



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

**Date:** 01/28/2022

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2821 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. Makes appropriations.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2821 requiring the Department to provide free menstrual products to all students on all public school campus, but offers the following comments.

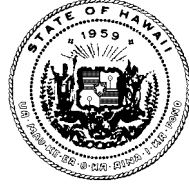
Menstrual products may be difficult for some students to afford or access when they are in need and having these materials available to students for free at school campuses could potentially help them to stay in class and engage in instructional and co-curricular activities. However, passage of this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

Approximately 45,800 students identified as female are currently enrolled in grades 5-12 in Hawaii public non-charter schools. If each of these individuals uses three products per day for five days every month and the school year lasts ten months, it is estimated that each person would utilize 150 products per school year. Only menstrual pads (i.e., not tampons) would be provided to students to avoid liability for toxic shock syndrome. One menstrual pad costs approximately \$0.14. The total cost for menstrual products each year is estimated to be \$961,800. The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 and 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.

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

January 25, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2821– RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY.**

Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2022 3:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 229,  
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.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require DOE to provide menstrual products, free of charge, to students on all public school campuses. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products to all students, free of charge.

DHS recognizes the barriers that individuals face when attempting to access or purchase menstrual products. Oftentimes, 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



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 Relating to Menstrual Equality  
DATE: January 28, 2022  
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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

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

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

The Commission does have questions regarding the cost, amount of product, procurement and implementation of the program. The Commission would appreciate working with the Legislature, 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.



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  
January 28, 2022

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Kidani and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2821**, which requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public-school campuses.

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.

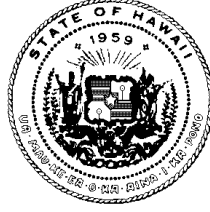
Females living in these circumstances should not be forced to use this allowance on menstrual products of their choice. We believe this bill is moving our state in the right direction, supporting our individuals that require these menstrual products in their daily lives.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



‘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 SB2821  
January 27, 2022

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports SB2821, 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 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-Hawai%CA%BBi-Report.pdf>

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

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



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

Friday, January 28, 2022, 3:00 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 Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, 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. 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'ohanohano 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. 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, the school with 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. 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."*

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	Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii
ACLU of Hawai'i	Hawai'i Arts Alliance
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section	Women Helping Women
AAUW of Hawai'i	Pua Mohala Healing & Advocacy Services
Hawaii State Teachers Association	The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Bay Clinic, Inc.
YWCA O'ahu	Trans Hawai'i Project
Hale Kipa	Princess Ke'elikolani Middle School
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center	Nest for Families
Community Alliance on Prisons	Malama I Ke Ola Health Center
AF3IRM Hawai'i	UHM Women's Center
Breastfeeding Hawaii	Maui AIDS Foundation
Going Home Hawaii	HHSC Kauai Region
Trillium Birthing Services	Lanai Community Health Center
Keiki Kaukau	Days for Girls International
	The Pad Project
	Alliance for Period Supplies

## CONSTITUENT SUPPORT

As of this submission, 284 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).



# PERIOD POVERTY & MENSTRUAL INEQUITY IN HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Ho'ohanohano Initiative conducted by Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a statewide pilot in six schools on O'ahu, Hawai'i island, Maui and Kaua'i. The pilot distributes period products to students and tracks the product usage over time in each school. Pre- and post-surveys of students and faculty are conducted to measure the impact of free period products on student attendance, performance and overall well-being.

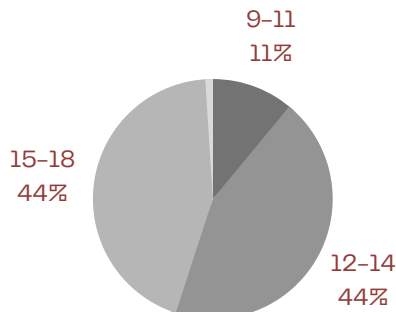


## 6 SCHOOLS IN THE PILOT

Elementary through high school in urban and rural communities. There are public, charter, Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools. 278 faculty and 871 students completed the pre-survey. Additional surveys will be conducted mid-year and end of year.

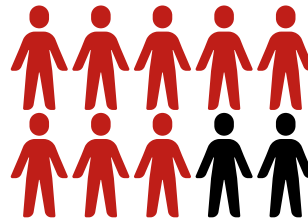
## LOW COST INITIATIVE

30,876 products per semester  
2,353 estimated menstruators  
2.6 period products per month  
\$4 - \$5 per student annually



## AGES OF STUDENTS

A large proportion of students are Filipino (60%) and/or Native Hawaiian (22%). More than half reported getting their first period by the time the pre-survey was conducted.

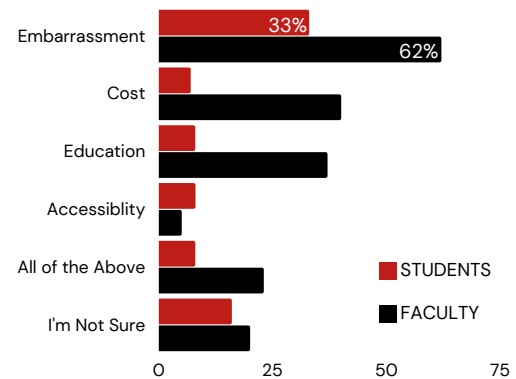


## 8 / 10 STUDENTS

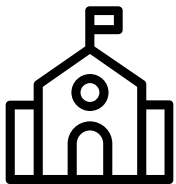
FACE DIFFICULTIES  
GETTING PERIOD  
PRODUCTS

56% of faculty have witnessed it.

## BARRIERS TO ACCESS



Faculty and students agree that embarrassment is the biggest barrier to students. In addition, faculty cite cost and education as major barriers for students to get period products.



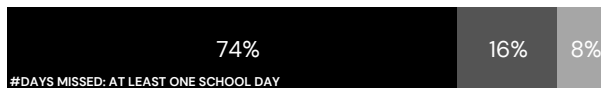
## ABSENTEEISM & EDUCATION INEQUITY

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.

1 / 4

### FACULTY

SAY STUDENTS  
MISSED AT LEAST  
ONE SCHOOL DAY



13% of students reported missing at least one school day because they lacked access to period products. Of those, 26% missed 3 or more school days in a year.

1 / 2

### FACULTY

SAY STUDENTS  
MISSED PART OF  
THE SCHOOL DAY



22% of students reported missing part of the school day because they lacked access to period products. Of those, 31% missed classes 3 or more days in a year.

## WHEN STUDENTS LACKED PERIOD PRODUCTS THEY USED

- NEWSPAPERS
- DIAPERS
- LEAVES
- FOLDER PAPER
- NAPKINS
- SOCKS
- TOILET PAPER
- OLD RAGS

## 53% OF FACULTY

Are unsure if students receive adequate education about menstruation and how to manage it. Only 8% of faculty said education was adequate, while half of students said it was not.

**"I USED A RED-MAROON JACKET TO HIDE THE LEAKING.  
I WANTED TO MISS SCHOOL BUT JUST CARRIED ON WITH MY JACKET."**

- Middle School Student, Kaua'i



95% STUDENTS  
91% FACULTY

**SAY YES TO  
FREE PERIOD  
PRODUCTS IN  
SCHOOLS**

**IT'S TIME TO  
TAKE ACTION**

↑ [MAIMOVEMENT.ORG](http://MAIMOVEMENT.ORG) @MAIMOVEMENTHAWAII



# PRIORITIZING PERIOD POVERTY

## THE POWER OF ALLEVIATING PERIOD POVERTY IN OUR HAWAII PUBLIC & CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Ho'ohanohano Initiative is a pilot program that aims to increase student access to period products, including but not limited to pads and tampons, by distributing them free of charge in six schools on O'ahu, Hawai'i island, Maui, and Kaua'i. There are public, charter, Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools, ranging from elementary through high school in urban and rural communities. This impact report reflects midyear data from 237 faculty and 579 students during the 2021-22 school year. We reviewed product utilization and assessed the impact of free period products on student attendance, performance, and overall well-being. [Pre-survey results can be viewed HERE.](#)

*OUR GIRLS USED TO HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR PADS. IF THEY COULDN'T AFFORD IT, THEY WOULD STAY HOME AND USE OTHER THINGS TO TAKE [CARE] OF THEIR PERIOD NEEDS.*

*THIS PROGRAM IS A BLESSING.*

- High School Faculty, O'ahu

### **COST & USAGE**

Served approximately 2,353 students by distributing 38,280 period products since the start of the 2021-22 school year

Average use = 25 products per student\*  
Average cost = \$4-5 per student\*

40% OF STUDENTS USED THE PRODUCTS PROVIDED

\*between August and December 2021

### **PRODUCTS WERE MADE FREE AND AVAILABLE IN**

BATHROOMS & STALLS  
HEALTH ROOM  
COUNSELOR'S OFFICE  
CLASSROOMS  
MAIN OFFICE  
TEEN CENTER  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### **DECREASED BARRIERS TO ACCESSING PRODUCTS**

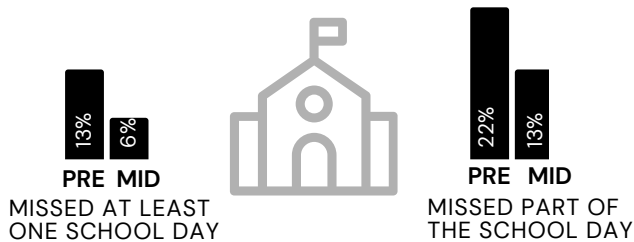
At the beginning of the school year, faculty and students agreed that embarrassment was the biggest barrier to students, followed by cost and education.

**17%**

Embarrassment as a barrier decreased from 33% to 16%.

### **IMPROVEMENT**

### **STUDENTS REPORTED MISSING FEWER CLASSES AND SCHOOL DAYS WITH ACCESS TO PRODUCTS**



37% of faculty reported that having period products helped students to reduce missed class or absences.

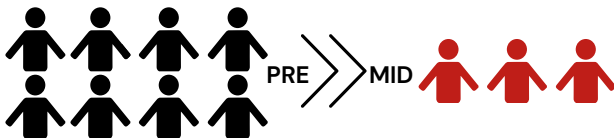
29% of faculty observed providing period products had a positive impact on students' social and emotional well-being.

*IT WAS HELPFUL BECAUSE IN ONE OF MY CLASSES, I RANDOMLY GOT MY PERIOD CAUSING ME TO LEAK, PLUS I HAD NO PADS IN MY BAG, BUT THEY BROUGHT ME SOME FROM THE BATHROOM AND IT WAS LITERALLY A LIFE SAVER.*

- Middle Charter School Student, O'ahu

### **7 / 10 STUDENTS PREFERRED PICKING UP PRODUCTS IN THE BATHROOM**

Students preferred to pick up free period products in bathrooms (69%), the health room (50%), and classrooms (35%). Faculty preferred students pick up period products in the health room (57%), counselor's office (43%), and equally, bathroom and classrooms (32%).



8 out of 10 students faced difficulties getting period products at the start of the year. At the mid-survey, only 27% reported they weren't able to get period products when they needed them at school.

**1%**  
**FACULTY**

ONLY 1% OF FACULTY reported witnessing students have difficulty accessing period products, down from 56% at the beginning of the year.

*IT WAS VERY HELPFUL BECAUSE NOT EVERY GIRLS CAME TO SCHOOL BEING PREPARED WITH PADS. PADS ARE THE MOST NUMBER ONE IMPORTANT THINGS TO GIRLS, THEY HELP COVER UP FROM BLEEDING THROUGH OUR PANTS.*

- High School & Elementary School Student, Hawai'i Island

### **IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION**

PASS BILL 2821 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAKE PERIOD PRODUCTS FREE IN ALL PUBLIC & CHARTER SCHOOLS





'Ilima Intermediate Students & Teacher Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin - January 19, 2022

January 26, 2022

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

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

My name is [Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin](#) and I teach at 'Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach. **Myself, and my students in the 'Ilima Intermediate Activist Club are writing to you today asking for your support of Senate Bill 2821** 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 [Testimony of Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin & 'Ilima Intermediate School Activist Club in Favor of SB 2821](#)

realities of what that study learned, will help our state move forward to correct these gross inequities.

My students and I believe that voting “yes” on SB 2821 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 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 **Chair Kidani** for meeting with my students last year, and for making students feel welcome to testify in this committee. The positive feedback they received testifying last year on our menstrual equity resolution in this committee last year empowered them to stay involved on this issue.



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 350 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,

Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin & The 'Ilima Intermediate School Activist Club

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

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

My name is Riezel Nicole Escoto and I am an 8th grade student at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach. I strongly support SB2821.

It is common for people to experience several menstrual effects while they go through their monthly cycle, such as muscle aches, joint pain, headaches, abdominal cramps, constipation, lower back pain, fatigue, etc. While this may seem like an insignificant thing, it impacts their lives in many ways. It's bold and inspiring that they choose to go on with their lives despite it all. So why can't our government be bold as well?

Passing SB2821 would be a big step for all of us who menstruate. I believe this is true because not only will it be convenient for all of us but it would also make a great impact/ example for other states.

You're probably wondering how passing one bill about menstrual equity can make a difference. Well for instance by passing SB2821 it can boost up the publicity of our state because according to npr's article titled "The case for free tampons and pads in schools" it states, "This year, bills related to period equity have been introduced in 37 states, according to Women's Voices For The Earth, a nonprofit advocacy group. But as of this fall, only five states require schools to provide menstrual products." Now knowing that similar bills to SB2821 have been introduced in 37 states, only 5 states have passed bills that require schools to provide menstrual products. If we pass this bill, Hawaii can be counted as one of the only states to pass a period equity bill.

Now going back to the effects that people experience when they're menstruating according to an article made by global citizen in 2018 it says, "Around the world, at least 20% of women and girls experience dysmenorrhea painful enough to disrupt their daily life and as many as 176 million women experience endometriosis, a painful affliction where tissue typically found in the uterus grows on other female reproductive organs and peels." In the article it also refers back to a different passage that also states, "In the original article, published by Quartz two years ago, University College London reproductive health professor John Guillebaud said cramping pain is as "almost as bad as having a heart attack."

Keeping this in mind some people are likely to just stay at home because of how painful it is. But for those who choose to power through the pain and still go to school/work another dilemma occurs. Period products, specifically how accessible period products are at school or work

because most states don't require schools to provide period products students and employees have to worry about accidentally bleeding through their clothes. And when they bleed through their clothes, it makes them feel insecure about themselves and feel ashamed and disgusted even though periods are a natural thing that occurs.

So in order to prevent themselves from bleeding through their clothes its said from a passage from Hawaii Public Radio, "Khara Jabola-Carolus, the executive director for the commission, says, "Our youth, our students, are using newspapers, baby diapers and plants in place of period supplies." " You read/heard it correctly, newspapers, baby diapers, and even plants. This issue is so severe that it's gotten to the point where a 13 year old thinks it better to use newspapers as a pad instead of facing humiliation from people just because they couldn't get a pad when they need one.

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OF HAWAII**

January 27, 2022

Senate's Committees on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2821**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT to Senate Bill 2821 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (formerly the LGBT Caucus). SB 2821 will 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. Makes appropriations.

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

Mahalo nui loa,

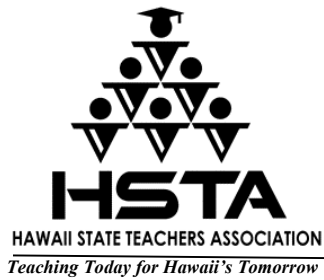
Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



Imagine not knowing. Not knowing when your female body is ready to bloom. You are unprepared because you just didn't know it was time. Imagine going to school, not knowing. Not knowing what the pain in your abdomen means. Imagine going to the bathroom and when you're not knowing turns into anxiety, stress, and embarrassment because you don't know what to do.

This is just one example of a situation that presents "Not knowing." Just as a young girl going to school "Not Knowing," our leaders and majority of our society does not know that period poverty is an issue and it's a symptom of silence, stigma, and ultimately a lack of support for the wellbeing of women's bodies. Other examples of "Not knowing" may look like a single mother "Not knowing" whether or not to buy period products or buy food for her children. A teenage girl "Not Knowing" the next time she will be able to change her pad, so she sits in it way longer than she should.

The Ma'i Movement is moving mountains by giving support, supplement, and security to women, mom's, wives, young girls, and organizations. If we can have one more avenue or more importantly one more support system where period products can be provided to young women in Hawaii public schools, we can have a few more females who will know that they can feel safe and supported.



