

*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Labor and Government Operations**

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

by:

Rodney A. Maile

Asministrative Director of the Courts

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**Resolution No. and Title:** Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87, Relating to Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General services that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

**Purpose:** To provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of Department of Accounting and General services (DAGS) that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.----

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87 to address period poverty and help members of the public to have access to essential hygiene products that they may not otherwise have. Access to free menstrual products would provide equitable access to public facilities and reduce barriers faced by individuals at state buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 87.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi  
House Committee on Labor and Government Operations  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Matayoshi and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SCR87

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SCR87**, which is requesting the department of accounting and general services to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the department of accounting and general services that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) living in a licensed or certified care home only receive a \$50 per month personal allowance for their monthly incidental expenditures. This allowance is for the individual to use on incidental items the individual may need, such as telephone expenses, hobbies, 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 shampoo, deodorant, and menstrual supplies. The personal allowance these individuals receive has not been increased since 2007.

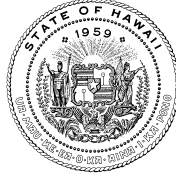
People who rely on menstrual products living in these circumstances should not be forced to use this allowance on the menstrual supplies of their choice. We believe this bill is moving our state in the right direction, supporting our individuals that require menstrual products in their daily lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SCR87**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

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

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

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

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

APRIL 13, 2023, 9:30 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 87

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AT NO COST IN STATE BUILDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES THAT ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND CONTAIN PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 87.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** on S.C.R. 87, which requests DAGS to provide menstrual products at no cost in State buildings under the jurisdiction of DAGS that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

DAGS supports the intent of this resolution to address period poverty and help members of the public to have access to essential hygiene products. DAGS like other

departments has budgetary constraints. In order to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings, DAGS urges the legislature to fund this effort. Budgetary items would include menstrual hygiene products, dispensing equipment along with associated personnel expenses and are estimated to cost \$287K in FY24 and \$558K in FY25. There after, the recurring annual cost is estimated to be \$418K.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of these resolutions.

PERIOD.

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**April 11, 2023**  
**Testimony in support of Hawaii Resolution SCR87**

Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

We are testifying in support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide period products at no cost in state buildings under their jurisdiction that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

Anyone who has ever had a period has stories, some of which they are too ashamed to tell, about their period arriving unexpectedly, or not having a tampon or pad accessible. This basic bodily function of over half our state's population needs to be recognized and acknowledged.

The simple act of ensuring access to period products respects an essential bodily function of women and menstruating people across the state will help reduce the legacy of shame associated with menstruation, and will also improve equity for our workforce and residents.

As a global youth-fueled nonprofit that strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma through service, education, and advocacy, PERIOD. is proud to follow the lead of Hawaiian menstrual equity organizations like the [Mai'i Movement](#) in support of SCR87. Our strong network of over 400+ volunteer PERIOD. Chapters around the world support the increased access to period products at no cost in state buildings.

We at PERIOD. urge all members of this committee to do what is right and unanimously support SCR87 today.

Sincerely,



Michela Bedard  
Executive Director  
[PERIOD.](#)



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



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**SUPPORT FOR SCR87 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services**

House Committee on Labor & Government Operations  
Honorable Chair Scot Matayoshi  
Honorable Vice Chair Andrew Garrett

Hearing Date and Time: Thursday, , 2023, 10:00 am

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Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports SCR87**, which serves to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General Services that are open to the public and contain public restrooms. We **offer an amendment** to the resolution to place signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings to indicate the location of free menstrual products.

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a locally grown organization committed to addressing menstrual inequity and ending period poverty (defined as “the inability to buy and access menstrual products, due to factors including but not limited to financial constraints, lack of menstrual health education, feelings of societal shame or stigma surrounding menstruation, and inadequate access to clean facilities to maintain proper hygiene”). Research suggests that this issue disproportionately affects students, low-income and houseless girls and women, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals, and those that are incarcerated.

