744  
[www.breastfeedinghawaii.org](http://www.breastfeedinghawaii.org)

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

Representative David Tarnes, Chair  
Representative Patrick Branco, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Water and Land

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

RE: SB 2821 SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equity STRONG SUPPORT

DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022 2pm

Good afternoon Representatives Woodson, Kapela, Tarnes and Branco and members of the Committees on Education and Water and Land.

I am Patricia Bilyk, representing Breastfeeding Hawaii. Our Mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding with advocacy, education and collaboration throughout Hawai'i pae 'aina (Our Islands). As such we feel it is part of our Core Values of Kuleana (Responsibility), Malama (Protect/Take Care of) and Pilina (Connection/Relationship) to be involved and advocate for people with periods who need our protection as they continue their menstrual life journey and have need to have menstrual products every month within our public schools.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2821 SD2. No young menstruating person should be without these products. Being without them causes embarrassment, shame, absence from school, leading them to use less than hygienic items such as leaves, rags, and newspaper, which cause diseases of the reproductive system. This bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equality.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill and we encourage you to pass it out of your Committees.



P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe, HI 96744  
[www.breastfeedinghawaii.org](http://www.breastfeedinghawaii.org)

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:00:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Yee	mai movement	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Brandy and I am testifying in support of bill SB2821. I have experienced period poverty in different times of my life. Starting from my first menstrual cycle at 13 dealing with shame and stigma around periods. In my young adulthood. I became responsible for buying my own toiletries. Being a single mom picking and choosing between pads or food. Because of the shame of having a period from 13 years old those feelings have carried over to adulthood. I still catch myself hiding period products so the men in the office don't see or feel some type of way. usually they are grossed out. I still have a hard time asking to borrow a pad because I am to shame that my friend will think I can't afford it. Having this bill would help end the stigma and shame for menstruators while in school and to help normalize it for them. there is no better place to teach them like their own schools across Hawai'i. School is a place for learning and this bill could be another way of learning and teaching. Menstruators will be able to have access to period products in schools where they might not even have any at home. They will be able to feel clean and not dirty. This may help them with NOT skipping school overall. School is place where children are suppose to feel safe, a place where we nurture their minds. How can we teach children to be caring if we do not show them same compassion. By not having access to these products somewhere on campus we are not showing them any care or compassion. We menstruators do not have a choice to not to bleed. It is biological and we will bleed. It is our kuleana to take care of the people of Hawai'i and the best place to start is with the keiki. They are the true future. This will sit with them for life not a new gym floor or extra trees on campus. You will have changed the lives of both menstruators and non-menstruators by normalizing having products available. Lets end the stigma and shame!

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics a 2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2022

2:00 PM

## **SB 2821 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR MENSTRUAL EQUITY**

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,100 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,113 of Hawai`i’s imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful for this opportunity to share our support for this public health measure. SB 2821 SD2 requires the DOE to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The availability of these products is an important step in the direction of public health. We hope that it is coupled with education about hygiene and public health for both girls and boys.

CAP is proud to support the Ma`i Movement and hope that one day these public health products are widely available to all those that need them, especially those in jails, prisons, and detention centers. The availability of these public health products sends a strong message that the state is in support of public health.

One thing that COVID has taught us is the importance of everyone’s health for the safety of entire communities.

Please pass this measure with a recommendation to FIN to fund it appropriately. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for this public health measure!

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:18:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann S Freed	Hawai'i Democratic Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:



Strong Support for SB2821 SD2

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus, gives strong support to SB2821 SD2 Relating to Menstrual Equality, requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public and charter school campuses. We support this legislation because:

- It ensures all students have access to menstrual hygiene products. This is particularly important for students whose families are struggling financially and have limited means to purchase these products;
- It is a health concern, essentially because people cannot "opt" out of having their periods. This impacts student wellbeing as menstruators are resorting to using leaves, school paper, old rags, diapers, newspapers, and socks when they do not have period products. This opens for the possibility of deadly infections that are PREVENTABLE;
- Reduces the amount of time that students miss school because they do not have access to menstrual hygiene products. A 2021 study by Kotex found that two-thirds of students agree that too many people have to miss out on valuable school time because they do not have the period products they need;
- It is time to destigmatize the need for menstrual hygiene products. These products are now generally only available in the school nurse's office for a FEE. This legislation would have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of students experiencing Period Poverty. It will also serve as ho'omaha for those who have experienced the shame and stigma associated with being caught "unprepared" when their menstrual cycle begins unexpectedly while at school.

The Hawai'i State Women's Caucus strongly urges this committee to pass SB2821 SD1 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo nui loa!

Members of the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus



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

Re: **SB 2821 SD2, Relating to menstrual equity**  
2:00 PM, March 17, 2022

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of Senate Bill 2821 SD2, relating to menstrual equity.**

As a community, we respond to the basic needs of students. We provide free meals and we have partnerships with community health organizations for dental and vision screenings. It is time we included meeting students' menstrual needs as well. With periods beginning as young as 10, students could face these challenges for the majority of their education.<sup>1</sup> A recent study looked at the impact of period poverty or menstrual inequity has on students in Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup> Those surveyed reported:

- Missing school and work because they did not have access to period products;
- Feeling social and emotional distress when they don't have the products they need; and
- Almost a quarter of respondents had to prioritize other essential household expenses, like food, over buying period products.

This is an equity issue within our public health and education systems. The lack of access and means has greater consequences for girls and women and girls and women in low-income families. Providing free menstrual products to all students helps reduce the barrier to accessing the education we all value.