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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2821– RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support SB2821**, relating to menstrual equality. This bill 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. Makes 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 resolution.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:15:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Samulski	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I will be speaking my testimony as a teacher, in both elementary and high school here in Hawaii, in relation to how students of all ages need equal and available access to menstruation hygiene products.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:42:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara (Bobbie Jo) Beyerle	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed the effects of menstrual inequity in my professional career including but not limited to the physical health dangers of misuse of menstrual products, the lack of access to products and the lack of funds to pay for products. Menstruating students often miss valuable classroom instruction due to lack of access to menstrual products. Students previously were required to pay 25 cents for products in the school setting. Products were only available in the health room and the students were required to ask for products. Students are often too embarrassed or shy to ask for products. Many students simply do not have money to pay for products and may not have access to products at home due to socioeconomic reasons.

As one of the leaders of the Ma'i movement pilot in the school setting I have experienced firsthand the incredible impact access to products necessary during menstruation can have on the wellbeing of students in a school setting. The products are available in multiple areas of the school, are easily accessible and can be taken on a no-questions asked basis. The student's do not have to make the long trek to the health room and miss instruction time seeking pads or tampons which are medically necessary. Students no longer have to worry about having enough money for a pad or tampon if they start their period while at school and forgot to bring products from home. Students who cannot afford products no longer have to use paper towels or toilet paper in place of appropriate menstrual products. Students no longer have to use a tampon for longer than recommended because they do not have access to enough products. The program allows our menstruating students to come to school to learn and be present in their learning experiences. Having access to menstrual products erases many potential distractions that can be caused by having to come to school while menstruating. Students report worrying about access to products or simply worrying they might bleed through their pants. Students worry about the embarrassment of asking teachers or administrators for period products. Students worry about being able to afford the products they need. These distractions have essentially been eliminated as the Ho'ohanohano initiative gained recognition and traction in our school.

And while it seems the above would be testimony enough, I believe the most beautiful part of the initiative is that it started a conversation in our school. Both our menstruating and non-menstruating students and staff started talking about Menstrual Cycles. And while we have so far

to go in the conversation we have gained so much ground on the normalization of talking about everything Ma'i. We had non-menstruating students advocating for our menstruating students and even going to pick up products for them if they needed. It was so incredible. Our keiki are just so incredible and there is just not enough words to describe how wonderful this program has been for our school.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:59:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am writing to express my support and appreciation for this legislation. I am a teacher here in Hawaii, on Hawaii Island specifically, and I have been so grateful to the Ma`i Movement for helping to supply me and other teachers with menstrual products for our classrooms. Working in this school here in Puna, I can tell you honestly that there are a lot of young ladies who are experiencing period poverty. I hand out tampons and maxi pads all the time and, now, thanks to Ma`i Movement, I can give some of these students period packs to take home. It is just absolutely devastating to me that there are students of mine whose families are that down and out that they cannot afford to buy period products for their children, and their daughters end up missing school because they do not have tampons and maxi pads or their clothes are soiled and their families cannot make it to the laundromat or something. It's just hard to actually fathom because I didn't live in such poor living conditions growing up. But I wince at the thought that we have students who are experiencing such a profoundly low level of poverty. We live in a society where we look out for people who are this down and out. There should be no question that every school offers our daughters and girls a maxi pad or tampon, or a pack of them if necessary, to ensure that they can be present in our classrooms and they don't have to have that worry and stress interfering with their learning. Thank you for seeing this and trying to rectify this. I sincerely appreciate your efforts and I hope that this bill becomes a law. ALOHA

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**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:15:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ace Carmichael	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Sarah Kern and I am a 7th grade science teacher at Chiefess Kamakahalei 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 Ker

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:22:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members:

I am writing in **strong support** of SB 2821, which would require the Department of Education (DOE) and the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to students.

Income is the foremost determinant of health. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic DOE determined that almost half of its students were economically disadvantaged. Young women from under-resourced households should no longer have to bear the humiliation that comes with lack of access to menstrual products. Lack of access may result in absenteeism that deprives them of their ability to participate in educational and co-curricular activities. Prolonged use of menstrual products endangers their health.

Hawaii should join California, New York, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Virginia in making menstrual products to available to students without charge. In 2020, Scotland made menstrual equity national policy for all women and not just those attending state-funded schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:56:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jamie-lee Kapana	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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

My name is Jamie and I am a resident of Kapolei. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe that menstrual products should be readily available to all students throughout Hawaii at no cost to them. Our children of Hawaii are the next set of leaders in our community, their learning shouldn't be hindered by the issue of not having access to menstrual products. While growing up I was briefly in the foster care system and I know for myself it was shameful to ask for Period products. I know that I could have asked the group home or foster parents I was living with but it personally was scary. I was basically around strangers and it felt uncomfortable. I know that if I had Period products at school and they were easy to access it could have made life just a little easier. I hope that you support SB2821, I know if I had this while growing up I would have felt 100% times better while in school and just in general.

Thank you!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:15:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryah	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Education Committee. My name is Ryah Abang and I'm a senior at James Campbell High School. I am in strong support of bill 2821 requesting the department of education to make menstrual products free on all hawaii public and charter schools because after partnering with the Ma'i movement and placing a Ma'i spot in school, I've had girls and menstruators alike come up and thank me personally, explaining their own stories how they sometimes start their cycles unexpectedly, forget their products at home or don't have the money to afford the products sold at school. On instances like these, we have to use paper towels and toilet paper which aren't made for menstruation, leaving us shame and embarrassed. Knowing that there is money allotted for our school supplies and academic needs, I believe period products should be on that list. Thank you.**

# 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

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Friday, January 28, 2022

3:00 PM

## **SB 2821 STRONG SUPPORT for MENSTRUAL EQUITY!**

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

Hau`oli Makahiki Hou!

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 4,103 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,114 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.

SB 2821 appropriates funds to the Department of Education for all public schools and public charter schools to provide menstrual products to student.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this public health measure. The availability of these products is an important step in the direction of public health. We hope that it is coupled with age-appropriate education about hygiene and public health.

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 and prisons. By making these public health products available, the state is making a strong statement 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 WAM to fund it appropriately. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for this measure!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 2:29:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2821. 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**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 7:49:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Ashley Galacgac. 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.

I support SB 2821 because menstrual equity is 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. I am grateful for the collective awareness that has come from various organizations, especially the Ma‘i Movement here in Hawai‘i.

I would like to highlight statistics from the [2021 survey conducted by Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma‘i Movement Hawai‘i](#) that gives insight into the pervasiveness of period poverty and the call for the government to address period poverty.

- 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products
- 30% of respondents reported they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining period products; of those, 58% cited cost as the biggest barrier
- 64% feel social and emotional distress when they don't have the products, such as pads and tampons, needed to manage a period.
- 94% of respondents believe government should provide free period products, such as pads and tampons, to anyone who needs them;

This is within the context that has found that [47% of DOE students](#) were considered economically challenged in 2019-2020. Approximately [1 in 5 households](#) in Hawai‘i are living below the Federal Poverty Line due to the impact of COVID and [60% of Hawai‘i’s local families](#) are struggling to meet basic needs.



Please pass SB 2821 and support the movement towards equity and justice. Thank you for your time.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:00:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Deisha Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Deisha Davis, Student Success Counselor at Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School. We are so fortunate to be one of the pilot schools with the Ma'i Movement. Our students are so appreciative for the free feminine hygiene products that they are able to receive.

We placed the products in bathrooms, counselor offices, healthrooms, various classrooms, and the main office. Students were grateful that they could easily access the free products without being ashamed or having to deal with hassles of finding where to locate them. We also gave out 200 bags of the products on the last day before Christmas break, students were so happy to receive them. With this initiative, students have been open to receive and take the products, when the bathrooms were empty, they would quickly notify me to have it refilled. They would also come and ask for more, it's a relief for students when they don't have to worry about where they'll get their feminine products from when our school is able to give them out for free.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 4:30:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Salena Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Bill SB2821 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY. Requiring the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. Requiring the State Public Charter School Commission to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public charter school campuses. Making appropriations.

Going to school while menstruating is intimidating and overwhelming for some girls. Especially those who may have dysmenorrhea and suffer throughout the school day in pain and not feeling well.

Providing menstrual products free of charge to all students will make sure all students needing these products are taken care of without worrying about how access to these products. This would allow students from low-income families to have these products readily available if they needed them. Also, this would be helpful for students who get their first menstrual cycle at school and are unprepared. Providing menstrual products free of charge will be one less thing students need to worry about and can focus on school knowing they have access to free products if they need it or if they have a menstrual accident in school.

Mahalo for your time,

Salena Lee

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 7:43:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tami Whitney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Committee on Education,

I am Tami Whitney and I am writing in **strong support** of SB2821 requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public and charter school campuses. This is an equity and public health issue and children with periods should not have to miss school because they lack basic necessities. If a child does not have a backpack or paper/pens, we find it for them, period products should be no different.

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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 5:26:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators, I support SB2821. The bill is long overdue. All women in our public and charter schools should have equal access to menstrual products at no cost to them. Please pass.

Thank you, Mike Golojuch, Sr.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 5:52:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. When presented last year, there was much support for providing free menstrual products to all students in all public school campuses." "Menstrual products" includes but is not limited to disposable menstrual pads and tampons."

During discussion last year, which got into the weeds, the DOE indicated that running this program would be difficult. I propose the DOE figure it out.

Many students cannot afford these products and just stay home until their cycle is done. There is no definite number of days it lasts, everyone is different. This could decrease absences which is tracked annually.

If you aren't a girl or woman you really don't know how young girls get embarrassed. Pass the bill, don't try to design the process in a hearing, please! That caused a distraction from the purpose last year.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 9:54:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cynthia Reves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Cynthia Reves. I teach English and Journalism at McKinley High School. I urge you to pass SB2821 and create menstrual equality in our schools. This bill will have a positive impact on our young people and their families.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 8:58:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kenisha Strong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and believe all young women should have access to free menstrual products while at school.



January 25, 2022

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Michele Baldovi and I am a school counselor. 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.

- I was a middle school counselor for 27 years before being given the opportunity to work at the elementary school level. Sadly, the concerns are not much different.
- Just this week, a 4th grader came into the health room because she had just started her period and didn't have any supplies with her. We looked through the cabinets and could not find a single pad until we checked the first aid kit used by teachers on field trips! Yes. That is where it was and who knows how long that sanctuary napkin had been in there?!?!? I asked our health aide about supplies and she was told the school had to buy it. How much time did this girl spend out of class? 15 minutes, most of the time because we were looking for supplies.
- While working at the middle school, I purchased supplies with my own money to keep in my office. I was closer in proximity to the students and they didn't have to waste time walking to the health room which was across campus (5 minute walk each way, adding 5-10- minutes for the time it takes to take care of themselves) equates to 15-20 minutes of missed classroom time! Multiply that by 5 days a week and that is a lot of missed time. Many of the students don't have access to supplies at home and some have told me they don't want to ask their parents for it.
- Ideally, it would be great for each classroom to have a small supply in their rooms, but I would settle for free supplies to our students and schools! Access to free menstruation supplies (not just pads, but the bags to dispose of used hygiene items) is key to helping our students not only stay in school and class, but feel confident in themselves to manage their own hygiene needs and not feel embarrassed, but student absences because of a lack of access to period products

Why is this bill important?

- Period products are health hygiene products. Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as other bodily functions. People with periods cannot simply "opt out" of having their periods.
- Student well-being is at risk. Students surveyed reported using leaves, school paper, diapers, old rags, newspaper, and socks when they do not have period products. These items are not sanitary, and using them opens up the possibility of (possibly lethal) infection that is preventable!
- Menstrual inequity leads to educational inequity. Students report missing classes or even entire school days due to a lack of access to period products on campus.

I strongly urge this committee to pass bill SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo nui loa!

Michele Baldovi, M.Ed  
National Board Certified Counselor

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 10:22:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure to care for the normalization and provisions for all students to be able to receive menstrual care products for free and with complete accessibility. The work of a student is complex and the fact that school age girls have all experienced blood related incidence in school because of lack of product or surprise bleeding can be remedied. Please pass SB 2821 and provide all period products completely autonomous and accessible to all students that need.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:15:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Katrina Karl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821. I teach at Waipahu High School and connected Waipahu High School to Ma'i Movement this year after hearing about the organization through a peer from my teaching program. The provision of free menstrual products at a few stations on our campus through Ma'i Movement has been so beneficial over the past semester. The stations need to be restocked around once per month, clearly suggesting that there is a need for these items, yet no one is "taking advantage" of their provision or taking too many.

This is my ninth year of teaching, and over the years, some of my colleagues and I have had the same students asking us for menstrual products every single month. Those helping us through Ma'i Movement have heard from far more students in similar positions who have to resort to extreme measures such as reusing the same menstrual products for days, or even using items like socks or leaves due to a lack of access to menstrual products.

Free provision of menstrual products in Hawaii's public and charter schools would be a wonderful and necessary support to students in this position. Please vote in support of Senate Bill 2821 to help students maintain the hygiene and dignity that everyone should be afforded. Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Katrina Karl

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:27:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik. I am a resident of Honolulu and an instructor within the University of Hawaii system. I encourage you to support and pass SB2821, which makes menstrual products available to public school students, thereby making a positive step toward equitable access to education. This step is long overdue, and its quite easy to make.

Respectfully,  
Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:45:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julia Davison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Female students need help



**Bill:** Senate Bill 2821  
**Title:** Relating to Menstrual Equality  
**Position:** SUPPORT  
**Committee:** Senate Committee on Education  
**Date:** January 28, 2022 3:00pm

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim 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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 4:24:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Edith Neumiller	Testifying for Zonta Club of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB2821 for the Department of Education to provide free menstrual products for students in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Edith Ignacio Neumiller





Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Relating to Menstrual Equality  
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **strongly supports SB2821 – Relating to Menstrual Equality**. All students should have an equal opportunity to learn. SB2821 would ensure that all students on public school campuses and public charter school campuses have menstrual products available free of charge.

We would never not stock toilet paper in a school bathroom or band aids at the nurses office. Having easy and free access to basic menstrual supplies is essential for those students to be able to continue learning without interruption from something they cannot control. A 2021 study found that at least 1 in 5 teens has experienced period poverty, a lack of access to sanitary products.

Not providing a product that is a medical necessity for these students is archaic and wrong.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of SB2821**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:51:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Beck	Testifying for Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School	Support	No

Comments:

**Ka‘u High and Pahala Elementary School is a small, rural school located in the southern district of Ka‘u in the town of Pahala on the island of Hawai‘i. Ka‘u is the largest geographic district in the state and encompasses 600,000 acres. Ka‘u’s resident population is 8948 with 52.8% of the population residing in the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates/Ocean View Ranchos area. The median household income in the Ka‘u community is \$43,697 compared to the state’s median household income of \$77, 765. More than 32% are living below the poverty line.**

**Due to geographical and financial issues, access to learning, food, and hygiene products became a critical need for many of our families. KHPES worked diligently to come up with a system to provide for services for our studnets. As a result, the Student Success Coach’s (SSC)focus shifted to establishing and maintaining hubs to provide wifi opportunities, provide house to house delivery of items in rural areas (when families were unable to access the materials due to lack of transportation), and communicating with families. Teams of administrators, teachers, and counselors support these efforts.**

**Our SCC has been organizing the Ma'i Movement by having free,easy access to menstrual products around campus and has also sent home 200 packets with students during Winter Break. Students no longer have to go publically go to the office and purchase items and do not need to miss school for not having the needed supplies.**

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

# 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

January 25, 2022

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Education

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

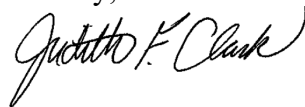
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality.

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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 7:10:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Younghee Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2821 which would require the Hawaii DOE and Hawaii State PCSC to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school including charter school campuses. This is an issue of health and equal access to education.



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Relating to Menstrual Equality  
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **strongly supports SB2821 – Relating to Menstrual Equality**. All students should have an equal opportunity to learn. SB2821 would ensure that all students on public school campuses and public charter school campuses have menstrual products available free of charge.

We would never not stock toilet paper in a school bathroom or band aids at the nurses office. Having easy and free access to basic menstrual supplies is essential for those students to be able to continue learning without interruption from something they cannot control. A 2021 study found that at least 1 in 5 teens has experienced period poverty, a lack of access to sanitary products.

