
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS, FREE OF CHARGE, TO STUDENTS AT ALL OF ITS UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND EDUCATION CENTER CAMPUSES AS PART OF A PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION EQUITY STRATEGY THAT ADDRESSES ECONOMIC DISPARITIES.

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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1 WHEREAS, a midyear assessment of Mai Movement Hawaii's 2021
2 Hoohanohano Initiative, a pilot project that distributes
3 menstrual products to students at certain schools on the islands
4 of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, found convincing evidence that
5 free menstrual products have positive educational impacts and
6 decreased the number of students who missed at least one school
7 day due to lack of access to menstrual products by more than
8 fifty percent; and
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10 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii should uphold educational
11 and gender equity by providing free menstrual products to all
12 persons utilizing University restrooms; and
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14 WHEREAS, beginning in the fall semester of 2018, the Alpha
15 Kappa Psi chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at
16 Kapiolani Community College, of their own volition, used chapter
17 dues, University of Hawaii Women's Campus Club grant funds, and
18 Kapiolani Community College Student Congress grant monies to
19 successfully implement a pilot program that provides menstrual
20 products, free of charge, in Kapiolani Community College
21 restrooms; and
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23 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, of its own
24 volition, also implemented a program that provides menstrual
25 products, free of charge, in campus restrooms and, based on this
26 program, has estimated the cost of continued distribution of
27 these products; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
31 that the University of Hawaii System is urged to provide
32 menstrual products, free of charge, to students at all of its
33 university, community college, and education center campuses as
34 part of a public health and education equity strategy that
35 addresses economic disparities; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, beginning in the fall semester
38 of 2023, each University of Hawaii System chancellor is
39 requested to consult with the student council of the
40 chancellor's respective campus to determine the type and amount
41 of menstrual products to be provided at the campus; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii System
2 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
4 2024 on the status of providing menstrual products, free of
5 charge, to all of the System's university, community college,
6 and education center campuses; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Regents
10 of the University of Hawaii System, President of the University
11 of Hawaii System, each University of Hawaii System chancellor,
12 and the Executive Director of Equity Assurance of the University
13 of Hawaii System.