**For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

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<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, Physical Development in Girls: What to Expect During Puberty, <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/puberty/Pages/Physical-Development-Girls-What-to-Expect.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, 2020, *Understanding period poverty in Hawai'i*, <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/11.17.21-Understanding-Period-Poverty-in-Hawai%CA%BBi-Report.pdf>



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:02:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and other Education Committee members,

I am a resident of Makiki neighborhood in Honolulu and strongly support of SB2821 SD2. This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics a 2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives, and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality, and education equity.

My younger self would have liked to have this kind of legislation in place while I was attending school. The least I can do is provide the opportunity for current and future enrolled female students.

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

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:33:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Summer Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Angelina and I am a resident of Waipahu. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I, and countless others have witness young people suffer due to the inaccessibility of period products. As the state with the highest cost of living it is unrealistic to assume all period experiencing people have access and/or excess funds to obtain and restock such products. 12.2% of people live at or below the poverty line. For many schools provide shelter, free meals, access to education- but the line is often drawn at period products. A bodily function that is not optional. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:59:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deisha Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Deisha Davis and I am a resident of Ka'u and counselor at the school. I am testifying in strong support of SB2821, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I have experienced this with my own students here at Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary. A team of us put together Ma'i packets and place products around the campus for easy access. Our students are so happy to receive them. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:22:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Rosenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in strong support of SB2821, which would make menstrual products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because research in Hawai'i shows that educational inequity tied to access to menstrual products. The Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission should supply menstrual products for free to all students - girls as well as transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming individuals - to protect gender equality. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Best,  
Sarah Rosenbach

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:26:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karla Silva-Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former educator in our public schools, a mother of a biological female, and as an employee in higher education I STRONGLY support this bill to provide free menstrual products to ALL our public & charter school keiki. Having your ma'i should not be a barrier to accessing your education-just like poverty or the lack of funds to access appropriate menstrual products. By supporting this effort we are telling our keiki that they matter and their education is valuable. Please support our keiki.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:43:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberly Mahealani Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kimberly Baker and I am a resident of Hana, Maui, Hawaii. This testimony is written in strong support of SB2821, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. This is very important because I have experienced going without these necessities at times as a teenager. I have witnessed some students who are in need of these products ask faculty and staff for feminine products. We also live in a small town with 2 stores that close at 7:00pm daily and sometimes these products are not available in our stores. The drive to the department stores can sometimes take 2 hours to drive to the other side of the island to get these products. By having these products available for our students' would be a blessing. Mahalo for your time and thank your for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Kimberly Baker

Hana High & Elementary School

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:54:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 15, 2022

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Kern and I am a 7th grade science teacher at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School (CKMS). I am writing in strong support of bill SB2821 requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public and charter school campuses.

As a public school teacher in my 9th year (5 years on Oahu at Waianae High School and 4 years here on Kauai), I have seen first hand the ways that inadequate access to menstrual products negatively affects students. Each year, I have provided students with period products which I have personally supplied in my classroom. On several occasions I have had students who miss class, and then tell me upon returning to school that they were absent due to their time of the month. I can only guess at how many students missed class for the same reason but didn't feel comfortable enough to tell me. Some of our health rooms across the state do have a stock of period products that they can distribute to students, but this is not nearly enough. Students should not have to ask for these products, pay for these products, or walk across campus to get these products when they are in need. I'm not sure how many of you have been to Waianae High School's campus, but it's pretty spread out. Walking from a 9th grade classroom to the health room and then to a bathroom could easily take 7-8 minutes. Seven minutes may not seem like a lot, but it is an excruciating amount of time to be a teenager walking around in the open, potentially bleeding through your clothes. Let's prevent all DOE students from ever having to face a situation like this in the future.

Just last year while on recess duty, I came across a former student sitting on a bench sobbing uncontrollably. When I asked her what happened, she said she leaked through her pants and had nothing to use. She was too embarrassed to even stand up to walk to the health room to ask for a pad. I am fortunate to have a male colleague thoughtful enough to keep a few extra jackets in his room for situations like hers, so we were able to give her a jacket to borrow so that she could walk to the office and call her parents. However, this student should never have been in such a position in the first place, and I hope that none of our DOE students will ever be in such a position in the future. CKMS is so fortunate to have been selected as a pilot school for Ma'i Movement's Ho'ohanohano Initiative which has provided us with period products this year at no cost to students. Since the implementation of the pilot program, we have had students share

verbal and written appreciation for the products, and I have spoken with several high school students who are jealous of the program. Students at CKMS no longer feel ashamed or embarrassed to ask for products because they are accessible in the stalls of our girls' bathrooms. Students at CKMS no longer have to use wads of uncomfortable toilet paper/paper towels (or worse) to make it through the day. Students at CKMS no longer have to miss excessive amounts of class walking to the health room, then walking to the bathroom, and then walking back to class. As the pandemic has reminded us all, every minute of in-person classroom instructional time is precious. I am asking for you to give all of our students the opportunities that my CKMS students have had this year, and ensure that they have access to the products that they need.

Period products are health hygiene products. Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as any other bodily function. People who menstruate cannot simply “opt out” of having their periods. The DOE does not bat an eye when it comes to buying extra masks, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc. for students to use to prevent the spread of COVID 19 because it is the humane thing to do. The DOE supplies soap, toilet paper, and paper towels to its bathrooms (and continues to stock them when vandalism or theft occurs) because it is the humane thing to do. The DOE provides me with a supply of band aids in my classroom to use if a student is bleeding from a cut because it is the humane thing to do. Yet when the blood is from another source, a source that the student has no control over, the DOE does not make the humane choice. The State of Hawaii can do better, and the children of Hawaii deserve better.