Not providing a product that is a medical necessity for these students is archaic and wrong.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of SB2821**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 11:12:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please ensure menstrual equality for our children!

thank you!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:47:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

26, January, 2022

Aloha Hawai'i Senate EDU and WAM committee members,

This testimony is written in SUPPORT of SB 2821 which addresses “ the ongoing and devastating effects of menstrual inequity within the state of Hawai’i by requiring the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to promote gender and education equity through ensuring the availability of safe and free menstrual products to students within all public and charter school campuses. “

As a retired elementary menstruating educator, there are a plethora of stories which I could offer from my experiences personally and of my students to try and convey to this committee the extent that menstruation affects a school/ classroom. The body has no schedule for menstruation. Even with the best preparation, there’s not a person who has found themselves unprepared at some time. During my 40 years of teaching, countless times students and colleagues found it necessary to visit a drawer in my desk, as did I. It is why I am pleased to see the bill covers ALL public schools and I hope all grades. The youngest student I knew was 7 in my second grade classroom and the oldest a high school “late bloomer” who had no idea what to do. In this testimony, I would also like to include my own experiences. It might seem amazing that at this age, I can still remember the trauma of bleeding through my clothes in 9th grade biology class or being laughed at in the PE locker room for not having supplies like others had. One of the parts of this menstrual issue that is often neglected is the impact it has on educators and students due to the daily schedule. As an elementary teacher, it is hard to get to the restroom with students in class, breaks are few and far between. Like students, teachers sometimes have to resort to measures that are not always the best. I remember one time when in my classroom (a portable with no bathroom), telling the students that I was going to get supplies from our room closet. Actually, I quickly went in and used paper to hopefully hold until our lunch break. Not the best idea, but we do what we have to do. In addition to having free supplies

available, it would be great to have awareness that people's needs are all different and adjust the system's paths to creating a safer environment for menstruating folks.

Why is this bill important? It takes the first steps to building a safer, equitable place within our public schools. It provides a chance for people to learn that menstruation is a bodily function just like others. This bill helps us provide place-based solutions and understandings on menstruation and dismiss the stigma attached to it. For way too long, menstruating humans have suffered trauma that lasts a lifetime. This bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and educational equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT for this bill: SB2821

Cheryl Burghardt

Retired DOE educator



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 3:49:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Trillium Simington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Trillium Simington and I am a resident of Keaau Hawaii. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have witnessed seeing young adolescents going without basic menstrual products. It is hard enough being a young adult going through hormone and bodily changes, let alone having to deal with possible lowered self-esteem, body image issues, and bullying that may come to them. I believe that all schools should have basic hygiene products available in their health rooms. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Trillium Simington

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 11:48:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support supplying of menstrual products in school. I am a special education teacher with 17 years experience. Mahalo.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 12:16:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maya Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Testifying in support of this Bill SB 2821. For [anyone with a uterus](#), menstruation can often be a surprising, [frustrating](#) event. Currently, [all public schools in New York](#) state have free menstrual products, both in middle and high schools, as [required by law](#). One of the major reasons why it is important for schools to provide menstrual supplies is because, for many, periods can come unexpectedly. The other reason that schools should provide pads and tampons for students is economic. Periods are expensive, with a [single box](#) of pads or tampons in the United States costing anywhere from \$7 to \$10. For lower income families, the costs of purchasing supplies every month can be more than they can afford. Access to free supplies would [help to alleviate some](#) of the economic strain having a period provides.

Lack of access to menstrual supplies can have an impact on education. [Without access](#) to supplies, students often miss class or do not participate as vigorously for fear of leakage and embarrassment. Fear of period leakage prevents students from being able to focus in class and that can overall impact educational outcomes. Without shame and fear, students have more opportunity to be successful in school, which is always a plus.

The lack of adequate access to menstrual products is an issue that impacts women throughout the world, and it is a serious issue. Educational opportunities are being impacted all because people cannot afford the supplies that they need [while on their period](#). If schools were to provide free access to menstrual supplies, it would be a huge step forward in achieving [menstrual equality](#).

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:01:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
audrey christian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Why do schools pay for something unnecessary to boys like urinals that are extremely more expensive than period products? Schools will refuse to pay for period products but will go out of there way to support cis boys. Many girls and trans men can't afford period products and just have to use something unsanitary or hope that one of their friends or trusted teachers will have period products and that is why I feel like schools should pay for period products.**

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair

Bill 2821

DATE: January 28, 2022

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 229

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

### **IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 2821**

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because as a woman, I have experienced the complex difficulties that come with handling the menstruation cycle. For many, menstruation cycles are not always consistent and add to the stress of knowing when to be prepared with the proper supplies. I personally have encountered for myself the hassle of trying to obtain a pad or tampon but have not had access due to the area I was in not having any available or not being able to afford any due to financial struggles.

The 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. Passing SB2821 will provide individuals with a menstruation cycle the supplies needed

to handle something that is out of our control. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristine Samonte



Hawai'i  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawai'i's children

To: Senator Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

Re: **SB 2821, Relating to menstrual equality**  
3:00 PM, January 28, 2022

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

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

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 12:54:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I specialize in pediatric and adolescent gynecology. I have provided gynecologic care to children, adolescents, and adults in Hawaii for over 6 years. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools.

Mahalo for your consideration of the needs of our keiki,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 3:03:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Erin Henderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I want you to close your eyes and imagine that YOU are a teenage girl. You go to the bathroom during math class and are mortified to find that you started your period. You check your bag. Nothing. Call your parents. No answer. What Now? Go to the health room. Nothing there either. Your option? Fold up toilet paper and use that and return to the bathroom every 10-15 minutes to swap it out. Or cut class and hope to god that no one finds you. After all, it's better than accidentally bleeding through your pants and risk total humiliation and the rejection to follow. This is the reality for some girls.

As a school counselor at a rural high school on Hawai'i island, I recently completed a Donor's Choose project (which was fully funded and executed) which bought hundreds of dollars worth of menstruation supplies to give out to any student who needed them. I posted flyers in the girls bathrooms to notify them that these products were available at NO COST in my office. On the first day I had a steady stream of girls coming in to get products. Over the next days and weeks, the number of girls increased. They were so incredibly thankful. Some comments from the girls were, "Ms. You saved my life today," "I didn't know I was going to start today, I had nothing with me and my mom is at work.," and "Thanks so much, I can't ask my dad to buy these for me." Some girls mentioned that their family can't afford to buy enough supplies for all the girls in the house.

Menstruation shouldn't cause anxiety and stress in our students!!! It is essential that these products (pads, tampons, pouches) be provided in our schools at NO COST to the students. Please pass this bill for ALL our female students and make their lives just a little bit easier. Please.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:07:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Anne Alves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Written testimony is attached.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:28:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth S	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I support SB2821, both as an individual citizen, and as an educator in Hawaii's public schools for the past 17 years.**

**I need only cite two examples in the past week to demonstrate the common need for feminine hygiene products (FHP's) at school. The first example is last week, a fellow teacher told me she started her menstrual cycle at school and had no feminine hygiene products (FHP's) on her (nor did any of her close female contacts). Since she couldn't leave campus at that time, and had a class to teach, she had to resort to a tried and true method for many menstruators: rolling up paper towels and creating a pad until she could procure a product (which ended up being the end of her school day).**

**The second example is a student who asked me today if the office has tampons. I said, "I actually don't know if the office has tampons, but I doubt it." Then I thought of sending her to the health room, but our health room—which is the one place she may have been able to obtain a FHP—is closed the remainder of the week. She said, "I think my friend has one, but she's down campus". So now, this student, (who happens to be behind in work), potentially has to leave class to "find a friend" who may or may not have a tampon on her, thus disrupting another class and another student's learning.**

**The loss of class time and the disruption in learning should not be happening for a natural biological process. If we had to do this every time we needed toilet paper, nobody would get anything accomplished.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:47:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Liz King Salz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

When I learned that some girls have to stay home when they menstruate because they are too poor to buy supplies and they can't get such supplies at school, I thought I was reading about another country. Surely, I thought, this couldn't be the case here in the first world. What a shameful state of affairs. SB2820 is an easy, common-sense solution to a problem we shouldn't even have to talk about in this day and age. Please pass this law as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

Liz King Salz

Olomana Youth Center

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 3:06:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Olivia Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

testimony in support of SB2821 to provide free menstrual products within the school system.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

January 28, 2022

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

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

**HawaiiKidsCAN supports SB2821**, 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.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly disruptive to student learning, and schools have a heavy task to address student learning loss, social emotional and mental health challenges, and re-socialization for kids who have experienced trauma and been disconnected from their friends and teachers. To this end, schools must be safe and supportive learning environments for all kids.

Unfortunately, school is far from comfortable for many students who menstruate, as financial challenges often prevent students from having access to basic hygiene supplies. In fact, local research has shown that 8 out of 10 students in Hawaii have faced difficulties getting period products when they need them. Without these supplies, students may skip school or use unhealthy workarounds.

It is the DOE's responsibility to ensure all students are put in the best position to succeed, which is why many students rely on school as the source of nutritious meals.

Similarly, we shouldn't penalize our menstruating students for financial circumstances outside of their control. All students deserve a chance to succeed and reach their potential.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:56:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kathryn Childress	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This should already be accessible to all students! This needs to be passed without a doubt!



Melissa W. Chong

Kihei Resident, Island of Maui

First, I would like to thank the Education Committee for hearing this bill. I write in strong support SB 2821 asking the Dept of Education to provide free period products on all public and charter school 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 affects 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 resources 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 hygiene and normal bodily functions, such as toilet paper, band aides, soap etc... considering about half of the students at any school use 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. It's not isolated. I lived through having my makeshift 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 do as many girls still do.

Recently, I mentored a Junior high school student, Mia Holmberg, for her junior project. We placed and supplied a free products basket in a local school, Kihei Charter School. Collected data and contributed our stats, which you have access to already, through Ma'i Movement, but I will tell you what's not in there. The most profound thing I discovered. It is what my oldest daughter (also a Junior at KCS) and her best friends told me. Girls would come up and tell other girls about it and how they would all chat about how grateful they were. They talked about how great it was to be cared for like that. say things like, "wow, it looks so nice and clean, so great of the school to have this"... The message goes beyond the products, which that was a pleasant surprise to me. A normal bodily function is getting talked about openly. That alone is huge. Girls were talking to each other and saying "oh, I like this product" or that and why, a natural mentoring was taking place. All because it was out, not tucked away like something to be hidden. No girls took more than they needed. The box was not damaged or misused in anyway and is still in use daily. Which is the similar story across campuses. A few months ago, on different campus an adult male, who works with high school students, very respectfully and honestly ask me, "Hey, I mean how often do girls have that thing? [menstrual cycle] is it really that important to have stuff?" I answered his question and he looked like a light bulb went on. He said, "Oh, I figured it was like a couple times a year. So, maybe it really could've been that". His response enlightened me as well, it was clear he was misunderstanding students' needs, thinking it was too much, or too often and I'm sure when they did miss, he was most likely not allowing them the appropriate grace for that.

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 and take the first steps to end period poverty on campuses statewide.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 6:43:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kristin Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to write in support of SB 2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality byb having DOE and Charter School provide menstrual products free of charge to all students. We know that menstration is one of those topics that people are hard pressed to talk about, and yet it happens near monthly to half of the population of the world. Let us wager that it happens to 50% of students in any given middle and high school, and perhaps a smaller percentage in any given elementary school. Let us further understand that Hawaii has a tremendously high cost of living. Menstrual products are often lowest on the list of products to buy when food security is at the top of the list. If a menstruating person does not have access to necessary products, they may not come to school. According to an NPR story published this past December, 4 of 5 girls have missed class or know someone who missed class due to lack of access to period products. That is a lot of class time. Having free access to period products is a way to keep menstruating people in school and in class. That is important. I can think of no good reason why these products should be kept from students. I appreciate your vote in support of our girls.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 7:14:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dagan Bernstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator in our schools, I am all too familiar with the challenges posed with access to basic health care items and hygiene items. Our public schools that are funded with public dollars have a kuleana to provide our haumana with the things they need to focus on learning. This can include access to healthy food, clean water, physical activity, and yes basic health items. At first, I was shocked that menstrual products were not provided for free to students as I assumed it was part of the basic health care services provided at all schools. This shows the necessity of this bill to pass. How can our young adult keiki thrive in our learning spaces if they are concerned about being able to maintain the basic levels of hygiene that these products will provide? Please give your support of this bill to help ensure that all our haumana can be their best in our schools through access to menstrual products. mahalo for considering my testimony, signed concerned educator from Hawai'i Island.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 7:31:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for giving your full attention to the issue of ending period poverty in our state. This is the time to bring the empowerment of all who menstruate into full focus. Please vote in favor of this measure and make this the year Hawaii takes another great leap forward toward equality.

Respectfully,

Lynn Robinson-Onderko, Ewa Beach

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 8:11:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jill Fletcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jill Fletcher, and I am a public school teacher at Kapolei High School and I am writing in support of SB2821.

I support this bill because no student should have to pay for period products, which are necessary for the health and safety of all students while they are at school. I think the DOE should consider menstruation products as part of what is needed for a functioning, safe, and clean environment. We don't ask students to pay for toilet paper, so in my view, period products should be viewed in the same category.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 8:30:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keisa Liu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Keisa Liu and I am in full support of SB2821. As a menstrator, I am well-aware of the stigma and barriers our society has created when it comes to access of basic feminine hygiene products. We have been taught that when we menstrate, we do it privately. We do not bother others with the natural process of female fertility. Our health needs have been left unmet for centuries because of this invisible social barrier. It's time for change.

Normalizing menstration in our schools creates the emotional safety needed for our daughters once their menses starts. Creating this safety can lead to better health outcomes for our daughters because they are more likely to practice better hygiene when products are available to them.

Support women's health. Please support this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 7:56:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Anika Agerlie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2821, which would require free menstrual products to be provided for students statewide. As an educator, I have the privilege of working with students from various backgrounds. While I am an elementary school teacher with students who have not reached puberty yet, I understand that one of the best ways to support students who menstruate is to destigmatize the natural process of menstruation and provide them with free products that they may not be able to afford on their own. Menstruating students should not have to use replacements for menstrual products, such as: newspapers, leaves, napkins, toilet paper, or rags in order to feel comfortable attending class. Menstruating students should also not be charged for menstrual products, as they are necessary for their health and well-being. In the same way that we provide toilet paper and paper towels for students after they use the bathroom, we should also be providing period products.

Please vote in support of SB2821 and mahalo for your consideration on this important matter.



DATE: January 26, 2022

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
CHAIR, SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI  
VICE-CHAIR, SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

FROM: STACEY MONIZ  
PUKALANI, MAUI

RE: SB 2821 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 28, 2022 AT 3PM

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Mahalo for setting this hearing date to hear important information on why the State Department of Education should provide menstrual products free of charge to all public school campuses.

I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2821.

Women and people who bleed have no choice in the matter and are forced to purchase expensive period products or find alternate solutions if they don't have the funds.

I have been a women's advocate for over 35 years and even though I know so many women who couldn't afford period products, I had never heard the term, "Period Poverty." But once I heard that term, I instantly got it. Powerfully. Women suffer the high cost of period products and this just isn't fair or just. This is a problem we need to solve as a society and the first step is to provide them for free at our public schools.

Please support this important bill. I thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 8:48:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Landes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821. My name is Mike Landes, and I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School, the husband of an elementary teacher at Princess Nahienaena Elementary School, and the father of two public school students. I am also the HSTA Maui Chapter President. In my work as a high school teacher, I have unfortunately had a number of interactions with female students who need access to menstrual products but do not have any, who then have no recourse other than to go around the classroom asking if anyone has any to spare, or to go to a teacher who is known to have free supplies available that they purchased with their own money out of the goodness of their own heart. As the father of a 9 year old daughter, I am dreading the day that she comes home telling me a story of personal humiliation when she finds herself without the necessary hygiene products at school. I know of students who told me sheepishly that they did not attend school because they were in such a situation, and chose being absent and avoiding the embarrassment rather than coming to school and keeping up with their education that day. Nobody should have to face these situations. This is a matter of basic human decency, educational opportunity, and gender equity. Please, do the right thing and vote in support of Senate Bill 2821.

Mahalo for your time,

Mike Landes

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:42:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Daphne okunaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have seen girls not have access to feminine hygiene products and it breaks my heart to think of them. Students have enough weight on their shoulders with school, work/activities, family obligations, etc. and worrying about immediate access to hygiene products shouldn't be one of them. We would never question providing soap or toilet paper for students to feel safe and clean and to me, this is no different!

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.



