

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, period poverty has negative effects on a person's
2 ability to meet basic necessities, gender equality, access to
3 education and employment, and public health; and
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5 WHEREAS, a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and
6 gender-diverse persons are at risk due to the absence of readily
7 available aid and financial support; and
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9 WHEREAS, period poverty and menstrual inequity result
10 directly from socioeconomic, gender, and racial injustices, as
11 recognized in the November 2021 report co-authored by the Hawaii
12 State Commission on the Status of Women and Mai'i Movement
13 Hawai'i; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the report noted that the State's exceptionally
16 high cost of living and wage gap for women specifically
17 exacerbate period poverty, with nearly thirty percent of
18 respondents reporting that they or a household member
19 experienced difficulty obtaining menstrual products, with cost
20 being the most cited reason; and
21

22 WHEREAS, recent data collected by the United States Census
23 Bureau for the Household Pulse Survey indicated 43.8 percent of
24 Hawaii households reported struggling to pay for usual household
25 expenses in the last seven days; and
26

27 WHEREAS, viewed within the context of many families'
28 struggles to pay for living expenses, the ongoing need to



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1 purchase menstrual products for approximately forty years
2 consumes a disproportionate amount of the menstruating person's
3 financial resources compared to a non-menstruating person; and
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5 WHEREAS, providing free menstrual products in public
6 buildings would reduce health risks, alleviate the burden of
7 period poverty, and protect the dignity of all menstruating
8 people; and
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10 WHEREAS, access to free menstrual products would also
11 ensure inclusive and equitable access to public facilities,
12 reduce barriers faced by residents and visitors to state
13 buildings in meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual
14 equity in the State; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Accounting and General Services is requested to help members of
20 the public, regardless of their gender or biology, have access
21 to essential hygiene products by providing menstrual products at
22 no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the
23 Department of Accounting and General Services that are open to
24 the public and contain public restrooms; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
27 and General Services is requested to maintain a stock of
28 menstrual products, free of charge, in every women's restroom
29 and every gender-neutral restroom of a state building under the
30 jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General
31 Services that is open to the public and contains a public
32 restroom; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
35 and General Services is requested to install in each of these
36 restrooms a dispenser or similar device for the provision of
37 free menstrual products; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a state building has no
40 gender-neutral restroom, the Department of Accounting and
41 General Services is requested to provide free menstrual products
42 in at least one men's restroom of that state building and place



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1 signage in the remaining men's restrooms of that state building
2 to indicate the location of free menstrual products; and

3

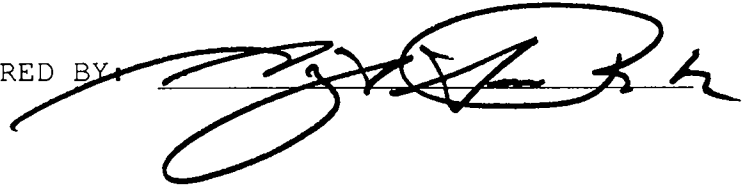
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller.

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OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher, but appears to consist of several large loops and flourishes.