

MAR 02 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO SUPPORT ENDING MENSTRUAL
INEQUITY BY PROVIDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO ALL PERSONS,
FREE OF CHARGE, IN ALL UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESTROOMS.

1 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is statutorily prohibited
2 from depriving the privileges of the University to a person on
3 the basis of sex; and
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5 WHEREAS, eighty percent of menstruating students in the
6 State experience difficulties accessing menstrual products; and
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8 WHEREAS, menstruating students unable to access menstrual
9 products face a significant barrier to education that
10 biologically male students do not, as a lack of access to
11 menstrual products can limit full educational participation and
12 negatively impact a student's access to learning; and
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14 WHEREAS, "period poverty", or the inability to access
15 menstrual products, disproportionately affects menstruating
16 students, members of low-income households, individuals who
17 identify as nonbinary or transgender, and many other groups of
18 individuals; and
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20 WHEREAS, according to a 2021 study conducted by the Hawaii
21 State Commission on the Status of Women and Mai Movement Hawaii,
22 lack of access to menstrual products contributes to higher rates
23 of school absenteeism in the State, with forty-two percent of
24 respondents missing class or leaving school early due to lack of
25 access to menstrual products, and some missing as many as ten
26 days per academic year due to a lack of access to menstrual
27 products; and
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29 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism is one of the most powerful
30 indicators of student success or failure; and
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32 WHEREAS, a midyear assessment of Mai Movement Hawaii's 2021
33 Hoohanohano Initiative, a pilot project that distributes



S.R. NO. 23

1 menstrual products to students at certain schools on the islands
2 of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, found convincing evidence that
3 free menstrual products have positive educational impacts and
4 decreased the number of students who missed at least one school
5 day due to lack of access to menstrual products by more than
6 fifty percent; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii should uphold educational
9 and gender equity by providing free menstrual products to all
10 persons utilizing University restrooms; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
14 that the University of Hawaii is requested to support ending
15 menstrual inequity by providing menstrual products to all
16 persons, free of charge, in all University of Hawaii restrooms,
17 including those of the community colleges; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
21 Hawaii.

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23
24 OFFERED BY: 