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

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

**DATE:** Friday, January 28, 2022, 3:00 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 Kidani, Vice Chair Kim 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 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 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,



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

including emotional duress, physical infection, and disease. Research also shows that students with inadequate menstrual support experience higher rates of absence and are less able to focus and engage 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**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 6:40:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brandy Yee	Testifying for mai movement	Support	No

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 too shy 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 a place where children are supposed to feel safe, a place where we nurture their minds. How can we teach children to be caring if we do not show them the 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 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. Let's 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.

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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:00:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
MJL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I specialize in women's health. I have provided gynecologic care to adolescents and adults in Hawaii for over 5 years. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Young teens who do not have access to menstrual products end up missing school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. Scotland was the first nation to provide free menstrual products in schools. The states of Illinois, Washington, New York, New Hampshire, and Virginia have passed laws to provide free menstrual products in their schools to decrease absenteeism and promote equity in educating the next generation of young women. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:04:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kayla Enos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Kayla Enos. 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.

When I was in high school there were times where I had to walk around in dirty underwear and shorts with a jacket around my waist hiding that I had gotten my period because it came one or two days early. It was embarrassing as a teenager to have to do that then go around asking friend or girls that you didn't even know if they had a pad or tampon that you could have. It's a struggle to be a teen already but to have to worry and walk around in shame all day is humiliating. Also the poor hygiene that does along with not having the proper menstrual supplies is something the state should be concerned about too. Girls walking around with blood on their pants sitting on shared seating. This is something women cannot control. We cannot decide when our bodies will have a menstrual cycle it would be helpful to at least be supported if an accident does happen or if girls cannot afford to purchase their own. Please help support this bill as it will help everyone, even those who do not get a menstrual cycle!

\*Why is this bill important? (Select one or more of the following, or add your own!)

- Period products are health hygiene products. Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as other bodily functions. People with periods cannot simply “opt out” of having their periods.
- Student well-being is at risk. Students surveyed reported using leaves, school paper, diapers, old rags, newspaper, and socks when they do not have period products. These items are not sanitary, and using them opens up the possibility of (possibly lethal) infection that is preventable!
- Menstrual inequity leads to educational inequity. Students report missing classes or even entire school days due to a lack of access to period products on campus.

I strongly urge this committee to pass bill SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo nui loa!

Kayla Enos

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 7:05:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821. I'm lucky I grew up with the privilege of being able to have menstrual products at all times at home. But even then, I have been at school numerous times without a pad or a tampon when my period arrives. Had it not been for generous friends or teachers, I would have had to go through a full day of school while bleeding. This is an experience that many girls and women have gone through. We have each other's backs, but ultimately menstrual products should be just as available as a bandaid in the event a student gets injured and goes to the nurse's office.

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.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:47:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, committee members. I'm submitting written testimony in strong support of SB2821 (Relating to Menstrual Equity). As the mother of a daughter in middle school, I know how crucial it is for students who menstruate to have access to hygienic and appropriate menstrual products. I was surprised (and heartbroken) to learn from the nonprofit organization Ma'i Movement Hawai'i that eight out of 10 students lack the financial resources to obtain menstrual products and have resorted to using newspaper, diapers, folder paper, napkins, socks, toilet paper, or rags instead. If the DOE and State Public Charter School Commission were appropriated funds to provide free menstrual products to students who need them, this health and safety issue could be avoided. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:03:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Press	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michael Press and I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate on Oahu in Ewa Beach. I am asking you to support SB 2821. By supporting this bill and provide these vital school supplies you are supporting the keiki of Hawaii.

Schools that did not provide period products had students that were 2.48 times more likely to miss school and 1.68 times more likely to leave school early than a respondent in a school that did provide period products. Students that were unable to afford period products were 5.89 times more likely to miss school, 5.82 times likely to be late to school, and 4.14 times more likely to leave school early compared to those that could afford period products

Please support this bill and our future.

Mahalo Nui,

Michael Press

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:48:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Can we please just have menstrual products for students available for free!!!

Melissa W. Chong, Owner of Zen Den Midwifery. Certified Professional Midwife, Licensed Midwife, Community Health Advocate, Wife, Mom of four kids, and Passionate Advocate for our keiki.

Thank you to the Education Committee for hearing this bill. I write in strong support SB 2821 asking the Dept of Education to provide free period products on all public and charter school campuses. Current surveys showed nearly half the students surveyed have missed school or multiple days due to a lack of period products. These menstruating students, females, are at an academic disadvantage, simply because of a normal biological process, the act of being female. We can change those numbers and begin the process of supporting our menstruating students to succeed.

Schools provide many products for basic hygiene and normal bodily functions, such as toilet paper, band aides, soap etc... period products are a necessity for proper hygiene and good health. A basic need.

Access and education go hand in hand, this movement starts the conversation. Thank you for giving me time to share my testimony. On behalf of Zen Den Midwifery, I respectfully ask you to support SB2821 and take the first steps to end period poverty on campuses statewide.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:01:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amberlyn Tamayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Amberlyn Tamayo and I am a student of James Campbell Highschool. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed kids, not even teenagers yet, having to pay money for female products in a health room. Kids have experienced the embarrassment of having their pants stained in the middle of recess and having to go through the whole day with it, and no pad or tampon because none can be provided for them. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:45:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Education Comittee,

My name is John Fitzpatrick and I am a middle school teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I am in strong support of SB 2821 because it provides menstrual products to my students and allows my female students more equitable access to their education.

Many of our students come from economically struggling households and their parents or guardians can't afford menstrual products. This could lead to using products too long which could lead to toxic shock syndrom. According to the Hawaii State Commission on the status of women Ma'i movement 2021 survey, 42% if students reported leaving school early or missing school because of a lack of period products. 58% of surveyed students sighted cost as the biggest barrier to obtaining menstrual products.

Please pass this Ma'i bill and give my students access to female health care products so they can have equitable access to their education. It is the right thing to do.

Mahalo,  
Fitz

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:47:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Robin Valencia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Senator Michelle Kidani and Vice-Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Robin Valencia of Hilo, Hawaii and I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed the impact of the inability to afford and obtain period products among school-age children. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our schools and daily student attendance, period poverty has made it even more difficult for students to access school. Period products are costly and with the rising cost of groceries, fuel and services, the additional expense of period products can be the deciding factor in whether or not a student will attend school. The cumulative impact of school non-attendance each month, over time, can be the deciding factor on whether a student will graduate from our K-12 system.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment. According to our 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. Bill SB2821 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.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 3:57:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and EDU Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of **SB2821** 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)

Telia Hao-Aunese

Hawaii Legislators

Period Poverty

25 January 2022

### The Price We Pay For Periods

Hello, Hawaii Legislators. My name is Telia Hao-Aunese, and I attend Ilima Intermediate middle school. I support the SB-2821 bill, and I'm here to talk to you about an equity problem which affects everyone, including yourselves.

The issue on the table has to do with periods. They're normal cycles that usually happen once a month for menstruators. People who get them need the right products to keep themselves healthy when going through their period. However, there are kids in Hawaii, as well as other states, who don't have access to these menstruation products. This has to do with period poverty, an issue that affects everybody living on this Earth. There are many problems floating around when it comes to this topic, but the ones I want to address have a lot to do with periods within youth.

Menstruators who started young, such as myself, have had to deal with the struggle of maintaining school, mental health, and periods all in one. These factors can lead up to an insane amount of stress, and it can be really hard to balance everything in the span of one week. "Stress situations can have a powerful effect on the menstrual cycle including the amount of bleeding, the level of cramps, and, in some cases, your period could stop altogether." (Taylor, 10) As this piece of evidence explains, the stress of keeping up with everything in your life, (especially when you consider the seemingly never ending blood flow) having to deal with it can come with

some serious side effects. With this, it's hard for menstruators to function in their day-to-day lives when the anxiety can kick in at any given time.

Stress alone is one of the biggest reasons menstruators miss out on school days, but, what about the mental stigma that trails along period poverty? Students who don't have access to period products miss school because they do not want to use 'other' resources. When they cannot afford products like pads, tampons or cups, menstruating youth are compelled to use unsafe items such as toilet paper, newspaper, diapers, socks, and sometimes even leaves!

It doesn't stop there; if they're not afraid of the lack of the right supplies, they're worried about the embarrassment it'll cause. Yes, the embarrassment of going through a *natural, necessary* process. Most students feel ashamed to go through this cycle every month, but even more so when at school. The fear of bleeding through their clothes, asking for supplies from a teacher or a friend, and even going to the bathroom to change out their products (assuming they had any to begin with)— it all just adds onto the stigma they have to deal with, consuming them for the school day.

If you've got a wife, a daughter, or even a granddaughter going through menstrual cycles, these issues are sure to affect them as well. Would you want them to continue living in this misery? In this shame? I don't think so.

So, we've got a few options. "Boston public schools tackled this issue by giving students access to free products in an attempt to create 'menstrual equity.'...Though it's a step in the right direction, advocates say the supplies should be as readily available in the bathrooms as toilet paper." (Rosa, 4) As this piece says, Boston is just one of the very few states who have taken a shot at period equity; we should too. Making products free in schools is just one way to take the first step. Another would be to educate students and youth about periods, which would normalize

menstruation. This would bring the stigma levels down, as well as free menstruating youth from the mindset of associating periods with embarrassment. Hopefully, now you understand the reasons why we need to change for the better, and some of the ways we could bring those dreams to life. So yes, while period poverty *is* a women's issue, it's also an ***everybody*** issue and we need to fix it together.

CITATIONS:

Source #1:

Taylor, Madeline. "Stressful Situations and the Factors Affecting Menstrual Cycle." *Madeline Taylor*, Sunday Scaries, 19 June 2019,  
[www.healtheuropa.eu/stressful-situations-and-the-factors-affecting-menstrual-cycle/92054](http://www.healtheuropa.eu/stressful-situations-and-the-factors-affecting-menstrual-cycle/92054).

Source #2:

White, Krishna. "All About Periods." *Krishna Wood White*, Nemours, 17 Oct. 2018,  
[www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/menstruation.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/menstruation.html).

Source #3:

Rosa, Shawna De La. "Report Finds 'Period Poverty' a Top Reason Why Girls Miss School." *Shawna De La Rosa*, K-12, 21 Oct. 2019,  
[www.k12dive.com/news/report-finds-period-poverty-a-top-reason-girls-miss-school/565424](http://www.k12dive.com/news/report-finds-period-poverty-a-top-reason-girls-miss-school/565424).

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:09:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shelly K Andrews	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a school counselor, I have had the experience of working with at least 20 girls a year who experience a menstrual leak and need to go home or are anxious that they will experience a leak. Many teen girls that I work with can not afford or may not have access to menstrual products in their homes so providing menstrual products at schools to me seems like an obvious remedy to this issue.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 8:42:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Logan Okita	Testifying for Hawaii State Teachers Association	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,**

**I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2821.**

**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.**

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

**Sincerely,**

**Logan Okita, NBCT**

## **End Period Poverty**

Period poverty is a big problem for students in schools usually starting from the ages 10. So from grade school all the way through high school and adulthood young people have to experience periods, and not all people can afford period products. When in school students of many ages might feel embarrassed to ask an adult or friends for menstruation. It ruins the students' dignity and can make these students insecure about a natural part of the human body. When on your period students wouldn't be able to focus in class because they're so worried about bleeding through their clothes or not having products. Not only the student could be worried about their period, but friends also could be worried about each other for being on their period. This will cause not only the students on their period, but their friends that care about them to be worried. Also people that are on their periods might also be late and miss out on class time because of not having access to period products. **If schools provide banges for bleedings they should also provide menstruation products for bleeding.** Menstrations should be a necessity in schools because everyone should be able to bleed safely and comfortably.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:05:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Heidi Frattalone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,**

**I am submitting my testimony in support of Senate Bill number SB2821.**

**My name is Heidi Frattalone, and I have been a 6th grade teacher at Waipahu Elementary school for 21 years. I have also been an English professor in Japan, a State Resource Teacher, and High school Athletics coach.**

**One of the major reasons why it is important for our schools to provide menstrual supplies is because, for many, periods can come unexpectedly. Many of my 6th grade students have already started their period without access to the necessary supplies. I personally have a supply in my classroom for them that I have purchased with my own money. I also try to help families with no resources by getting donations.**

**The other reason that schools should provide pads and tampons for students is economic. Periods are expensive, with a single box of pads or tampons in the United States costing anywhere from \$7 to \$10. For lower income families, the costs of purchasing supplies every month can be more than they can afford. Access to free supplies would help to alleviate some of the economic strain having a period provides.**

**Lack of access to menstrual supplies can have an impact on education. Without access to supplies, students often miss class or do not participate as vigorously for fear of leakage and embarrassment. I have personally had students stay home from school when they are on their period. Fear of period leakage prevents students from being able to focus in class and that can overall impact educational outcomes. Without shame and fear, students have more opportunity to be successful in school, which is always a plus. I have also had many incidents where we needed to clean and sanitize classroom furniture.**

**The lack of adequate access to menstrual products is an issue that impacts women throughout the world, and it is a serious issue. Educational opportunities are being impacted all because people cannot afford the supplies that they need while on their period. Please vote for Bill number SB2821, if our schools were to provide free access to menstrual supplies, it would be a huge step forward in achieving menstrual equality.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:27:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eva Louise McCoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Eva McCoy**

**Hawaii Legislators**

**Period Poverty**

**january 2022**

**I am in 8th grade at 'Ilima Intermediate School. Period poverty is a big thing everywhere and it is really bad because students with periods and not many supplies would rather miss school than go to school while menstruating. I think that this bill should be passed to have the period products provided. And when this happened other places attendance improved by 4%.**

**thank you for your support :)**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:03:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lyn Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an OB-GYN that practiced on the Big Island for over 20 years I saw firsthand the extreme stress experienced by young women who did not have access to acceptable menstrual products. We all know the difficulties of our teenage years and must empathize with the trauma of anxiety and embarrassment that can come from a young woman's inability to manage her menses.

Accepting menstruation as a normal aspect of life and providing simple supplies can preserve the dignity of many young women. The benefits to society from such a simple form of support are beyond measure.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 6:27:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is long overdue. Please support SB2821 so that ALL schools will have the means to provide feminine products for those who need. It's bad enough getting your period during school and having an 'accident', girls shouldn't have to go home and miss school because of their embarrassment and lack of femine products (which are costly). Mahalo for your time on this important matter.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:25:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Austen Kinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Austen Kinney and I am a freshman at Punahou School. I am a resident of Maunawili. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe *that every menstruator, no matter the gender or economic status, should have equal and convenient access to menstrual products.*

Last year, I founded a student group called The Hanawai Sisterhood, and to date, I have donated approximately 6,000 menstrual products to Dole Middle School and Kalākaua Middle School. I've heard firsthand from the nurses and counselors at both schools that students frequently request menstrual products and often are unable to afford even the 25-cent charge per piece that the school requests. When I last was at Kalākaua to drop off products, the nurse relayed that she had already seen six students who had requested products that morning, and it was only 10 a.m.

The Hanawai Sisterhood has depended on community donations to provide these products, but the need far exceeds what one organization can provide. I believe no student should have to compromise their attendance at school or their education because they are unable to maintain proper menstrual hygiene.

Just as the DOE/state provides toilet paper, paper towels and soap in school restrooms, menstrual products should be available without having to make a special request.

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

Austen Kinney (she/her), Punahou School Class of 2025

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:34:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist. I have provided gynecologic care to adolescents, and adults in Hawaii for over 6 years. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara C. Harris, MD



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 10:12:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brandon Cha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821.

I am a high school teacher in the Leeward district of Oahu. As a male, I do not know what my female students have to go through in terms of menstrual hygiene, but I know that it can play a very important part in their lives, sometimes affecting their school attendance. I want to teach in a school system that supports all of my students needs, both academic and health related.

The passage of this bill will help alleviate financial burdens on students for whom good menstrual hygiene is a necessary component of being able to participate in meaningful learning. Such burdens should not stand in the way of participation in quality education and these appropriations will make a tangible impact on students lives.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill 2821.

Thank you very much.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 5:49:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a physician who provides reproductive health care to teens in Hawaii. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 6:37:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cynthia McAnish	Testifying for HSTA	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure for our young girls, in families who struggle to put food on the table and lack the resources for hygiene products.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:21:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ashley Katamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821. My name is Ashley Katamoto and I am a secondary art educator at a public charter school. This bill is something I feel passionately about as someone who considers herself female and as an educator. Adolescent students today juggle so much in their daily lives with family, friends, academics, athletics, technology, mental health, and their changing bodies. For female students a significant part of growing up is their menstrual cycle. Menstrual products are an expensive monthly expense for all females, and for some families it is not easy to put aside money for these products. If public schools are a safe place for all students to have access to a high quality education and we provide free meals to students because we recognize that hunger is a barrier to learning, then we must also recognize that menstruating without the proper tools and support is also a barrier to learning. This is why I support passing SB 2821.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Ashley Katamoto

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:21:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Matthew May	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Matthew May, I am a SPED teacher at Stevenson Middle School.

