

MAR 10 2023

SENATE 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
29 purchase menstrual products for approximately forty years



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1 consumes a disproportionate amount of the menstruating person's
2 financial resources compared to a non-menstruating person; and

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4 WHEREAS, providing free menstrual products in public
5 buildings would reduce health risks, alleviate the burden of
6 period poverty, and protect the dignity of all menstruating
7 people; and

8
9 WHEREAS, access to free menstrual products would also
10 ensure inclusive and equitable access to public facilities,
11 reduce barriers faced by residents and visitors to state
12 buildings in meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual
13 equity in the State; now, therefore,

14
15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
17 that the Department of Accounting and General Services is
18 requested to help members of the public, regardless of their
19 gender or biology, have access to essential hygiene products by
20 providing menstrual products at no cost in state buildings under
21 the jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General
22 Services that are open to the public and contain public
23 restrooms; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
26 and General Services is requested to maintain a stock of
27 menstrual products, free of charge, in every women's restroom
28 and every gender-neutral restroom of a state building under the
29 jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General
30 Services that is open to the public and contains a public
31 restroom; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
34 and General Services is requested to install in each of these
35 restrooms a dispenser or similar device for the provision of
36 free menstrual products; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a state building has no
39 gender-neutral restroom, the Department of Accounting and
40 General Services is requested to provide free menstrual products
41 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

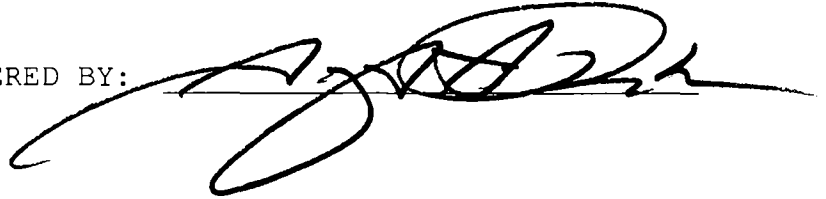
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller.

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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.