**Free menstrual products are a public health necessity for our state public buildings. Such facilities support the everyday lives of the people of Hawai'i and have long provided a safety net for some of our most vulnerable populations.**

First, menstrual products are a basic health requirement for over half of the local population. In fact, the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) adopted new policies in 2021 that recognize the adverse physical and mental health consequences of limited access to menstrual products, and recommend increasing their availability in the workplace and schools. Menstrual products should be considered as ubiquitous as toilet paper and paper towels, which are freely available and regulated in public restrooms to meet basic needs for health and sanitation. It is well-established in research<sup>2</sup> and our own statewide data<sup>3</sup> that when menstruators have limited access to resources during menstruation, they seek other coping methods. This might include using unsafe and potentially harmful alternatives (e.g., leaves, paper towels, and socks),

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<sup>1</sup> [Glossary for the Global Menstrual Movement](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Sebert Kuhlmann, Anne PhD, MPH; Peters Bergquist, Eleanor MA, MSPH; Danjoint, Djenie MPH; Wall, L. Lewis MD, DPhil. Unmet Menstrual Hygiene Needs Among Low-Income Women. \*Obstetrics & Gynecology\* 133\(2\):p 238-244, February 2019. | DOI: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003060](#)

<sup>3</sup> [2021 report conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#)

using menstrual products beyond the recommended time, or going with none at all. As a result, menstruators face potential serious medical issues including preventable infections that make them susceptible to cervical cancer, infertility, and toxic shock syndrome.

Second, although menstrual products are fundamental for over half of the local population, they are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruators. Local community members have reported increasing difficulty with making ends meet<sup>4</sup> and paying for usual household expenses.<sup>5</sup> We know from our work that those struggling to meet basic needs are likely to be the same individuals impacted by period poverty. A [2021 report conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) revealed that the exceptionally high cost of living and the significant wage gap for women exacerbate period poverty in our state. 90% of respondents believed menstrual products were expensive and nearly 30% of respondents reported that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining menstrual products (often due to cost).

Finally, establishing wider access to free menstrual products ensures more equitable access to and participation in public facilities by reducing barriers to building visitors. Research suggests that [86%](#) of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 34% have needed to leave what they were doing to retrieve menstrual products at home. Locally, 50% of survey respondents reported missing school or work on account of menstruation, and indicated that it significantly disrupted participation in their daily activities. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources, can take a significant toll on social and emotional health<sup>6</sup>, and can decrease school and work performance.

Excitingly, Scotland became the first country in the world to pass legislation in 2020 that offers menstrual products free of charge to anyone who needs them. Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) also introduced sweeping legislation to address menstrual needs in the federal bill [H.R. 3614 - Menstrual Equity For all Act of 2021](#). In the past two years, [Ann Arbor](#), [Austin](#), and [Washington DC](#) have all passed legislation to make menstrual products free and available in state facilities, with other states, like [California](#) and [Illinois](#), pursuing similar legislation. By passing such necessary legislation, Hawai'i will be seen as a leader in the menstrual equity movement nationally and globally.

**Offered Amendment:** On page (3), line (1): “Maintain signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products.”

We urge you to support **SCR87** and welcome you to contact us with any additional questions you may have. Mahalo for your leadership and service to Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

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

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<sup>4</sup> [Alice in Hawai'i: 2022 Fact and Figures report](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Household Pulse Survey](#)

<sup>6</sup> [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#)



## 'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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### 2022-2023 Advocacy Committee

Marcus Kāwika Iwane, MD  
President

Martina Kamaka, MD  
Vice-President

Mahealani Lum, DO  
Secretary

Kara Wong Ramsey, MD  
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Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD  
Advocacy Chair

H. Nalani Blaisdell-Brennan, MD

S. Ku'ulei Christensen, MD

April 12, 2023

### COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela

Rep. Adrian K. Tam

Rep. Rose Martinez

Rep. David Alcos III

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama

### Group Testimony in Support of SCR87 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY/PRODUCTS

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We support the concurrent resolution to provide menstrual products free of charge in efforts to ensure basic health care equity.



**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 2:00:16 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jozette Momoa-Smythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR87 as all should have FREE access to period products.