If this bill is not passed and we continue with the status quo, student well-being is at risk. Families should not have to make the choice between buying groceries and buying period products, but the reality is that they do, and food on the table is going to win over pads for a teenager every time. Students surveyed in the Ho’ohanohano Initiative reported using leaves, school paper, diapers, old rags, newspaper, and socks when they do not have access to period products. These items are not sanitary, and using them opens up the possibility of (sometimes lethal) infection that is preventable! All we need to do to prevent those infections is to get these products into the hands of the students, many of whom are in desperate need.

I strongly urge this committee to pass bill SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. If this bill is passed, we will be one step closer to ending the stigma that plagues menstruators. We will be ensuring that students are not missing one minute of instruction that they don’t need to. We will be progressing toward a more inclusive and equitable education system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sarah Kern



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:16:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicelle Herron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nicci Herron and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I believe that this creates an unfair and unequal advantage for young girls. There is a lot of shame around menstration that should not exist. Having the right products to help you through that time is an essential part to breaking the shame that surrounds menstration. Having a period shouldn't be something that puts a pause on your life or activities. You shouldn't have to miss school or leave class because you don't have the products necessary. This is a normal bodily function. Not something we should be penalized for or something that gets in the way of our opportunities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:31:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support with stipulations that the DOE purchase the natural pads only. The natural pads can break down better if by chance they are thrown in the toilet. Natural pads are better for the environment. Natural pads are better for our daughter's sensitive areas and do not provide cancer risks. Traditional plastic pads are made with bleach and other chemicals that affect feminine neurological systems over time and can cause vaginal irritation. I'm not sure that our school faculties want to be discussing those issues in the open.

Not all parents allow their daughters to use tampons. Although it is the girl's decision of what to wear, tampons have a history causing TSS [*Toxic Shock Syndrome*] or inadvertently breaking the hymen. Those facts lend feasible reason to believe that tampons would be a liability.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:42:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katrina Karl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Katrina Karl and I am a teacher at Waipahu High School. I urge you to pass SB2821. Students at my school have benefitted from increased access to free menstrual products on campus through the organization Ma'i Movement next year. Students at all public schools would benefit from access to free menstrual products, whether they are caught unprepared, have difficulty affording menstrual products on their own or through their families, or face any other issue that leads to menstrual inequity. Please pass SB2821 to help all students maintain the hygiene and dignity they deserve.

Katrina Karl

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:55:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arwen Revere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Arwen and I am a high school student from Kailua. I am testifying in strong support of SB2821, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. I believe that this is an important issue as approximately 8/10 students face difficulties in accessing period products. Almost every day that I am at school, I hear at least one of my classmates ask me or one of my peers for a tampon or pad, as my school does not supply them. There have been times when no one has a product and students use other materials such as napkins or folder paper. I believe that the passing of this bill would help alleviate financial burdens as well as the issue of menstruation stigma.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Arwen Revere (she/her)

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:29:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Diana Harvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support SB2821. Hawai'i leads the nation with the highest cost of living. Many families must make the choice between purchasing period products and buying food. A study in 2021 by the Ma'i Movement and the Hawai'I State Commission on the Status of Women revealed that 50% of the respondents missed school or work and 64.3% felt social and emotional distress due to lack of access to period products to manage a period. By providing easy access to period products we are giving girls and boys equal access to education.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:34:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Henderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Erin Henderson and I am a school counselor at a high school in Kapa'au. I am testifying in strong support of SB2821, which was passed out of the Senate Education Committee with a \$1 million appropriation. It is important because I have witnessed numerous female students in desperate need of period supplies while at school as well as the emotional turmoil that goes along with not having the necessary protection.**

**As a school counselor, many students come to me when they have a problem. Numerous female students were coming and asking if I had a pad they could have. So much so that I created a Donor's Choose project, The Bare Necessities for Girls, to acquire needed period supplies for our students. The success of this project was immeasurable. After receiving my materials, I created flyers to post in all of the girls' bathrooms, including one in each and every stall, which notified female students that feminine supplies were available at no charge. The response was immediate!**

**The girls immediately started coming to me to get pads and tampons. Some comments from that first day were... “Oh my gosh Ms., you saved my life today,” and “This is so great ‘cause I didn’t know I was gonna get my period today and I don’t have anything with me,” and “Thank you so much for doing this for us.” The girls also loved that I had pouches for them to take so carrying their supplies was easy and covert. In the days and weeks that followed, the girls continuously streamed into my office needing supplies. Some of the girls would bring in friends who were too shy to come alone, allowing me to meet other students who I haven’t had the opportunity to meet yet. Here we are, 4 months later, and the girls continue to come to me on the daily.**

**The project has helped many girls with normalizing the fact that menstruation is part of their life and nothing to be ashamed of. It has helped create a culture at our school where it is okay to ask for supplies and it is perfectly normal to not feel great when you are on your period. Many girls have come in to talk to me about sensitive topics like menstrual cramps, bloating, proper hygiene and safety, as well as the emotional ups and downs of menstruation.**

**This bill MUST be passed! Our girls deserve (and require) these period products. I truly believe that the passing of this bill, and the resulting free availability of period products at school, will help boost academic achievement because the girls will be fully able to focus on their learning rather than stressing out about the possibility of having a period related accident at school and the resulting humiliation and social rejection that would surely follow.**

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

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:22:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Castlette N ALE	DOE: Baldwin High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am Castlette N. Ale resident of Kihei, Maui and the School Health Assistant at H.P. Baldwin High

School. I am in support of Bill SB2821 PERIOD PRODUCTS FREE in all Public and Charter schools. It is important because in my experience of 30 years employment in this occupation,

- 1) while attending school, a girls period more times than not, comes unexpectedly;
- 2) she shyly asks friends or an adult for a pad or tampon;
- 3) she doesn't always have a quarter or \$ .50 to purchase a pad or tampon;
- 4) I, the SHA, will charge \$ .50 for a tampon and \$ .25 for a pad (to purchase more). it's free if they can't buy it. Some come back to pay for it, and some don't. My DOE budget is limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill SB2821."