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821

Period products are essential and we need to provide them to those that may lack access in our community.

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2821 to aid our community in meeting its necessities by making period products available for those that need them.

Please vote in favor of this bill to help this vital half our our community.

Mahalo nui loa,

Matthew May, Stevenson Middle School, Honolulu

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:50:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dawn Wakukawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Dawn and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe that having access to menstrual products in schools will further the educational opportunities for females in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:54:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Diane K Mokuau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I, Diane Mokuau, am a teacher at Molokai High School. I write in support of Bill SB 2821, MENSTRUAL EQUALITY

I have been an educator on Molokai for over 30 years and all 4 of my daughters are graduates of Molokai High School. I have first-hand experience of the monthly cost of menstrual products on our small rural Molokai island. While my daughters & myself didn't have budgetary constraints, many of their classmates did. This inequity must be addressed.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill 2821 MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Mokuau, Molokai High School Librarian

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:57:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kenna Gardes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe our keiki should have access to period products at no cost in our schools, the same way we give them bandaids at no cost at school. Having a period is a normal part of life for girls and forcing them to pay for a pad or tampon in school isn't right. Let's celebrate our girls and take away the payment barrier for them while they are in school. Mahalo!



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:49:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's talk about what is fair. A free hygiene product is provided at state office buildings and schools, for every type of fluid emitted from the male body.

- You go to the bathroom? Free toilet paper.
- You wash your hands? Free soap and paper towels.
- You sneeze? Free tissue.
- You cut yourself? Free bandaid.
- During COVID, there is hand sanitizer at the door, and if you forgot your facemask, one is provided for you.
- There is even a box of free condoms on the counter in most high school health offices.

But if you menstruate, that is not covered? That's "extra?" It's not 1962. Women are in all places of learning, government, and business, and purchasing decisions must reflect that our presence is expected and respected. Hygiene products for all bodily needs, including menstruation, should be provided as part of the general upkeep of ALL state bathroom facilities where people work and learn for hours at a time. This is not just for girls that don't have the money to buy a maxi pad, though that is a good, kind reason to pass this bill. If a man doesn't have to keep a roll of toilet paper hidden in his purse, women and girls shouldn't have to remember to carry pads and tampons with them every where they go.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Springer Kaye

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:13:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charline Angella Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chari Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Charline Angella Castillo and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced, witnessed, and believe that menstrual products should be free to all public school students. Menstruation is a normal cycle of the female body and shouldn't stress students who don't have the money to buy products to help them from the school because they ran out or forgot to pack some at home. A school campus should be a welcoming, supportive place and what's more welcoming than giving help to students who have to go through menstruation every month? Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:10:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alyanna Lou Carolino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Alyanna Lou Carolino and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe that whatever we have no control of should give us full right to be provided of products that assists us. Women have no control to stop their menstruation, and I think they should not be charged for adapting to their lifestyles. Some schools make their students pay for menstrual products, which does not consider the circumstances they may be facing. For example, the student may not have any budget or have not prepared any menstrual products for themselves. They would be forced to find other ways to adapt-- may it be to their discomfort. I think we should consider the circumstances and simply provide what can not be controlled. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:07:46 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Angelie Gombio- De Leon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Angelie Gombio-De Leon and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced not being able to afford these hygiene products for myself and most women may not be able to afford these overpriced products also. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:02:55 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sidney Torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Sidney Torres, and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe having free menstrual products available to students could be very helpful. In my own experience, there has been countless times where I've needed a menstrual product, and had none. When going to the health room, there are times where they charge you. For example, at Ilima Intermediate School, the health room charges 25 cents per pad. This may not seem like a lot, but for a middle school student who has to use multiple pads per day, for a week straight, it adds up. As we all know, many local families in Hawaii are struggling even to pay their bills and put food on the table at home. Having menstrual products free and ready to go on campuses can make life so much easier, and give us all one less thing to worry about. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:03:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sahara Kim	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

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

My name is Sahara Kim and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe that students should not have to pay for menstrual products in school. Many students forget to bring any type of pad or tampon to school or may not even know they have started their period. They also might not have the money to pay for those things. Menstrual products are a need for all girls especially during this period in the their life. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:52:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Autumn Pemble	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to help our students in the state of Hawaii. I am a teacher at a public school and I am asked weekly to provide students with tampons and pads; students often tell me that they do not have the items that they need. If schools provided these items, students would be less likely to have accidents during the school day because students could carry these items with them daily to ensure they have them when they are needed.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:50:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sara O'Rourke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2821.

My name is Sara O'Rourke and I am a teacher at Kapaa High School on Kauai. Providing menstrual products at school will remove barriers to education for students who do not have access to menstrual products at home.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill 2821. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:49:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicky Winter	Testifying for Achieve Zero	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have believe that all young women should have equal and free access to period products. This is a health and human rights issue and we need to support our young women. No young woman should have to decide whether to eat or buy period products or to have to wash and reuse pads because they can't afford to buy more. This happens every day and it needs to stop now.

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.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:44:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wes Perreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have experienced through my employment with the Hawaii Foodbank, a constant need for period products from our clients. Because many of our clients have difficulties in providing the basic needs like food and shelter, period products are placed even lower on their priority list.

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.

Wes Perreira / Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Director

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:48:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chyler Imai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chyler Imai and I am a public school teacher at Kohala Middle. This is my fifth year as a teacher here at Kohala Middle.

I am a recipient of the geographic hard-to-staff shortage differential, and having this differential has allowed me to stay in this profession I love.

I am the core math teacher for sixth and seventh graders, as well as the teacher for math workshop for seventh and eighth graders to help build basic math foundational skills. Our school is extremely small and we live in a rural area where resources are very difficult to possess. We all must wear many hats at our school due to a lack of adequate funding for rural schools. The hard-to-staff differential is an incentive for me to continue to support our students, families and staff. I bring a lot of expertise and experience to our school, and would like to continue in my roles.

I am the main source of income in my family, and the hard-to-staff differential has helped my finances at home, a mortgage, and college school debt.

Please know that the geographic hard-to staff differential makes a tremendous difference in the living conditions for all teachers, whether new, in the middle of our careers, or continuing to contribute to our communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:23:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Hannah Singer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Hannah Singer and I am a resident of Kailua, Hawaii and a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed the stress, anxiety, and shame that often affects my menstruating students at school who do not have consistent access to period supplies. I personally keep extra tampons and pads in my classroom desk but the demand from students who cannot access period supplies on their own often means I cannot fulfill every need. The amount of class time and mental energy students spend wondering how long they can wait before they have to ask another teacher or peer or nurse for period supplies or fearing they might bleed through their clothing because they don't have enough supplies is unjust to these students. My students deserve to focus on their class work and participate in class without concern of where these essential products can be found or accessed on campus. I just want the best for our students and this bill provides the opportunity to allow our students to focus on academic and personal growth throughout the school day instead of worrying about their periods. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:23:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kaelyn Tibbles	Testifying for Wheeler Middle	Support	No

Comments:

Measure

RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

Title:

Report Title: Menstrual Equity; Menstrual Products; Department of Education; Public Schools; State Public Charter School Commission; Charter Schools; Appropriation (\$)

Description: 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. Makes appropriations.

Companion:

Package: None

Current

EDU, WAM

Referral:

Introducer(s): KIDANI, BAKER, CHANG, DECOITE, FEVELLA, GABBARD, INOUE, KEITH-AGARAN, KEOHOKALOLE, KIM, LEE, MISALUCHA, MORIWAKI, RIVIERE, SAN BUENAVENTURA, Dela Cruz, Ihara, Nishihara, Shimabukuro, Waka

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 5:12:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ryan Kawaiiani Ozawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue. I'd like to reiterate two key points.

**First, menstrual equity is a basic equity issue.** Just as we have regulated the provision of toilet paper and paper towels in public restrooms, so too should we do the same for menstrual products.

Menstruation is a natural monthly occurrence, experienced by over half the population for much of their lives, and should not be treated differently than any other basic bodily function. It's unhygienic not to have access to menstrual products, no less so than to lack access to toilet paper.

Second, menstrual equity is a serious issue for marginalized populations. People living in poverty are most affected by lack of access to menstrual products.

These individuals often cannot afford sufficient menstrual products and so disproportionately suffer the medical and psychological impact of reusing products, using products for longer than indicated, or not using any products at all. These individuals are also more likely to have to suffer the societal effects of lack of access including problems with attendance at work or school and the appearance of being unprofessional or unhygienic.

Nobody in this country should have to miss school or work simply because they cannot afford menstrual products.

Alas, somehow Hawaii is still not progressive enough to exempt necessities like food and medicine from its General Excise Tax, but this is a start.

Mahalo!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 9:10:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elizabeth Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Elizabeth Baker and I am a proud public school educator at ‘Ilima Intermediate in ‘Ewa Beach, where I teach choir and ‘ukulele. I am writing in strong support of SB2821 requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai‘i public and charter school campuses.

I invite you to think back to when you were in middle school (a little traumatizing, I know) – all of the social pressures, the constant anxiety, and so much... new. For me, it was the era of glasses, braces, and acne (yup – all at the same time). Now, imagine that you are beginning to menstruate. Cue: one more thing to add to the overwhelming pile of tweenage despair. More stress, more anxiety, more fear, more confusion. Middle school will always be stressful (and let’s be honest, a transformative time of our lives for better or for worse) – but what if we could alleviate even just one stress from these students?

As a teacher, I have had many students approach me, scared and timid, asking, “Do you have, um... well, I forgot my.... and I’m on my... um, do you have any extras?” It breaks my heart to see their fear. I can hear their thoughts: what if my teacher doesn’t have extras? What will I use instead? Can I go to the health room? Will they have?

Then, I see the relief in their eyes when I say, “Of course. They’re right here.” Imagine if we could provide that relief for students before they even have to ask.

Thankfully, a Hawai‘i with free period products for public school students is not one we have to imagine – it is a Hawai‘i we can make a reality with your support. I strongly urge this committee to pass SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo piha.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:13:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bayya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Bayya and I am a resident of Kihei Charter School. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe women should have access to feminine products Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



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

“There are an estimated 16.9 million people who menstruate living in poverty in the United States.” (Caitlin G. pg 7.) My name is Kaitlyn Allen and period poverty is a big problem that needs to be addressed. Please support SB2821. I believe that we should require schools to give free period products to menstruators. The fact that there are people who had no choice but to use leaves because they didn’t have access to any period products is absolutely atrocious. People who menstruate don’t choose to bleed every month. You say that buying period products for schools will cost too much money but you usually make \$17.8 billion dollars from tourism. Also saying that “It’s too expensive” is basically telling us that our education is not worth the money. When I’m bleeding through my pants do you think I’m paying attention? No, I’m thinking about how I’m going to get to the next class without being judged for having my period. I had a friend who was on her period and she had no period products and she was bleeding through her pants. She had to continually wipe her seat because she didn’t know what to do. This also brings me to another point: the stigma around periods is insane. An example of this would be when I had my first I was too scared to tell anyone including my friends because I felt embarrassed even though it’s a normal thing. I have even stayed home due to me having my period. In conclusion, you should require schools to give out period products because it will messes with our education and it messes with our health. I strongly urge this committee to pass SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for reading and supporting SB2821.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:33:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jonathan Rosadino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Jonathan Rosadino and I am a teacher at Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have seen many of my female students suffer from the inability to access period products due to costs at school. They resort to using paper towels and sometimes newspapers instead and this is very sad. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:06:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Todd Ozawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Todd Ozawa and I am a teacher at Wheeler Middle School in Wahiawa Hawaii. As a middle school teacher, I am especially aware of the many challenges our students, particularly girls, face during a most difficult part of their physical and psychological development. I have been a teacher in several middle schools across the island over many years, and my experience with my girl students throughout leaves me no doubt that this is a need that must be met.

All our students are faced with an ever-increasing load of demands and expectations, which are compounded in many instances by inadequate access to necessary menstrual supplies and resources. When these are not available, our goals, including academic achievement and socialization, necessarily become secondary, to the detriment of all. In addition, this lack often has direct health consequences, where students who are disadvantaged attempt to make up for their lack through unsafe or unsanitary practices. It is important to recognize these as essential needs, and not optional or luxury items that students could simply 'do without' or absent them, could just 'find a way' to get by.

Finally, as a simple matter of equity, if we already agree on and provide what is needed for student needs in regards to safety, health, nutrition, etc. for students regardless of their sex, then it is obvious that this is an area where progress should and must be made. Therefore I am testifying in support of SB2821.

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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:53:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charisse Farley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee, My name is Charisse Farley and I am a resident of Ewa Beach and a teacher of Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed students in need of period products throughout the school day and believe that not having such products readily and freely available inhibits student’s ability to focus on academics. It is important that all students have access to necessary health supplies while attending public schools. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:38:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chrystie Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawaii for over 12 years. I am also a mother of an adolescent daughter. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have easy access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students.

Chrystie Fujimoto MD

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:36:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Piieka Kalakau-Baarde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Piieka and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced this gender-based inequity first hand as a student and teacher in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:13:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mara Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All of these kids deserve the dignity of having period products for all students no matter what their home situation is kids deserve pads and tampons etc pass this bill to help the lives of these children.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:12:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jayden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jayden and I am a resident student of Kihei Charter . I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/believe. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”

We know you signed our petition because you are just as passionate about the issue as we are. Please take the next step and submit testimony. Mahalo nui loa for your support and time! We are so very grateful.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:04:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ligaya McClatchey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Ligaya and I am a student of Kihei Charter School. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have witnessed the struggles of the lack of period products in bathrooms. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:59:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kevin Tomita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821.

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.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:33:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keren Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Keren Gonzalez and I am a student at Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/believe menstrual products should be free for students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:27:22 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sadie Sentieri	Testifying for Wheeler Middle School	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Sadie Sentieri and I am a student at Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/believe [insert your story or a quick fact about the issue in Hawaii]. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:08:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
malani ehliis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is malani and I am a resident of North Kihei at Kihei Charter Highschool. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have experienced not being able to afford products because i have to focus on being able to feed myself and family. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:46:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adriann Gin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Adriann and I am a resident of Honolulu, born and raised. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe Hawaii's young women shouldn't be unintentionally put at a disadvantage due to natural biological changes. Feminine hygiene products cost money and is truly a basic need; being able to meet this need should never come down to the ability to pay, or tradeoff calculations such as "should I buy my daughter the feminine hygiene products she needs, or use the same money to buy food to feed our entire family?". The impact of these conditions, this kind of tradeoff decision making, can cause trauma and have the potential to inflict far-reaching consequences on a young, developing girl's life. Let's provide our young Hawaii girls with the support they deserve, so they can focus on doing well in school, being involved in their community, developing friendships with their peers and teachers, rather than worrying about embarrassing moments or worse, missing school entirely and affecting their chance at a brighter future. Please, I implore you to pass this bill for the future of all Hawaii's wahine. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:12:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
tylor arneson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Tylor Arneson and I am a resident of Maui HI, and a student of kihei charter high school. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have experienced the hardships of needing feminine products. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members Dela Cruz, Fevella, and Kanuha,

SUBJECT: SB 2821 Menstrual Equity Bill  
January 27, 2022

I am writing in support of SB 2821 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 their respective campuses, and also makes appropriations.

Before Senate President Ron Kouchi made me aware of the Ma'i Movement late last year, I had never given thought to the issue of period poverty. But now I think about it often and wonder how our community can allow this situation to continue. The impact of the indignity this kind of poverty has on adolescent girls and individuals who menstruate is incalculable.

Passing SB2821 would give exposure to an issue I expect few have thought about previously. Once people are made aware of the issue, I believe you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in our state who wouldn't support the idea that every adolescent girl and individual who menstruate should have access to period products free of charge.

It is not often that elected leaders are able to have a profound impact on the lives of so many with a bill as simple as SB2821. But this is exactly what you will be doing when you pass SB2821. You will make certain that this generation of adolescent girls and individuals who menstruate and those to follow will never again have to feel the shame that period poverty causes.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this important bill.