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 2:21:35 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and members of the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations,

I am in strong support of SCR87. This is an important step towards menstrual equity for members of our community who cannot afford to pay for period products. Not everyone will need these products at no cost, but we should ensure that those who do need them have access.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 2:26:12 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Honorable Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi & Vice Chair Andrew Takuya Garrett & Members of the Labor & Government Operations Committee,**

**My name is Airabella Molina and I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa with my BA in Public Health with a minor in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. I am a resident of the Kaneohe/Kahaluu district. I am very passionate about Period Poverty in Hawaii.**

**I am testifying in support of SCR87 requesting the department of accounting and general services to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the department of accounting and general services that are open to the public and contain public restrooms. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.**

**I support this because I have witnessed Period Poverty first hand. Family and friends of mine have struggled with the inability to access menstrual products due to lack of income, education, cultural or societal shame or sanitary places to maintain hygiene. Period Poverty is a huge issue in Hawai‘i and is a pressing public health concern. In Hawaii, it was reported that the most common barrier when experiencing period poverty was cost (by a survey conducted in 2021 by Ma’i Movement Hawai’i). This is what made me passionate to end Period Poverty in Hawai’i along with Ma’i Movement.**

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

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

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 2:48:30 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting menstrautors in Hawai'i!

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 4:58:18 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**April 11, 2023**

**Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,**

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.**

**In 2021, Ma’i Movement Hawaii and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women published a study to better understand the ways that period poverty affects the menstruators of our state. The study found that 50% of respondents had missed school or work due to their periods and that nearly 30% of respondents had difficulty obtaining period products due to various barriers including cost, knowledge, accessibility, and stigma. Further research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs. This bill also protects the dignity of all menstruating people, increases the inclusivity of our public facilities, and promotes greater menstrual equity in the State.**

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

**vandalism or theft occurs) because those are basic necessities that people need to address their bodily functions. The state doesn't expect non-menstruators to provide their own rolls of toilet paper in each of its buildings, yet it currently does expect menstruators to provide their own menstrual products. This is unfair and has been the status quo for far too long. The State of Hawaii can do better, and the people of Hawaii deserve better.**

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

**Mahalo nui loa,**

**Sarah Kern**

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 5:27:12 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide period products at no cost in state buildings under their jurisdiction that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

I support this because establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

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



**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 6:48:05 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide period products at no cost in state buildings under their jurisdiction that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

There are times when menstrual products are not easily accessible or they come at the wrong times, this would help visitors and staff members who are at state buildings.

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

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 7:06:26 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha LGO Chair, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in strong support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this resolution because it aligns with current recommendations on public health for access to reproductive services and products. According to the United Nations, menstrual equity is not only a health issue, but also a human rights concern.

(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/high-commissioner-human-rights-statement-menstrual-health>)

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 7:33:09 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR87 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide period products at no cost in state buildings under their jurisdiction that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

I am writing in support of this because I have personally experienced intense fear and dread upon realizing that I didn't have the necessary hygienic products to tend to my bodily functions. It was especially humiliating as a very young menstruating individual to have to be vulnerable and ask another person if they would be able to loan me a product, not knowing how they might react or respond.

Furthermore, menstrual products are a basic necessity, toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. This bill is essential to ending period poverty and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people.

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

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 10:29:37 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lara Jean Hackney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill to progress.

Thank you,  
Lara Hackney

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 6:58:10 AM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for reading this testimony. As it is made clear in various studies, many in the book Invisible Women and Period Power, there is a huge burden- financial, mental and physical, on menstruators that in turn affect their every day life. By making period products free in state buildings, the state will help alleviate a portion of that burden.

Periods are expensive, and the patriarchal values that have sustained a society where menstruators need to spend sometimes 30+ dollars a month on period products, and if they do not they are considered to be "unsanitary." However, for some people this is a large financial monthly burden, on top of the already expensive living expenses.

By making period products free in state buildings, the state will help alleviate a portion of that burden, and further support gender equity goals.

**SCR-87**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 9:11:17 PM

Testimony for LGO on 4/13/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SCR87.