***Castlette N. Ale, SHA***

Baldwin High School





**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:38:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These products are necessities. There is enough shame perpetuated in society for having a period, which should not be. Then to add insult to injury for perhaps not being able to buy these necessities needs to end. Please pass this bill

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:49:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

Reiterating the importance of this bill in creating positive paths for menstruating humans. Providing free resources will have impacts on personal health and academics. Let's see this bill through to passage!

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:55:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Committees on Education and Water & Land,

I strongly support SB 2821, SD2. No menstruator should ever have to go without period products due to their lack of financial resources. DOE and public charter schools should be safe and nurturing establishments that provide youth with such products to prevent bullying, shame, and embarrassment as well as serious negative health and mental health impacts for years to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:04:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Mcmanaman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure!

Pat McManaman

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:27:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

I stand in SUPPORT of SB2821. Which calls for Menstrual products within public schools. This bill creates access to very important hygiene products for our youth. Hawaii has already been named one of the most expensive states to live in, and it has been apparent that many, Hawaii locals, are barely paying the bills with their incomes. It is important that this bill is passed to assure and prevent embarrassment and/or shame amongst our keiki who do not have such access.

Me ke aloha,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:20:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brent Llanaeza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Brent Llanaeza and I am a resident of Honolulu, HI. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I have experienced/witnessed/believe students should be provided the necessary products for their wellbeing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:48:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber P. Leon Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Amber P. Leon Guerrero and I am School Leader of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I have experienced/witnessed/believe *this will alleviate an economic strain on our families, decrease absentism, and allow menstrual students to feel clean, confident and continue their school day without embarrassment/leakage.* Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:52:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa W. Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Melissa W. Chong,

Maui County, Kihei resident

First, I would like to thank the Education Committee for hearing this bill.

I write in **strong support** SB2821 SD2 asking the Dept of Education to provide free period products on all public and charter campuses. I feel passionate about supporting this measure and I know how imperative it is to address the issue of period poverty, especially how it effects our youth. Providing products at schools and eliminating even one angle of period poverty will help bring us as a community a step closer to closing the gender inequalities gap. It has been shown in many states including on surveys in the state of Hawaii, taken across islands, that almost 1/2 of menstruating students have missed multiple days of school due to lack of resourses and product to manage their menstrual cycles. Even more have left school repeatedly (cycles happen every single month!) because of accidents or to acquire products from home, even more still yet miss or leave school from feeling embarrassed or ashamed. This in and of itself means menstruating students, females, will be at an academic disadvantage, simply because of a normal biological process of being female. We can help this.

This bill is important to address and remedy this inequality. Secondly, schools are expected, and do, provide products for basic hygeine and normal bodily functions, such as toilet paper, bandaides, soap etc... considering about half of the students at any school are in need of period products every three weeks or so, this is a huge need that is being overlooked. I said "need" not "want". These are basic needs.

As females, menstruating people, we have all had an embarrassing moment when we've had to use something other than an approved product and had a problem. Its not isolated. I lived through having my make shift roll of toilet paper 'pad' tumble out of my pant leg in the hallway between classes in high school. Talk about wanting to disappear... But, I made due as many girls still do today. I cannot imagine the possible repercussions someone may experience now with social media and a camera in everyone's hand!

Access to Education on this subject, is paramount. students, teachers, and parents. This movement starts the conversation. Thank you for giving me time to share my story. I respectfully ask you to **support SB2821 SD2** and take the first steps to end period poverty on campuses statewide.



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:21:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carli Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, the Committee on Education, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and the Committee on Water and Land,

I am in support of SB2821-SD2. As a public middle school teacher in the Leeward District, I understand how important it is to provide free feminine hygiene products to our menstruating students. Currently, I provide my students with products. They can go into a drawer at any time, grab what they need, and proceed to the restroom.

When menstruation first starts, it can be unpredictable. Students may bleed through their clothes and then walk across campus to purchase supplies since they are not prepared. What about the students who do not have money to buy these products? They may choose to stay home and miss out on instructional time each month, so they do not have to deal with this embarrassment. Or, they may try to use unsafe, homemade materials. Allowing students free access to these products can provide stability and support for all students.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:40:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camile Cleveland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Mahalo

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:48:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, House Committee on Education members.

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB2821 (Relating to Menstrual Equality). As the mother of a daughter in middle school, I know how essential it is for students who menstruate to have access to appropriate and hygienic menstrual products. I was shocked and disheartened to learn (from the local nonprofit organization Ma'i Movement) that eight out of 10 students experience period poverty and are unable to obtain menstrual products due to financial or cultural constraints. Instead, these students are forced to make do with inappropriate and unhygienic substitutes (such as leaves, newspaper, old rags, and toilet paper) or they may skip school entirely. By appropriating funds to DOE and charter schools to purchase and distribute free menstrual products, we can avoid these health, safety, and academic access issues. I humbly request that you approve this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:27:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Blythe and I am a resident of Oahu. I am testifying in strong support of SB2821, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools.