Mahalo,

Linda Lingle  
Governor of Hawaii (2002-2010)



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:24:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Koby Spafford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello members of the EDU committee I am Koby Spafford of Kihei Charter School, I am a 16 year old male in the 11th grade and I am writing this testimony in support of the SB2821 bill. I believe this is a bill that should have been passed a long time ago. Although I cannot personally relate to the struggle that women and other AFAB people go through I would still like to see this bill passed and more steps towards gender equality in the future. I have had friend's mental health been impacted by lack of feminine products leading to unfortunate incidents in the past and I believe this bill would provide a great service to prevent this in the future.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and I hope you pass this important bill.  
Sincerely Koby Spafford

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:23:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nyla Boneza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**My name is Nyla Boneza and I'm advocating for SB 2821. I am a senior at Roosevelt High School and I am a member of the Oahu Teen Council, a peer-led education program with Planned Parenthood. I have been learning about sexual health topics to learn about myself and support my peers.**

**I feel this bill is important because everyone should be able to have access to free period products in schools. Personally, when I was in middle school, I didn't have access to anything like this. If we were to get our periods at school and didn't have any period products on us we would have to pay the health room to get access. While \$.50 to a dollar may not seem like much, to a student it can feel like an embarrassing burden.**

**Unfortunately, a lot of people who come to school with no money are stranded and forced to look for other options such as going home or asking around which creates a sense of shame for something that should be a basic school supply. One of said options is to use toilet paper, this being highly uncomfortable, does not last very long, and is not very practical.**

**Another reason that menstrual products should be made available is that it relieves and takes away the sense of embarrassment. All students are exposed and aware of the purpose of the products and everyone can learn that periods are normal, not dirty, gross, or a weird mystery.**

**I encourage legislators to support this bill because menstruators are constituents who shouldn't have to resort to unhygienic alternatives and missing school. 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.**



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:32:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Paul McKimmy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a father and as an educator, I support this bill. Providing basic menstrual supplies to ensure that our female students can attend school without stress, shame, or embarrassment is clearly the right thing to do.

Thank you to the sponsors of this bill for advocating for our daughters.

Paul McKimmy, Ed.D.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:32:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
William Kern	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is William Kern and as a longtime resident of Honolulu 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.

Please take this opportunity to address a relatively hidden, but important, health hygiene equity issue for our female students. The benefits far exceed the costs, and ensure that our youth can stay focused on their education as each day's priority.

I strongly urge this committee to pass bill SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo nui loa!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:41:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mia Holmberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**My name Is Mia Holmberg and I go to Kihei Charter in Maui. Conducting a survey at my school about the statistics and reality of the struggles girls/ menstruating people go through really opened my eyes and many others. Getting the opportunity to raise money for products has given my school easy access to feminine products in the High School restroom.**

**I found that 55% of girls surveyed have struggled at some point to access and have skipped school due to this issue. Along with the stigma around menstruating it has made a difficult school environment. Not only has the bin in the restroom helped provide, help with stigma, but also helped me count how many products have been taken. Just within three months over 200 products were used. Many teachers have told me how grateful they are for helping support our school because so many students have gone to them asking for products and they simply couldn't provide. Dozens have sent emails and gone to them within the past year.**

**I am happy to help those at school and my community but this shouldn't be something I should be fighting for but simply provided for free because it isn't a luxury. It can be a struggle simply to have a period, but to not have access dibilates day to day tasks. The fact we need to show it's not a luxury and give reasoning is insane to me. Period Poverty needs to end! I am so proud of those helping fight for this!**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:41:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elizabeth Wiggans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

My name is Elizabeth Wiggans and I strongly support SB 2821.

Inability to access menstruation products should not be a reason our students miss school. At Konawaena Middle, we have had dedicated teachers who fund and maintain a Care Closet, stocked with supplies: from slippers to laundry detergent to deodorant to pads and tampons. Our students regularly use the Care Closet, but this should not be another expense shouldered by teachers.

According to the research conducted by the Ma'i Movement late last year, 8 out of 10 students across the Hawaiian Islands reported that they "face difficulties getting period products," and instead use "newspapers, napkins, socks, old rags, toilet paper, leaves, diapers, [or] folder paper" in place of sanitary supplies. The same survey cites primary reasons students feel they cannot access these basic supplies are because of cost and embarrassment. Senate Bill 2821 would address both barriers by removing the cost placed on students, as well as normalizing access to supplies. Just as we offer school supplies to students, they deserve menstrual equity as well.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:40:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
joelle sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Joelle sato] and I am a resident of Wahiawa, Hawaii.. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed the lack of resources provided for students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:38:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Grace Chen-Ellis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support passage of Senate Bills 2819 and 2820 which I view as critical to the recruitment and retention of high quality educators in Hawaii. I am a high school teacher on Molokai and I know firsthand that some very good teachers here are considering leaving the profession because of low compensation and little opportunity to see their wages grow as they gain experience. We must do all that we can to stop this kind of attrition. Hawaii is behind most states in terms of educator compensation relative to cost of living. It is our responsibility as educators and legislators to ensure that our students are led by a team of educators with exceptional abilities. We cannot fulfill that obligation if our brightest young people choose another career because of relatively low wages for educators, if we cannot compete with other states for the very best teachers, and if we cannot retain teachers. If teachers in Hawaii were guaranteed what most teachers in every other state have -- salary adjustments based on years of experience -- we could increase the number of college students who would choose education as a career, be in a better position to compete with other states for the best teachers, and retain the quality teachers we already have. In addition, we have seen the positive impact shortage differentials have by substantially reducing teacher shortages in the fields and geographic areas to which they apply. We should continue a valuable program that we know works. Senate Bills 2819 and 2820 will help us meet our responsibility to our students to keep their schools fully staffed with the best teachers available. For these reasons, I urge passage of Senate Bills 2819 and 2820. Thank you for your consideration.

Grace C. Chen-Ellis

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 5:17:46 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

January 26, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature  
Re: Testimony in Support of SCR100

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

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

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

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

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

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

January 26, 2022

Debra Henton  
95 No Ka Oi Place  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

Aloha Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim, and Members of the Senate 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 support of **SB2821** 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 Kamakahahei 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**

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 4:45:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo to the sponsors of this bill for your awareness of this most sensitive issue that affect women and girls in every corner of our state. Menstruel hygiene products, which are so expensive, fall to the bottom of the shopping list for so many families, and as a result our young women suffer in silence and often miss school because of the shame associated with lack of pads or tampons. Access to free menstruel hygiene products in the school would have a tremendous positive impact for young women, particularly those who are suffering during these tough economic times.

For Martin Luther King Day this year, O'ahu Democrats, with the NAACP, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, the Pacific Buddhist Academy, and organizations around the island, sponsored a day of service with drive-by, drop-off donation opportunities for folks around O'ahu. People could drop off non-perishable food for the Hawai'i Foodbank and/or period hygiene products for the Ma'i Movement. The response was tremendous for both organizations since there is a growing awareness of the need to support our young women as well as put food on tables.

Thank you for this tremendously important effort to support the needs of the our young women who often remain voiceless in our society.

Lorna Takehara Strand

99-1054 Manako St., Aiea, HI 96701

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 10:58:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tessa Palafu	Testifying for Achieve Zero	Support	No

Comments:

**I am testifying in support of SB2821. Our work with the houseless population has shown us the great need that exists within our communities for affordable, and easily accessible, feminine hygiene products. Our team encounters countless female clients that are on their Period but do not have access to basic period products, and lack the financial resources to purchase them. Once given these products, our clients are extremely grateful. Many have expressed how dehumanizing it feels to not have access to such basic necessities during their menstrual cycle. I can only imagine that these feelings are heightened when period poverty is experienced at a young age, especially while in school.**

**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.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:09:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Pana Kia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If we want all students to participate in school then we need to make it an environment where their basic needs are met. Menstrual product availability should not be one of the things that keep students away from school. More time in school with less shame means more opportunities for more learning and larger growth both socially and academically.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:12:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2821 requesting the DOE to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawaii public and charter school campuses. Keiki who may not have resources or access to regularly have these products on hand are negatively impacted by not having this basic need covered which affects their learning.

Mahalo for your vote supporting health and learning for our students.



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2821

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, & Members – Senate Committee on Education  
FROM: Trisha Kajimura  
Deputy Director - Community  
DATE: January 28, 2022 at 3:00 PM

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2821 which 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.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have experienced the direct consequences of the lack of health equity and healthcare access experienced by people struggling with the unforgivingly high cost of living in Hawai'i.

Menstrual hygiene is a public health, gender equality, and human rights issue that was formally recognized by the United Nations in 2014. California, New York, and Virginia currently make menstrual products available to public school students without charge.

Hawai'i's working families have been hit especially hard during the protracted economic downturn precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing levels of housing instability and food insecurity have accompanied job losses and reductions in working hours. Prior to the pandemic DOE determined that almost half of its students were economically disadvantaged.

**Young women in need should not have to bear the deep shame and humiliation of not having access to menstrual products** that can be readily provided by designated school personnel. To the extent that a lack of access to menstrual products may cause young women to miss school for days or even weeks, it frustrates their ability to participate fully in their educational opportunities, including co-curricular activities. Prolonged use of menstrual products is injurious to health and well-being.

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



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:18:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Dolata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have witnessed members of our Maui community in need, time and time again, be left behind those with means even when it comes to something as essential as period products and feminine hygiene education.**

**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.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:19:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Kagiwada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

As a parent of two HIDOE public school students, the Coordinator for the Hawaii Island Women's March and proponent of public education, social justice and equity, I am writing in support of SB2821 relating to menstrual equality.

We know that in order to educate students, they must attend school. We also know that in a statewide 2021 survey conducted by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, 42% of respondents reported having to stay home or leave class due to lack of accessibility to period products. Therefore, we should provide period products at our schools to support students coming to and staying in school, and maximize their opportunities for learning. This is a economic and gender equity issue.

Mahalo for your consideration, -Jenn Kagiwada, Hilo

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:24:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tonantzin Weathersbee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Tonantzin Weathersbee and I am a teacher at Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/witnessed/believe that our students should not be charged for basic hygiene products at school. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”



## **SENATE BILL 2820, RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY**

JANUARY 28, 2022 · SENATE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 2821, relating to menstrual equity, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses and requires the Hawai'i 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)**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:49:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Mykie Ozoa-Aglugub and I am a resident of Kailua, O‘ahu. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because girls, women, and people who menstruate deserve unobstructed access to their education. 8 out of 10 students face difficulty getting period products and 21.6% of women, girls, and people who menstruate in Hawai‘i surveyed said they missed at least one day of school because they could not obtain period products. Further, 42% had to miss class or leave school early because they did not have period products and 42.3% of respondents said lack of access to a pad or tampon at school affected their ability to learn in high school. Meanwhile, 58% of respondents who said they had difficulty obtaining menstruation products listed cost as the main reason and only 16.7% said their school provided period products at no cost.

Menstruation and poverty should not be reasons why girls and others are further impeded from obtaining an education. Please pass SB2821.

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

Sincerely,

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:06:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michele Yamada Pangilinan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an OBGYN on Oahu and I support SB2821 which requests that the Department of Education provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawai'i public school campuses.

Menstruation is a natural body function for women, and menstrual hygiene products can be very costly. This is a matter of equity. Just as schools provide toilet paper and towels for students to maintain hygiene, schools should have menstrual products. 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.

I urge you to pass SB2821.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:08:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leesha Bernabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Leesha Bernabe and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have had many experiences during my classes, for example, during my math I would get easily distracted by my period since I only had limited menstrual supplies.

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

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:11:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Liana White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,**

**I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2821.**

**I am a public school teacher who has taught in Hawai'i since 2004. I am also a proud product of the Hawaii State DOE system. Please provide for the basic needs of our students!**

**Please vote in support of Senate Bill SB2821.**



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:18:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Precious Lara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Precious Lara and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/witnessed having periods in school but I don't have a pad because it was unexpected. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:34:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Teianna Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Teianna Shirota. I am in support of passing SB2821. No person with a uterus chooses to menstruate. Not a single one of them. It is something that we just have to accept, and take care of when it happens. However, not everyone is able to afford this. Looking at Target today, 01/27/2022, a box of tampons averages \$8 a pack. Now the average person with a uterus will spend on average \$13 a month on menstrual products. I personally spend a lot more than that because of reproductive issues that affect my body, and have been struggling with since I started my period in the 6th grade. I cannot count the amount of times I have called home crying because I accidentally bled through my clothes. There were times I would run to the counselor's office, praying they had an extra pad or tampon for me to use. I'd ask every single person in my classes if they had something for me to use. Or, as any woman reading this can relate, I would wad up toilet paper or paper towels until I could find something else to use. As a 6th grader, I couldn't just go to the store and buy my own products. Even though some may think "well, a box is only \$8." Please tell me where a 10 year old is going to get \$8 on the spot. Luckily, my family was fortunate enough to afford these products, so I usually had my back ups in my backpack. Not everyone is that lucky though, and sometimes accidents happen. \$8 is enough for dinner for family of four when times are tough. Having to decide between feeding your kids or buying them menstrual products should never be a choice that parents have to face, especially in the United States in 2022. Young people that get periods shouldn't have to be faced with the task of finding someone that they can borrow a tampon from, or even in some cases staying home from school. It's something that happens in every school, every day, every where. Schools already have the responsibility of caring for their students for 6-7 hours a day. Why not add menstrual care to their responsibilities? It's as simple as keeping the tampon machines in stock, or even funding a budget to keep them in a counselor's room or nurse's office. It's time to stop demonizing a natural part of life and open the conversation to make our young people feel comfortable and safe in school with their menstrual cycles.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:47:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elliot Woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2821

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:44:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julia Kotzian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Bill 2821

RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUALITY.

Jan 28, 2022 3:00 PM via. VideoConference

IN SUPPORT

I currently work as an employee of Hawai'i DOE and am a member of HSTA. I am testifying in support of SB 2821.

Sincerely,

Julia Kotzian

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:22:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
pauline charisse padua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Pauline Charisse Padua and I am student of James Campbell High school.

I believe it will help many students to have pads and tampons supplies instead bringing their own and buying them.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:24:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2821, requesting the Department of Education to make menstrual products for students free on all Hawai'i public and charter school campuses.

As a mother to two young daughters, this bill is especially important to me. My oldest daughter is in elementary school but is beginning puberty, and we have had a lot of conversations about menstruating and how to handle that it was to happen for the first time at school. She has told me she has found evidence of girls having their period at school and struggling with it, and we were planning on making baskets of period products for free in the bathrooms that 4-5th graders use in baskets. Hearing about this bill made me so happy! It just makes sense. Period products are just as important for girls to feel safe at school and ready to learn as toilet paper is.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

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

FROM: Leinaala Kanana, Director of Community Health Services  
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

HEARING: Senate Committee Education  
Friday, January 28, 2022, 3:00pm, **Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**Submitting Comments re SB2821, Relating to Menstrual Equality**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for SB2821, which would provide free menstrual products to all Hawaii public school campuses.

Recent studies have shown that about a quarter of menstruating students struggle with access to period products, and that many still feel a stigma around menstruation.

Many schools keep their menstrual products in the nurse's office or at their school-based clinic. This, at times, requires the student to walk across campus while they're still bleeding through. This leads to shame.

The lack of access is even greater for students who come from low-socioeconomic backgrounds. These vulnerable students already have barriers to education, health, transportation, etc. Some even come to school in hopes they can find product to last them overnight. Lack of menstrual products also leads to learning loss when students go home because they are unable to find products.

As you know, menstruation isn't a choice and SB2821 allows the opportunity for menstrual products to be available to those who need it the most.

Once again, WCCHC supports this bill, and believes it is a step in the right direction towards removing stigma, shame and learning loss.

Mahalo for your time.

Leinaala Kanana  
Director of Community Health Services  
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:01:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elizabeth Sharrock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

You should've seen the excitement in my students' faces when I announced that I was providing free tampons and pads to those who needed it. They were elated. A girl shouted out smiling, "WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THIS!" This tells me that she and her friends were wishing they had better access to the most basic needs - sanitary products. If you are not a woman, you might not know that each box of tampons, each pack of pads could cost a family 7-10 dollars. This is nothing to shrug about. I work in an impoverished community. My students and families do not have the means to buy these products on their own, on a regular basis. I know for a fact that there are some students who simply STAY HOME because they don't have the products they need when they go to school. Can you please help out by passing this bill? It would improve our attendance. It would improve inequality on many levels. Do your duty and pass bills like this one that MATTER.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sharrock

6th grade ELA teacher at Kea'au Middle School



To: Committee on Education  
Hearing Date/Time: Thrus., Jan. 28, 2022, 3PM  
Re: Testimony Supporting SB2821

Dear Chair Kidani 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.