As a citizen in support of the bill SB2821, I am alarmed at how period poverty has impacted our islands. Based on a study conducted in Hawaii between Aug. 2021- Sept. 2021 regarding period poverty, about half of the participants had skipped work or school due to lack of accessibility or finances to obtain hygiene products for their period and about 21% of absences were students.

Despite the proclamation issued by Governor Ige in May 2021 (about increasing awareness of period poverty), there are many people, especially educators and administrators of the DOE, who are still unaware about period poverty as well as how it affects their own school districts. After personally speaking with teachers and educational consultants about the issue, it appears that period poverty is not discussed openly in classrooms or among the school communities (like domestic violence, drug abuse, mental health, teenage pregnancy or other health issues). It is assumed that the feminine hygiene products are provided from the school nurse by requests from students, but only in limited amounts. No resources are provided to students to obtain available feminine products outside of school. Thus, sometimes the amount of feminine hygiene products from school does not necessarily cover the length of the menstrual cycle which leads to unhygienic practices (i.e. over use of pads or tampons) and secondary complications (i.e. Urinary Tract Infection).

There are a vast amount of inconsistencies between how public schools are managing the issue of period poverty. Some public schools created pantries of feminine products that are supported by community organizations that conduct drives for feminine hygiene products. In other situations, such as a school in the windward district, a few teachers are providing hygiene products to their students using their own finances.

The consequences of period poverty in public schools (such as absenteeism and illnesses) is definitely an issue that can be resolved if we pass bill SB2821. As a community we are limited to how we can support period poverty in public schools, not every school has a pantry of feminine products. By passing SB2821, all public and charter schools in Hawaii will receive funding

for informative and tangible resources. In doing so, all of our children can receive help to overcome their obstacles and reach their academic potential.

Thank you for your time, Blythe

March 17, 2022

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and  
Members of the Education Committee,

I am a teacher, parent, and community member from  
Honolulu who is a proud supporter of SB2821:  
Relating to Menstrual Equality.



No matter what gender we are, I think we can all  
relate to the horror and anguish of an embarrassing  
shi shi stain. We quickly look for the nearest book to  
cover our okole or a jacket to tie around our waist. If we sit on a water puddle on a  
bench, we are so quick to point out, "I promise it's only water, not shi shi! Take that  
embarrassed feeling and relate it to a bright red spot on your bottom from a leaking  
period. Bright, glowing red can easily be spotted far, far away. As shi shi dries clear, a  
bright red period spot dries into a dark reddish brown crust that takes massive effort to  
eventually remove.

I asked my daughter if her period ever leaked in middle or high school. She replied,  
"many times." I asked what did you do? She said she would "wrap a jacket on my waist".  
Hmm, I don't think everyone has the foresight to bring an extra jacket to school to hide  
a stain and potentially get stained too.

Periods are finicky. Though periods claim to be monthly, my own experience was very  
irregular. Sometimes light, sometimes heavy, and very unpredictable on which day of  
the month it would be an uninvited guest on my schedule.

A 2021 survey conducted by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and  
Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that: "42% of respondents reported missing class or  
leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. 22% of the  
respondents missed the school day entirely, due to the lack of period products, and of  
those who missed school completely, 12% missed 3-5 school days and 6% missed 6-10  
days of school from the entire academic year." This study and others show the stark  
complexities of period problems. Our female youth are already challenged with enough  
adversities in middle and high school. Helping to provide period products will help  
alleviate a big worry for young ladies and help them focus on their future aspirations.

Mahalo & Happy Saint Patrick's Day! 🍀

*Celeste Yukiko Endo*

Celeste Yukiko Endo



March 15, 2022

To: House Committee on Education  
Rep. Chair J. Woodson  
Rep. Vice Chair J. Kapela

Re: SB2821 SD2 - Relating to Menstrual Equality

Aloha and Hāfa ādai, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nina Gayle Baluran. I am a Master of Social Work Distance Education student from the island of Guam. I am attending the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. **I strongly support SB2821 SD2, relating to menstrual equality that requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public-school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses.**

As a famalāo'an (a woman), the issue of period poverty has affected not only myself but others around me. I have been fortunate enough to have access to period products throughout my life. I understand the privilege I have over others to access period products. As someone who menstruates, there should not be a choice between necessities or cleanliness during their period. I believe that not having the proper necessities to care for menstruation would, in return, lead to detrimental effects on not only women's health but their dignity.

Going to school while on my period has never been a comfortable experience as I did start my cycle at a young age in the 4th grade. Dealing with your menstrual cycle at a young age and being in school is not something every 4th grader can imagine, even more so when you don't have the proper access to period products. This lack of access affected my engagement in day-to-day activities as a child.

Passing this bill will provide schools with menstrual products to students for equal and equitable access to address and further the journey to end period poverty and menstrual injustice. Students should not have to worry about missing school or feel shame for potential "accidents" because their family is struggling to afford something as fundamental as a feminine hygiene product. Many families choose between purchasing period products or other necessities such as food and bypassing this bill provides easier access to period products that protect a student's health and well-being.

**I urge all to support SB2821 SD2 to ensure equity and dignity to all menstruating students, especially those who find it challenging to attain period products.**

Mahalo Nui Loa & Si Yu'us Ma'āse',

Nina Gayle Baluran  
The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health  
MSW Student

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:31:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahina Anguay	Waimea HS, HIDOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Mahina Anguay and I am the principal of Waimea High School on Kauai. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. I feel this is important because as a Title 1 school administrator I have witnessed firsthand that families sometimes are not able to afford period products and girls end up skipping school because they don't have pads or tampons. Waimea High School is one of the pilot schools for this project and we are so thankful to be able to provide this service to our girls.

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

Mahina Anguay

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:29:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and EDN Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of **SB2821 SD2** because I have young nieces in the Hawai'i school system. I want to ensure that they thrive without having to worry about basic health needs such as menstrual products.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics a [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives, and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The 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.

Warmly,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:50:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB2821, relating to menstrual equality. Sanitary products are not inexpensive. By providing tampons and pads within the school systems at no cost, we will help kids attend school when they might otherwise stay home when they have their periods. This is not only educationally important, but is also a kind thing to do. Periods are often unpredictable, especially when kids are young. Therefore, students can't always come to school prepared.

Let's just do the thoughtful thing. Pass this bill and help out kids. We can afford it and they deserve it.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:07:15 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Kinney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of SB2821 to provide free period products in Hawai'i public schools. In 2021, my 15-year old daughter began a personal project called the Hanawai Sisterhood, which provides period products donated by teens and their families to other Hawaii teens in need. She has donated thousands of period products to Kalakaua and Dole Middle School health rooms and also opened mini period pantries in restrooms throughout Punahou's high school, where she attends.

We have personally witnessed the enormous need for these products, as well as the general lack of public awareness for the problem. Many menstruators miss school when on their period. They improvise using unconventional and unsanitary means. Many also experience enormous shame for this healthy and natural bodily function.

I am excited for this opportunity you have to change all of this by providing free and accessible period products to menstruators in public schools. Providing period products in restrooms - as we do toilet paper, soap and paper towels - is the equitable and appropriate decision.

Thank you for understanding the issue and considering this wonderful solution.

Erin Kinney, Maunawili

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:21:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Samulski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While teaching here in Hawaii, two moments of my career stand clear.

This year, as a high school teacher in the DOE, I found out my transgender students, female to male, had a horrendous incident of body dysmorphia when they didn't have menstruation products one day when their cycle started.

And instead of having a simple and discreet place to grab what the hygiene product, required for this basic human need, they had to get a pass to the health room and ask around to multiple adults, until they found who was covering the health room that day, and could actually give them a pad. I implore you to use empathy and imagine how devastating it would be, for this already high-risk population, to have to deconstruct their identity as a man to multiple individuals in a desperate and time-sensitive issue to find quote-unquote "female" hygiene products.

Last year I taught 3rd grade at a state-funded charter school. One day at recess my 9-year student came up to me and told me her period had started and she had didn't have a pad. I brought her to the health room, while working to contact home, only to find out that our health room didn't have a single menstruation product available. I left my teary-eyed student in the room, begged my neighbor teacher to cover my class, then proceeded to run around door to door to ask all the female teachers if they had a spare pad. No one did.

This is unacceptable. The lahui that makes up the teachers of Hawai'i has a duty and obligation to our keiki. That responsibility includes, first and foremost, our students' emotional and physical safety. In failing to provide ready and available access to menstruation products, we the state, are failing in our kuleana to provide the necessary materials and learning environment for our student population to grow and be successful.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:24:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Tochiki	Hawaii State Teachers Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**My name is Sarah Tochiki and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 SD2. It is important to eliminate all barriers that prevent our students from accessing their education.**

**I have a Ma'i Spot in my classroom. It is there for students to access who might need menstrual products.**

**I have a container of pencils that students can take from whenever they might need a pencil.**

**I have a stack of paper and a stack of sheet protectors for their music binders.**

**I tell them, "you do not need to ask, just grab as you need." For those who need these things, eliminating the obstacle for obtaining them allows for learning to be the focus. Menstrual products are school supplies, no different than the pencils and paper in a classroom. Right now they are provided through a non-profit, but they should be universal in every school. Let us make that happen.**

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

**Sarah Tochiki**

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:28:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriann Gin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Adriann and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I believe that costs of these female-specific products is a form of discrimination, and especially when faced with trade-off questions like whether a parent should spend money on feeding her entire family or spending money on period products for their daughter(s). Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Adriann Gin; Honolulu, Hawaii 96821



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:00:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui e nā luna kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao

Our Hanauna Hou deserves the best from the government. Our wahine shouldn't have to be worried about going to school because they have no menstrual products. Please support this funding.

Na‘u nō

Hope Pualani McKeen

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:01:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yuka Polovina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I write to you in strong support of SB2821.**

My professional background related to menstrual health and menstrual equality stem from experience as a former educator of health, hygiene and sexual health education, a former evaluator of school health professional development trainings for the DOE, as well as a Nationally Accredited Health Education Specialist. **Access to menstrual products is a necessity for full participation and equal access to education.** Absenteeism due to menstruation is preventable but disproportionately impacts lower socioeconomic students.

I have also seen the ways in which social stigma around “leaking” and menstrual “accidents” (or fear of them) not only impact students’ ability to attend and fully participate in school, but teaches menstruating people to feel ashamed of their bodies and natural functions. Providing free menstrual products would offer concrete support to ensure everyone can participate fully while helping to destigmatize menstruation. This is an educational lesson that benefits everyone!

**I urge you to pass SB2821.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Yuka Polovina, MPH, PhD

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:53:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pana Kia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Pana and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools. It is important because I believe that the availability of period products is a need, especially if we want to keep students in school regardless of their ability to obtain period products. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:41:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Kapana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jamie Kapana, and I am a resident of Kapolei.

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe that students' priority while in school should be learning and not making sure they have period products.