I vividly remember bleeding through my white shorts on the first day of sixth grade, I was so embarrassed. The shame our society places on menstruation is the reason this memory is so clear. Now as a twenty four year old woman I do not carry that shame, and I wish I could go back to middle school Roz and tell her it's ok, this is your power and no stress, accidents happen! If I had access to menstrual products in the school bathrooms this event could have been avoided completely.

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 for our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for hearing this important bill.

Sincerely,  
Rozlyn Calderon  
Regional Field Organizer PPAA HI

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Committee Member

Sen. Dru Mamo Kanuha, Committee Member

Sen. Kurt Fevella, Committee Member

Friday, January 28, 2022

Written Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education in support of SB 2821

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

My name is Kelsey Nakagawa, and I am a 20 year old student attending the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and a Kāne‘ohe resident. I am writing in support of SB2821, and I am grateful for the opportunity to testify on behalf of myself and my community. As a female student and menstrator, I kindly ask you all to support providing free period products in all public schools.

When I was in sixth grade I got my period for the first time. Fortunately, I was panicking alone in the bathroom stall without any period products one me. I quickly unraveled toilet paper and wrapped it around my underwear and went to class with feet of bundled, wet toilet paper between my legs. I was too embarrassed to ask anyone for a spare pad, and I felt self-conscious and alone. By the end of the day bits of toilet paper were shredded and colored red, stuck to my legs and underwear. I remember feeling dirty and foolish for trying toilet paper.

For the rest of middle school I was ashamed to be on my period and I hid that I was on my period and when I was changing my pads. If I leaked I walked to the bathroom with my eyes glued to the floor and my hands over my butt to cover the spot of blood. Offering free period products in school would have helped me on the days I did not have period products. Additionally, providing free period products and addressing period poverty can decrease period stigma and encourage menstrators to embrace their body on and off their periods. Thank you all again for your time and consideration. I will deeply appreciate it if the Senate Education Committee supports SB 2821.

Mahalo nui,



Kelsey Nakagawa

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:29:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Watts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e kakou!

I am proud to say that I support Senate Bill 2821 as a **female** with health problems related to irregular menses caused by fibroids. When I was a student at UH Manoa getting my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Work, I was on campus for long periods of time while studying and going to classes and sometimes I would run out of my supplies (which was awful). It would have been a big help to women of all socioeconomic status, if there were FREE feminine hygiene supplies in all of the restrooms, like they have at the VA Spark Matsunaga. Women have been taxed way too long for something that is necessary and quite expensive. Please free us of these unnecessary fees as dealing with the issue of menstrating is taxing enough.

Mahalo for your time!

Kim Watts, MSW

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:36:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
colin strauss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Colin Strauss and I am a student at Wheeler Middle. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe girls should be supplied with the proper resources to take care of themselves. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:34:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ethan Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Ethan Campbell and I am a teacher at Wheeler Middle. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe everyone should have access to period products. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:13:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kim Ashley Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education,

My name is Kim Ashley Corpuz and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am for SB2821. I experienced what it's like to have menstruation every month and I think this bill will be very helpful to the people who deal with the same struggles as I do when it comes up. There has been stigma around menstruation for ages and having this bill passed is a benefit to countless citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:34:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jada Borja-Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Jada Borja-Johnson and I am a student of James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced, as well as witnessed someone and even myself being in need of a pad and having none around me. The panic that consumes a female when they get their period unexpectedly and don't have a pad/tampon is well known to me as well as others. I believe this bill would bring a lot of relief to the females in every school on Hawai'i, knowing they would be able to have a pad/tampon provided for them if they don't already have it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:38:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Melody Aoki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB2821 in providing free menstrual products for all students in our public and charter schools.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:34:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julia Wolfson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is absolutely imperative to treat access to menstrual products as a basic human right.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:23:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Hailei Manibog Balicoco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Hailei and I am a student at James Campbell High School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I and many others at Campbell have experienced inadequate resources and products. After talking with a couple of girls, we all have agreed that we had no access to a period/hygiene products once or multiple times during school. This causes distractions and greatly affects our education. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:41:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
London Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this should be a bill because as a girl I can relate to having a period and not being prepared for having my products. It would be awesome to have these products in the bathroom so every girl can feel prepared for their period.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:39:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Payne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Steven Payne and I am a student of Wheeler Middle. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have believe that women of wheeler should have these things. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”**

January 27, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jodi Kunimitsu and I am a math teacher at Maui High School. I am writing in strong support of SB 2821, related to menstrual equity.

One of the things that I have heard over and over since the start of the pandemic is how important it is for students to be present in school. Another thing I have heard over and over is how we need to support their social and emotional well-being. As a teacher, I completely agree. However, I don't believe that these statements have been backed up with action.

Students who are on their period and don't have access to menstrual supplies are forced to either 1) stay home until their period is over or 2) risk leaking if they don't have the proper menstrual supplies - which is not only emotionally embarrassing, but also a safety issue, since menstrual fluid is a bodily fluid. Imagine this happening once a month for 10 months and multiply that by every year the student is menstruating while in school.

The passage of SB 2821 would ensure that no student has to go through either of those scenarios above. It would ensure that students can feel comfortable and safe coming to school while going through their menstrual cycle.

I cannot accept the idea that cost is an issue. The HIDOE spends a lot of money on things that do not directly impact student success in the classroom. For example, the money spent on standardized testing has ZERO impact on student success. However, a student being physically present in the classroom does have an impact on student success. If funding can be given to things like standardized testing, it surely can be given to menstrual supplies to ensure students can attend school.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2821. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Jodi Kunimitsu

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 12:00:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elisa Furtado-Fischer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Students should have access to sanitary products and teachers should not have to use their own money to supply them for their students.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:49:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carrice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As a female and product of Hawai'i's public schools, I am testifying in favor of SB2821 and believe period products should be offered for free in our schools. Currently 8 in 10 students have difficulty getting these products. These are sanitary products that should be provided in the same way that soap and toilet paper are provided at our schools. It is also a medical necessity - menstruation is not a choice, but a fact for girls and women.

Having these products freely accessible will help to support students learning and remove a barrier to education. It is often the most vulnerable kids who do not have access to these products and are made to feel self-conscious about their period. These products are a basic necessity that shouldn't require a long walk to the school nurse's office - providing them is key to removing the stigma of periods. As a young girl, I saw how this impacted students and the shame that female students felt when they did not have ready access to menstrual products.

Providing period products also supports equal learning opportunities for girls in our public school system. Studies have also shown that 4 out of 5 menstrating girls either missed class time or know someone who did because they did not have access to period products. As a former public school student, I can attest that this caused peers to be late to class; other times, they ended up going home and not coming back for the rest of the day.

Please support this bill and in doing so, you will be supporting equal learning and empowering young girls.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrice Gardner

January 27, 2022

To: Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Members of the Education Committee

From: Clara Kathman

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 2821, Relating to Menstrual Equality

Aloha! My name is Clara Kathman and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support SB2821. This bill would require the Hawaii Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses. This bill must be passed as the products being provided are necessary items for the women, girls, and those with periods on Hawaii's public school campuses.

I cannot even count the number of times I got my period in the middle of a school day and had to search through my friends and teachers to find a pad or tampon. Not only was this anxiety-inducing because I couldn't find something I need to be healthy but it caused me to miss out on education. There have been times when I sit in the bathroom for 10 minutes or more waiting for my friend to bring me a product I need. If the DOE provided free menstrual products to my public school I wouldn't have missed out on valuable education time.

Additionally providing free menstrual products to Hawaii's public schools would promote gender equality. No one chose how they were born or what their sex is. It's completely unfair that those who menstruate have to pay for such a necessary product. Furthermore, as I mentioned above



my period has caused me to miss out on education. This is something that would never happen to my non-menstruating peers. It is completely unfair that women have to fund something that could ever impact their male counterparts.

Thank you for your time and consideration! I hope you now see how vital this bill is and show your support by voting YES on SB2821!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:15:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is [randol] and I am a resident of [hawaii]/student of [wheeler middle]. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/witnessed/believe [insert your story or a quick fact about the issue in Hawaii]. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill because its a good idea**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:08:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matthew	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**My name is Matthew and I am a student of Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe there should be (more) homeless shelters for the homeless. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:43:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michelle Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

If you care about equality in education, you will pass SB2821. As research has shown, a lack of period products creates a gender bias against females in our education system. Girls that do not have menstrual products cannot attend classes. Period. This is a problem that does not affect the learning and education of the males in our school system. Only females.

Women face inequity in many uncontrollable ways. Perceptions and unconscious bias. The government telling them the choices they can and cannot make regarding reproduction. Male-oriented standards when applying for jobs. Limitations on family leave. However, this is one area where we can make progress on equality and we should. 50% of your constituents are female - please represent their rights and interests.

Best,

Michelle

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:13:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tammy Holt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 27, 2021

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy Holt and I am writing in support of SB 2821.

As families struggle with the loss of employment and the alarming rising rate of inflation, the cost of feminine hygiene products has also continued to rise.

School age children have no independent financial means and must rely on their families to provide these essential products. When parents are faced with the need to provide utility money or rent money these products may seem to be the last on their list.

Finally, teachers have long recognized this need and pay out of pocket to provide menstrual products for their students. This is real, this is true and this is another out of pocket classroom expense that a teacher will regularly provide students with because we simply cannot see a child go without. Ask any teacher who teaches third grade and above.

Please, I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2821

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:44:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carolyn M Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports family and individual dignity and as such strongly supports SB2821.

SB2821 ensures personal hygiene and integrity for our most at risk youth. This subject is important on a very basic level.

Please pass SB2821 Menstrual Equality post haste. Thank you for your consideration.

Carolyn Golojuch,  
MSW

President and founder, Rainbow Family 808

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:15:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Ing	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am in utter disbelief that a family has to be forced to decide on either providing for food or providing hygienic, personal products for the women in their families! Something is desperately wrong with family and state economics that such a choice needs to be made. Is the cost of living here so out of touch with the realities of our paychecks?? How dare that we are forced to make such basic needs decisions!. I support the idea that schools have necessary hygiene products available for student's school day use! But more importantly, either increase paychecks to keep up with the ridiculous inflations we live with, or do something about the high cost of living here in my native home so we can afford to cover both of these essential and basic needs areas!  
Aloha, Susan Ing, mother of 4 daughters!

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:44:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Desmond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**“Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Desmond and I am a student of wheeler middle school. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/witnessed/believe [insert your story or a quick fact about the issue in Hawaii]. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.”**



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:42:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sarah Tochiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Sarah Tochiki and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because it is important that there are no barriers for our students to be able to access their education. While something like menstrual products may seem insignificant to those who can afford them, for those who struggle financially, this is a major obstacle to coming to school. We must make sure we support the needs of our students. This will help them to make sure they are ready to concentrate on learning. We cannot teach students if they are stressed about non-school related things. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**Sarah Tochiki**

**sarah.tochiki@gmail.com**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:40:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Education Committee members,

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because passing this bill should be a no-brainer. Your vote will be a reflection of our values as a society, so I hope any discussions about funding are all constructive, focused on finding a solution, rather than in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo,  
Dylan Ramos



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

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

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

DATE: Friday, January 28, 2022

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

**Re: SB2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

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

Menstruation is a natural body function that affects half of our population, and menstrual hygiene products can be very costly. This is a matter of equity. Just as schools provide toilet paper and towels for students to maintain hygiene, schools should have menstrual products. 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 urge you to pass SB2821.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 11:34:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Omine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Members of the Committee:**

**My name is Ryan Omine, and I am a teacher at Momilani Elementary in the Leeward District, on the island of Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2819. I am not going to sugar coat things and write you a long testimonial letter as I am not even sure how many of you actually read our testimony. I am just going to be as blunt and get my point across.**

**I have been teaching for almost 20 years, and before I got into this profession, I knew that teachers never got paid much, especially in Hawaii. Despite knowing this fact, and knowing that the cost of living in Hawaii is ridiculously high, I still wanted to become a public school teacher, a public servant for our keiki. Over the years as teacher morale and respect for our profession continually declines, I started to ask myself that philosophical question, “Why? Why did I choose to become a public school teacher?”**

**My answer has always been to make a positive impact in the lives of all of the students I teach. No amount of money can ever compensate any teacher for what we do. We do it because we love working with our students, we do it because we love the art and craft of teaching, we do it because it enriches our lives and the lives of our students.**

**I think we are entrusted with one of the most important responsibilities on the face of the earth with educating our children and preparing them for future generations. Yet, we get paid peanuts in comparison to every other profession. As I said earlier, I never cared about the money going into this profession. I get more respect from my students than adults at times, or I should say many times. Why? I think my students know I care about them and their well being, my students know that I am willing to do anything within my power to make them feel special, to make THEM feel EMPOWERED. They know that they can trust me now more than ever to keep them safe and healthy from the COVID. My students know that I will always be here for them when they need me, like any family member.**

**With all this being said, I have done my part as a teacher for nearly 20 years, and now I hope you will do your part as a politician. I might not even see any compensation in my lifetime, but I am hoping those future educators after me will. With the continual cost of living going up, houses on small parcels of land going for nearly \$1 million and up, please**

**help our unappreciated profession by passing this bill. Honestly, without the support of my parents/family, there is NO way I would and could ever afford to live here with my own family. I would have left my home, my family, my state a long time ago. Thanks for your time and reading this letter.**

**Respectfully,**

**Ryan Omine**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:17:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members

Strong support for this measure.

It's hard for many of us to imagine the idea of "period poverty" but sadly it exists here in Hawai'i. It's hard to imagine that there are families economically insecure that buying menstrual products for their daughters is a hardship, but it is fact. It's hard to image that this period poverty leads to unsanitary practices like reuse of menstrual products or resorting to old rags or toilet paper. But it happens. This bill offers a simple solution to a problem that could result in illness or at the very least loss of school days for our girl students.

Please pass this important bill out of committee,

Mahalo nui loa,

Ann S. Freed

Life-time feminist

Mililani, HI

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:43:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Persephone Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**My name is Persephone Hayes and I am a student of Wheeler Middle School. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe that menstrual equality should be imputed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:18:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kristina M.K. Vioria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim and Members of the Education Committee.

My name is Kristina M.K. Vioria, and I am a 7th grade Instructional Coach at DreamHouse ‘Ewa Beach, PCS in Kalaeloa. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** bill because I have experienced and witnessed first-hand the importance of providing students access to free menstrual products on all Department of Education Hawai’i schools. This bill is an initiative that takes the important steps to address menstrual inequality and end period poverty that requires low investment. A statewide statistic survey conducted by the Hawai’i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma’i Movement Hawai’i found that 42% of respondents report missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence that our students who cannot afford menstrual products are using these products beyond the recommended safe time or resulting to unhygienic alternatives, like diapers, napkins, or folder paper. Which ultimately opens the possibility of deadly infection, which are all preventable. SB 2821 address the issues and promotes the common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality, and educational equity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2821.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:24:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because it is vital for people who menstruate to have access and information on period products without shame, stigma or financial burden.

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.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:36:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shereen Doi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Education Committee,**

**My name is Shereen Doi Acorda and I am Social Worker on the island of Kauai. 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.**

- I got connected with the Mai Movement organization via social media. Learning more about their mission, studies and data outcomes bring awareness to the financial hardships that Kauai families and other menstrating youth/family in Hawaii experience is alarming.**
- Just as the DOE provides toilet paper in restrooms, menstration products are a necessity for menstrating youth. As period products are health hygiene products. Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as other bodily functions. People with periods cannot simply "opt out" of having their periods.**
- Student well-being is at risk. Students surveyed reported using leaves, school paper, diapers, old rags, newspaper, and socks when they do not have period products. These items are not sanitary, and using them opens up the possibility of (possibly lethal) infection that is preventable!**
- Menstrual inequity leads to educational inequity. Students report missing classes or even entire school days due to a lack of access to period products on campus.**

**I strongly urge this committee to pass bill SB2821 to ensure equity and dignity to menstruating students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:24:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
civic k Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Passing this bill will reflect in a safer, cleaner education system. Teaching students on how to use these products as well, will help educate them in how to use them. Students who lack the opportunity to stay clean during the school day should get the comfort of a clean, dry environment. There should be no awkward positions for any students as public schools are a safe and zone where students should feel comfort. The state providing these tools will increase the education level for students as they will be more focused on their education rather than keeping themselves, and their environment free of contamination of human blood and other contaminants. Schools should also put disposable bins separate of a trash can in all restrooms for proper biohazard disposal.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:38:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
makena monaco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Makena and I am a resident of Honolulu attending 'Iolani School. I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I believe that access to menstrual products is a right that all students deserve to have. Periods are normal, and it is not a shameful topic. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:19:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marissa Commey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced the demoralizing effects of not being able to afford menstrual products as a young student. Making period products free alleviates stress on parents and students who don't have the means to acquire these critical items, and supports student's physical, mental and educational well-being.**

**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.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:29:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Allison Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Allison and I am a teacher at Waipahu High. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because menstrual products being provided for our students creates the safe place we aim to create at school. This is one way we can better support our students and a key part of prioritizing our students' health and wellbeing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:22:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Trina Orimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,

I stand in strong support of SB 2821. Menstruation should never be a barrier to school attendance. I am grateful for your consideration of this bill and the many ways that increases equity in our communities.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:18:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Naleah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student of Wheeler Middle School, I support this because it is an important life essential. thank you.