Growing up, I lost my mom at a young age. This definitely made me ashamed to talk about my period because I didn't have anyone close around me to make me feel comfortable. I went through the foster care system and group homes for a year or two. I remember how ashamed I felt if I needed to ask for period products while also going to school. It was hard for me to adjust, making it even harder during that time of the month.

I know firsthand how hard it can be to deal with a student's perspective. Because of this, I feel it's my responsibility to speak up and ask that you pass SB2821 to make period products accessible for students, so they don't have to worry about running into that situation. Many may feel that this topic is only for girls and women, but that's not true. What example are we giving young boys when we dismiss it "because it's only a girl problem."

No one is being left out and missing out when everyone can show up for school and given the same opportunity to go about their day worry free. Periods are normal and happen all the time. We need to break the stigma around the topic and I strongly believe this bill will help do so.

March 16, 2022

Debra Henton  
95 No Ka Oi Place  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

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

My name is Debra Henton and I am a resident of Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. I serve on several Board of Directors positions on Kauai; Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii a Native Hawaiian Health Center and the Garden Island Federal Credit Union in Lihue, Kauai. Recently I started a Diaper Bank Pantry on Kauai that houses diapers and distributes children and adult diapers to those in need and the underserved. In the pantry we also have a very limited selection of feminine products for those who cannot afford to purchase these products and these products are provided to us by the Ma'i Movement.

I am testifying in strong support of **SB2821**, which was passed out of the Senate Education Committee with a \$1 million appropriation. It is important because I have experienced that having menstrual products in the Hawaii Public school campuses is important and help our young ladies. I personally have witnessed that a pilot program at Chiefess Kamakahalei has helped my niece who is 11 years old. One day out of the blue she needed a feminine product and was so relieved that it was available in the girls' restrooms. She didn't have to be embarrassed and immediately was able to solve her issue. She didn't have to go back into the classroom and interrupt the class so that she could either borrow or ask for some help. I am writing in strong support of **SB2821** and requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawaii Public and charter school campuses. As a mother and grandmother, I am an advocate for addressing this inequity.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics a 2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives, and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The 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. I strongly urge this committee to pass **SB2821** to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and share my direct experience with you.

Mahalo nui loa!



Debra L Henton

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:14:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Logan Okita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2821, SD2.

My name is Logan Okita and I am a National Board Certified Teacher at Nimitz Elementary in Central District and Vice President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

Students who need menstrual products should have access to free products at our schools so they are not excluded from learning or activities due to embarrassment or physical discomfort. Menstrual products are a basic healthcare and safety need the same way bandaids and face masks. Schools give bandaids and face masks to students without thinking twice about the cost, so schools should be able to provide menstrual products without a cost to students also.

After listening to the testimony of students in support of this bill, I realized I grew up with the privilege of being able to access the products I needed to care for myself easily. I did not have to worry about where I would find a pad when I needed one because my parents could afford to keep our bathrooms stocked with menstrual products along with other basic hygiene supplies. I did not think twice when a peer needed a pad because I could give them one from my backpack and replace it when I got home. Every person who menstruates should be able to access these necessary products with ease.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill SB2821, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

Logan Okita, MEd, NBCT

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:32:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ashley Galacgac and resident of Pālolo, O‘ahu.

I strongly support SB2821 SD2, which I am so happy passed out of the Senate Education Committee with a \$1M appropriation. Education Committee, please continue to support the bill moving us one step closer to justice and equity for all learners.

I worked at two public high schools on the westside of O‘ahu. Both schools focused on college access and post-high school planning amongst students. Students from low-income, (im)migrant, and historically oppressed communities often experienced financial, psychological, and social barriers that made it difficult to receive a quality education. SB 2821 addresses menstrual equity as a gender equality issue.

The lack of access to period products is a clear form of gender-based exclusion and oppression. Period 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. Failure to consider period needs is a form of sex-based discrimination that disproportionately affects menstruators. I have witnessed teachers and peers of classmates do their best to share their period products. Even with their collective care, this is a systemic issue. Mahalo to the collective awareness that has come from various organizations, especially the Ma‘i Movement here in Hawai‘i.



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:43:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Education Hearing  
March 17, 2022, 2:00 PM HST

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui to Chair WOODSON, Vice-Chair KAPELA, and members of the House Committee on Education for holding this hearing on SB2821 SD2.

My name is Jasmine Slovak; I am an O'ahu resident and wāhine. I write in support of SB2821 SD2. I believe this bill moves us closer to ensuring that our emerging women have the means to an education that is secure, safe, and fosters an environment where they know that their needs will be met, in order to afford them equal access to the mental health and attitude to gaining the most out of their learning environment.

I ask that you support this bill; thank you for allowing me to testify.

E mālama pono,

Jasmine Slovak

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:53:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Cyd Hoffeld and I am a resident of Hawai'i Island. I am testifying in **strong support** of **SB2821**, which would make period products free in all public and charter schools.

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

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:55:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jill Fletcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Co-Chair, and Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of this bill. It's essential step in equitable education. You are doing the right thing by passing it.

Jill Fletcher, teacher

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:56:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austen Kinney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of SB2821 to provide free period products in Hawai'i public schools. In 2021, I began a personal project called the Hanawai Sisterhood, which provides period products donated by teens and their families to other Hawaii teens in need. We have donated thousands of period products to Kalakaua and Dole Middle School health rooms and also opened mini period pantries in restrooms throughout Punahou's high school, where I attend.

I have personally witnessed the enormous need for these products, as well as the general lack of public awareness for the problem. Many menstruators miss school when on their period. They improvise using unconventional and unsanitary means. Many also experience enormous shame for this healthy and natural bodily function.