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:39:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ryan Mandado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chairwoman Kidani and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I'm the Chief Academic Officer of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School. I believe that all female students should be able to come to school without worrying about having products to take care of their menstrual needs. Menstrual products are school supplies.

Please support and invest in our students.

Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado

808-931-0442

ryanmandado@gmail.com

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:46:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cameron Kubota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Cameron Kubota and I am a resident of Kailua, Oahu. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I believe this bill is a significant step in the right direction to ensuring equal access for all without stigma. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:53:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stacie M Burke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Education Committee

Friday, January 28, 2022

Support for S.B. No. 2821 Realating to Menstrual Equality

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and memebers of the Education Committee. I am writing you today in support of SB 2821.

We must do better for the young people of Hawai'i. I was aware of period poverty projects distributing products to those in our houseless community as well as in our local prisons . I was shocked to learn that there was also a need in our public schools.

The actions of our local community has given me hope. Organizations like the Ma'i Movement have stepped up to provide products for our menstruating citiznes, and more importantly they have brought much needed attention to this situation. Through their work with local educators they have inspired students to take part in our legislative process.

I ask our legislators to take advantage of this opportunity to provide this basic need , in turn, showing these young people that civic engagement yields results.

Mahalo

Stacie Burke

Aiea, HI

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:56:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amber P. Leon Guerrero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced/witnessed/believe that our school has reached the need to support students who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Many students at our school were relieved to have access to menstrual products in all restrooms, classrooms, and offices. This bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, and education equity.

Mahalo,

Amber Pomaikalani Leon Guerrero

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:59:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
DeeDee Palafu	Testifying for Achieve zero	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because i have experienced and witnessed the struggles of living in poverty as a young teenage girl attending school with no way of obtaining feminine products. The feeling of shame will outweigh the need, leaving these young girls vulnerable more than they already are.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:54:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2821.



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

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Senator Donna Mecado Kim, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health

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

Breastfeeding Hawaii Treasurer/Board Member

RE: SB 2821 Relating to Menstrual Equality

DATE: Friday, January 28, 2022 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

Aloha Senator Kidani, Senator Kim and Members of the Committee on Health.

I am Patricia Bilyk, representing Breastfeeding Hawaii. Our Mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding through 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 protect people with periods who need our protection as they continue their menstrual life journey and have need to have menstrual products every month.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2821. 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 (leaves, rags, 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 encourage you to pass it out of your Committee.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:58:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Kidani and Senator Kim and the Committee on Education,

"I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I am certified in pediatric and adolescent gynecology. I have provided gynecologic care to children, adolescents, and adults in Hawaii for over 35 years. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students."

Thank you very much for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM MS-PopH FACHE FAAPL FACOG



**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:50:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students.

January 27, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate,

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 for your consideration,

*Celeste Yukiko Endo*

Celeste Yukiko Endo

Committee on Education  
The Hawaii State Senate  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Re: SB 2821 Testimony

January 27, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

I SUPPORT WITH BILL SB2821 which seeks to require our island public schools to provide menstrual products free of charge for students to use.

My name is Erika Molyneux, and I am a resident of Kaneohe and an instructor at Leeward Community College in Pearl City. As a woman, mother of my own daughter, and teacher, I have personal experience with the many difficulties entailed in simply growing up and functioning as a woman. When I was younger, I would often get caught by surprise when my period started and would have to beg for menstrual products from others for the day. When caught unprepared, this kind of experience can be embarrassing and distressing, causing young women to leave school to find menstrual supplies, a change of clothes, and sometimes, to hide in shame.

We also have a large number of public school students that live in poverty and have difficulty paying for school supplies and food, let alone menstrual products. The list of current Title I schools along with the percentage of students that qualify for Title I services due to low household income, may be found [in this document published by the Hawaii Department of Education](#).

A [recent National Public Radio \(NPR\) Article](#) states that “Recent studies have shown that about a quarter of menstruating students struggle with access to period products, and that many teens still feel a stigma around menstruation.” The article mentions that only 5 states currently have laws providing menstrual products and that access to these products can help break down further barriers to learning. The location at which products are available is also important, as forcing students to trek across campus to the nurse’s station can further stigmatize the issue. Having these supplies offered free of charge to our students could help solve issues of shame and discomfort surrounding the need for and lack of these products, encouraging students to maintain consistent attendance when their period occurs.

For all these reasons and more, I strongly support PASSING BILL SB2821. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

Erika Molyneux

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 2:57:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
april Nishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is critical to ensure equal access to healthcare and education for girls!

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 4:09:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Divya Dethier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist. I have provided gynecologic care to adolescents, and adults for 5 years. Menstruation can be very challenging for children and adolescents as they navigate puberty, and menstrual hygiene products can be extremely costly for families. Children and adolescents who don't have access to menstrual products have to miss school and activities and this can have a major impact on their lives and education. For this reason, I SUPPORT SB 2821 to have menstrual products available in schools at no cost to students. Thank you for your consideration.



**TO:** Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

**DATE/LOCATION:** January 28, 2022; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229/Video Conference

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2821 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.

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**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 4:41:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Holly Honbo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Greetings, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Holly Honbo and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in **opposition** of **SB2821**.

As a high school teacher, I am an advocate for students; however, I believe the topic of this bill is a parental responsibility, not a government issue.

I empathize with citizens experiencing economic distress during these Covid times, and know that tax payers are already overburdened. Where would the money come from to fund this proposal? The minimum wage is on the brink of being increased (and will be enjoyed by teens who are employed); however we still can't pay for the rail.

Kaimuki is a Title I school, and we, like other public schools, continue to provide free breakfasts, lunches, laptops, textbooks, band aids, masks, hand sanitizer, and more, for all of our students, including free bus passes for those who qualify.

Perhaps the organizations (vs taxpayers) who support this bill would supply the entire state with product, and pay to install and repair product dispensers in every middle and high school's restrooms every year forever?

Must we remind ourselves of the recent TikTok fad that challenged students to destroy school property? We had several broken soap dispensers in the restrooms. A new soap dispenser costs between \$40.00 to \$80.00 each. What would prevent someone from doing the same damage, or worse, taking all of the product for themselves?

Further, I'm wondering if funds could be better used to benefit all students? How would funding this initiative affect available teacher positions and salaries, school building repair and improvements, maintenance and school supplies (rakes, lawn mowers, copy paper, copy machine toner, cleaning solutions, etc.), athletic uniforms and equipment, taxes, etc. in the future?

I believe the present system (school health aide as dispenser and monitor of products) is adequate in serving the needs of our young women. Our own school health aide reports that menstrual supplies have not needed to be replenished for over a year, and that a comfortable surplus is on hand. We average 3 visits for items per week, and our school does not dispense tampons out of

an abundance of caution to avoid possible health hazards such as toxic shock syndrome. The present system supports students without assuming or absorbing parental responsibilities.

In addition, if supporters of this bill sincerely wanted to support equity, this bill should include provisions for all the private school students of our state as well. Parents of students in private schools pay taxes, but their children would be excluded from this particular benefit.

Perhaps individual schools with this particular need should receive special consideration; however, I do not support the passage of SB2821 in its entirety.

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



**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 4:54:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Education Committee members,

Please support efforts to address Hawaii's problems with teacher shortages, recruitment, and retention. If we want our students taken care of, we must also take care of their teachers.

Mahalo,  
Dylan Ramos



## KŌKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

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**LATE**

1/27/2022

Dear legislators,

I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have worked as a reproductive health educator and community health worker in Kalihi elementary, Junior high and high schools. This year we were asked to provide education specially to elementary and junior high girls on the topics of menstruation, cleanliness, discretion and culture. We learned that many students do not have access to menstrual products and have not received any education or support at home because parents are overworked and do not have time and resources to provide education themselves. During these classes, students were engaged with many questions surrounding their bodies, what getting their menstrual period means and what to do when you get it. We spent a lot of time addressing negative stigma and embarrassment. Part of what makes this embarrassing for youth is their lack of ability to care for themselves because they do not have the products they need.

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.

Best regards,  
Emilygrace Kaaiakamanu, MSW  
[ekaaiakamanu@kkv.net](mailto:ekaaiakamanu@kkv.net)



**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 6:19:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leilani Maxera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Nearly one-third of our residents experienced, or know someone who experienced, difficulty obtaining menstrual products. I agree with this bill because we should support our students in every way we can, and providing menstrual products for free to those who need it is an easy thing to do to make their lives easier and make things more equitable for them.

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 6:42:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Clair Mason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Clair Mason and I support SB2821. Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 6:43:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Zoey Kemp-Haxby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Zoey Kemp,

I support this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 6:43:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
MICHAEL FRIEDMAN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michael and I support this.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 6:06:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Farah-Marie Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this bill that will increase equitable access to feminine hygiene products, just one component of the health care spectrum for young women across the State of Hawaii.



**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:22:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ariel Colburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Ariel Colburn and I am from the leeward coast of O'ahu, born and raised in Wai'anae. I am also a graduate student in the Masters of Social Work program at UH Manoa. I am in strong support of this bill because as a woman who was once a little girl, I struggled getting menstrual products. I have three brothers. I was the only daughter, the only granddaughter and the only niece for the first 11 years of my life. I got my period on the first day of 7th grade. I remember feeling scared and worried because my mom was at work. I attended Nanakuli High and Intermediate and my mom worked in Kane'ohe at the time. I did not know what to do and all of my friends had not gotten their period yet, so I remember feeling embarrassed. I went to the bathroom, grabbed a bunch of paper towels to use, skipped class to cry in the school bathroom until one of my classmates found me in the bathroom and I was able to use their phone to call my mom. My mom was able to leave work and come get me and I remember feeling so bad for making her come all the way to get me. I couldn't call my dad because that just felt weird to me. I was grateful enough that my friend also let me borrow her jacket to wrap around my waist to walk to the admin office where my mom was coming to pick me up.

Students shouldn't have to go through situations like this. I kindly urge you to support this bill. I hate to see youth go through similar situations as I did and some have even worse stories. Menstruation is something very natural and common, yet it affects their self-confidence, their education, and their sometimes their social life as well. By passing this bill, it would mean not only providing products to youth that do not have access to it, but it is also a first BIG step to destigmatizing bleeding. After all, we all know someone who bleeds, yet there is still a stigma attached.

Help break the stigma, make learning easier for youth and their families and support this bill.

Mahalo nui for your time.

Me ke aloha,

Ariel Colburn

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:36:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
jocelyn arboleda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

offering this service can help local and community members access to period products, could save them and their families so much money. Hawai'i is expensive already with many families below the poverty line. This would help reduce stress on many women's lives and their children's lives since period poverty can economically impact their families. Women's health is already put on the back burner of issues- free and accesible period products is a necessity and should be treated as such!

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:44:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mary Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2821 to make period product free in public schools. This may be somebody's only access to period products. And as a young girl growing up, it was hard to remain prepared for a period. It would be great if products were available to all and take the stress away from getting your period in the middle of class.

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:50:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rosa Waters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Access to period products should be a right for students and will allow our female students to bring their best selves to the classroom. Many young women and their families cannot afford expensive period products. How can our young women focus in the classroom if they are worried about menstruating? There is still much stigma, shame, and worry around menstruation, which is only exacerbated if one cannot afford tampons or pads. As women we have all been there-- caught off guard without a pad or tampon. Using toilet paper is terrifying. Period supplies should be provided for free to our young women so that they can focus on being students.

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:57:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ree Ree Li	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Ree Ree and I am a resident here in Kailua. I am testifying in support of SB2821 because I have experienced the extreme discomfort and inability to focus and study when I don't have access to period products. Imagine constantly worrying about whether or not your clothing will have noticeable blood stains while also feeling bloated, painful cramps, nausea, headaches, and other unpleasant period symptoms. And it's not just reserved to the moments when you're on your period, but also the days and weeks in between as everyone has different cycles. Sometimes you'll get your period unexpectedly and not have access to supplies if they're not available at school. For many students, whether or not their period cycle is predictable, they simply do not have access to period supplies. The anxiety and stress caused by the lack of access to a basic health product interferes with students' ability to learn and thrive in the classroom. If we want all our students to get a good education and succeed in school and beyond, we need to ensure they have access to period products. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**LATE**

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**Testimony in Strong Support of SB2821  
Menstrual Equity; Menstrual Products; Department of Education; Public Schools; State  
Public Charter School Commission; Charter Schools; Appropriation  
Senate Committee on Education  
January 28, 2022, 3 p.m.**

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair

From: Aprilei T.T. Ramirez, MPH/ Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) Comprehensive Family Services

Subject: Menstrual Equity

Sirs and Mesdames:

I am testifying in support of **SB2821** because I have experienced and witnessed the need for young girls to access period products as early as 4<sup>th</sup> grade. As a community health worker, providing education on menstruation among public schools in Kalihi has helped our Family Planning program see a need for period product education and the overall need for period products that many of the young women may only have access to while in school through programs like Ma'i Movement Hawaii.

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.

Sincerely,  
Aprilei T.T. Ramirez, MPH  
2239 N. School Street  
Honolulu HI 96819  
aramirez@kkv.net/808-721-2055





**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 11:07:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Aldrin H. Ancheta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee,**

**I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2821. My name is Aldrin Ancheta, and I am a student at Maui High School.**

**If my friends that are girls don't have enough money for menstrual products and they need some, it would be helpful to have them available at school.**

**Please vote in support of Senate Bill 2821 .**

**Mahalo for your time,**

**Aldrin Ancheta**

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 12:09:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Abigail Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Abigail Rose and I am a long time resident of Hawai'i. I urge you to support SB 2821] to help provide free, quality menstrual products to public school students at all grade levels.

By supporting this bill, you show that you care about providing basic healthcare and safety to the public school students. Providing menstrual products will also reduce absences and time out of class due lack of necessary products. Students of Hawai'i currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products.

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. Younger women are often forced to stay home or wear the available pads/tampons for too long creating unsanitary conditions.

This is also a matter of basic hygiene. Public schools provide paper towels, toilet paper and either soap and water or sanitizer. The nurses office provides bandaids, ice, and other first aid. Students who menstruate should not be suffering from a lack of hygiene or the embarrassment caused by leaking blood. This should also be expected for menstrual products!

Menstruation affects around 50% of our student population and many of our students live in homes or shelters affected by poverty. In fact, periods are more expensive for those who have less money, and often pay quite a bit more for the exact same items because they're subject to the higher prices charged at convenience stores or they can't afford the overall cost of buying in bulk in places like Costco.

I hope you will support SB 2821 to provide these necessary school supplies to public school students!



**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 2:35:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill to help girls feel comfortable and participate with confidence in school.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez

**LATE**

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 11:09:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leimaileokapiolani Naone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee,

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2821. My name is Leimaileokapiolani Naone, I am a RBT that works in the public schools.

I feel menstrual products should be free for students. It is hard on female students that have an accident during the school day. It could lower their self-esteem. By this happening they may not come to school when they are menstruating. This could led them to fall behind in their class work. Which also may impact their self esteem.

Please support Senate Bill SB2821.

Mahalo,

Leimaileokapiolani Naone

**SB-2821**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 5:01:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/28/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jody Shiroma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I am testifying in support of **SB2821**. As a female and mother of two daughters, I feel this is incredibly important and surprised that we need a bill to pass something that should be common sense. I have experienced this growing up, and have had moments when I did not have access to feminine products while in school. Unfortunately, this has proved to be a challenge, particularly if there were none available, and/or did not have monies to purchase any products. I had classmates who also faced this problem and would have to leave so that would not be embarassed due to an ‘accident‘ that happened during school hours. Now a mother of two daughters, I am fortunate to give them pads for usage in school, and several of their friends ask for some, because they simply do not have any. Some of their teachers also keep it readily available just ‘because.’ Why does this have to be? Why isn’t this readily available for all?

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.