I am excited for this opportunity you have to change all of this by providing free and accessible period products to menstruators in public schools. Providing period products in restrooms - as we do toilet paper, soap and paper towels - is the equitable and appropriate decision.

Thank you for understanding the issue and considering this wonderful solution.

Austen Kinney, Maunawili

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:59:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Quigley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Respected Legislators.

My support for Menstrual Equity is local, National, and global.

Not having access to menstrual supplies for whatever reason: rich or poor, urban or suburban, foster home or family, should NEVER be a reason to not attend school, or school event. School isn't just a place for academics, but nurtures youth towards social skills, activities, etc.

Normalizing a normal body function as a clear sign of good health is paramount.

We can end Period Poverty, Period Shame, Period Stigma, and Period Silence in Hawaii and be leaders in this vital Menstrual Equity Movement.

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:00:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rozlyn Calderon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To: Committee on Education**

**Hearing Date/Time: Thursday., March. 17, 2022, 2:00PM**

**Re: Testimony Supporting SB2821**

**Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee,**

**My name is Rozlyn Calderon, I am the Regional Field Organizer for Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates Hawai'i writing today to urge you to support SB2821. Expanding accessibility to menstrual products is a critical step to advance equity in our schools. Providing health care in all educational settings is a powerful way to ensure generations of young adults are empowered to plan for their futures and lead healthier lives.**

**Additionally the lack of access to period products is a clear form of gender-based exclusion and oppression. Period 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. Failure to consider period needs is a form of sex-based discrimination that disproportionately affects menstruators.**

**Please support SB2821 and expand accessibility to menstrual products for our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for hearing this important bill.**

**Sincerely,**

**Rozlyn Calderon**

**Regional Field Organizer PPAA HI**

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:57:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Farrah-Marie Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 16, 2022

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2821, SD2 relating to menstrual equity. Although a member of the Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women and the University of Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women, as well as serving as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the testimony I provide today is in my personal capacity as a lifelong resident and citizen of Hawaii Island.

It was heartwarming to read the pages of testimony submitted for SB2821 and HB2249 earlier this session and I am grateful that your committee has agreed to hear this important bill now that it has made crossover. It is clear that the issue of period poverty is real here in Hawaii. Parents do not choose the gender of their child and children who are born female are not asked at puberty if they wish to menstruate or not. Women do not have the choice the opt-out of having their period each month. These are some of the fundamental facts of life for women. The physical, psychological and social burdens of having to deal with menstruation once a month are challenging enough. Adding the financial burden to this can make it unsurmountable, especially for families who are already suffering to make ends meet during extremely difficult economic times.

While the financial cost of this measure appears to be a major sticking point for those who support the intent of this bill and offer comments for consideration, it should be noted that not all female students will seek out this service if and when made available on school campuses across the state, not initially anyways. The stigma attached to menstruating and not having adequate resources will need to be addressed before some students will build the confidence to seek assistance. Additionally, those who are able to afford their own products, may and likely will continue to do so. Through an equity lens, this bill attempts to level some of the field that our young women are having to navigate during already tumultuous times of their lives. This bill attempts to remove a financial barrier and increase access to a necessity for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Please join others around Hawai'i who are contributing resources to this worthy cause. In December 2021, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association (student government) approved up to \$32,200 for the purchase of supplies in support of their UH Hilo Menstrual

Equity project that would provide feminine hygiene products for UH Hilo students in need. Last month, the Hawai'i County Committee on the Status of Women approved \$2,400 for the purchase of feminine hygiene products to help some of the local high schools be able to start providing these products to young women at their schools.

Your support of young women across our entire state is recognized and greatly appreciated. I kindly ask for your vote in support of this measure. It carries a much larger message about gender equity, so much so that entire communities are mobilized around and behind you to assist in moving this effort forward.

Mahalo,

Farrah-Marie Gomes, Ph.D.



**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:08:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marilyn Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Woodson,

I have a concern that, when low income families cannot afford certain necessities, that the government would choose to provide those needs to all including those who can afford them. Do the other multiple states mentioned in this bill provide free personal products to all students? I think that there's a way to provide menstrual products to low income students without exposing their income or need. If not, then where do no-cost items end?

March 27, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Agaran, 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

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:16:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brent Underwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**March 17, 2022**

**To:**

**Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair,**

**Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, and**

**Members of the Senate Committee on Education**

**From: Brent Underwood**

**Subject: Support of Senate Bill 2821 SD2, relating to menstrual equality**

**I am writing to you on behalf of SB2821 SD2 and strongly ask for your support of this bill.**

**Periods can come unexpectedly, and many times this is at school where students are at most of the day. By having the menstrual products in the bathrooms, students would be prepared when their period does happen to come at school. Periods can also have a bad effect on education. Many students will not go to their classes because of their embarrassment over their periods. By having the menstrual supplies in the bathrooms, the students would be able to remedy this problem and go to their classes. Finally, this bill will**

**help alleviate the economic strain that having a period causes. Pads and tampons can be expensive to buy and cause economic strain. By having the free menstrual supplies at the schools, students will be able to have access to menstrual supplies.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration of SB2821 SD2, relating to menstrual equality.**

**SB-2821-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:06:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dustin Hirayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dustin Hirayama and I am a resident of Kapolei. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I grew up in a household with my mother and two younger sisters and never had to worry about the challenges associated with menstruation.

I can't imagine my mother or sisters in school and in need of products without having access to them. I can only imagine the stress, anxiety, and embarrassment one would feel.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. Statewide statistics a 2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The 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 for this bill.