



SUPPORT FOR SR78 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey
Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Committee Members

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Honorable Vice Chair Henry Aquino
Committee Members

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, March 31, 2023, 1:00 pm

Dear Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports SR78**, which serves to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms of public buildings maintained by that department and appropriates funds. 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 hygiene¹”). 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.

¹ [Glossary for the Global Menstrual Movement](#)

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 research² and our own statewide data³ 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), 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 meet⁴ and paying for usual household expenses.⁵ 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 health⁶, 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

² [Sebert Kuhlmann, Anne PhD, MPH; Peters Bergquist, Eleanor MA, MSPH; Danjont, 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](#)

³ [2021 report conducted by Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma‘i Movement Hawai‘i](#)

⁴ [Alice in Hawai‘i: 2022 Fact and Figures report](#)

⁵ [Household Pulse Survey](#)

⁶ [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#)

(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.

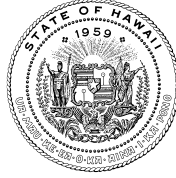
Offered Amendment: On page (3), line (1): “Maintain signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products.”

We urge you to support **SR78** 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

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 COMMITTEES ON

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

MARCH 31, 2023, 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 87 / S.R. 78

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.

Chairs McKelvey and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Aquino, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 87 / S.R. 78.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** S.C.R. 87 and H.R. 78, 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 measure 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.

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



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey
Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Committee Members

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Honorable Vice Chair Henry Aquino
Committee Members

DATE: Friday, March 31, 2023, 1:00 pm

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: **Support for SR78** - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings
Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, and committee members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. Members currently include 29 organizations and agencies (private, public, membership), as well as individuals. The coalition encourages the inclusion of interested parties and in achieving equitable representation.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition respectfully submits testimony **in strong support of SR78**. The free provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of menstruators. A [national study](#) commissioned by Free the Tampon found that 86% of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 79% have had to improvise a tampon or pad out of toilet paper or something else. Women, māhū, trans men, gender non-conforming and non-binary people who menstruate deserve to have their basic needs met.

Local data from the [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) explored the extent of period poverty and menstrual inequity in the state. Nearly 30% of respondents reporting that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining period products, **of which high cost was the most cited reason**. 84.7% believe menstrual equity is a real problem, like food and housing insecurity.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

By providing menstrual products in state buildings, Hawai'i helps ensure those who menstruate have equal access to public facilities, irrespective of their gender or economic status.

SR78 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, and gender equality for girls, and transgender and non-binary people. For all of these reasons, the Hawai'i Women's Coalition is pleased to support **SR78**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:37:14 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla-Ann Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a woman born and raised in Hawaii I know that this basic need lies upon the responsibility of the government. This need will provide people with periods a safe and private space to take care of themselves without shame, worry, and stigma.

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:29:10 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylyn Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:11:20 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Rosenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SR78 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.

This bill is important because:

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

Sarah Rosenbach

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:53:41 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SR78.

Mahalo!

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:58:07 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators! I am in support of SR78. I believe in addition to having availability of menstrual products at no cost in state buildings with public restrooms, the tampon tax in our state should be removed. There is no sales tax on tampons in only three states in our nation, but many states, including Hawaii, has additional ‘pink tax’ on period supplies. In addition to sales tax and pink tax, the cost of shipping for these products increases the prices in Hawaii compared to other states. In a year, most women are spending up to \$300 dollars for menstrual products. Between the high cost of these products and job loss disproportionately effecting women due to the Pandemic, having free products available can help women spend money on other important necessary items for them and their families such as healthy foods. In addition, when women are unable to afford the products that they require every month, they may use items that are less sanitary leading to increased potential for adverse consequences and need for added spending in the healthcare sector (Salathe, 2022).

For the homeless women population, not having menstrual products is even more devastating. These women not only have difficulty with purchasing these products but also with privacy for changing tampons or pads, showers, laundry, and relief from the pain of cramping with the menstrual cycle. (Williams, 2022).

References

Salathe, S. (2022). Inflation adds cost to menstrual products on the top of the ‘pink tax’ and pandemic. *Yahoo!news*. https://news.yahoo.com/inflation-menstrual-products-more-expensive-182737880.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guc e_referrer_sig=AQAAABPDextLrstpLdNiNUc6Z2I_9KaQ0hb0Xk1UF1v5xyKfzvPmvOcrOLYzoQF_nmVozZV2Gy0c6ud6Pks0akP7s0eGpQxxKVvHTGpyO1Efl8HsgU1gpIvgBiUubtAdpja6kYg741cc-nCwQwZO_WG17RMWzHyXHW44lVD9b1N1I32r#:~:text=The%20average%20cost%20of%20menstrual,the%20course%20of%20a%20lifetime.

Williams, C. (2021). Female homelessness and period poverty. *National Organization for Women*. <https://now.org/blog/female-homelessness-and-period-poverty/>

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:06:58 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

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

Amanda Martinez, MPH

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:22:35 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

Mahalo for your leadership in acknowledging the need for equitable distribution of absolutely essential health/sanitation products for any person who needs them but can’t afford them!!

Cheryl Ho, Nu‘uanu

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:37:49 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:30:52 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D. Keali'i MacKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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 because research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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.

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

D. Keali'i MacKenzie

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:35:59 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalyn Kagimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SR78 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.

Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:39:34 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Danielle Sato, and I am a current medical student at the University of Hawai‘i John A Burns School of Medicine. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SR78 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no costs in public building restroom. The bill also requires access to products in gender-neutral restrooms.

Making menstrual products accesible for all is an imperitive step in working towards justice for women and for all menstruating individuals. Being able to menstruate without worry of disruption of work or social activities allows for full participation of menstruating individuals in our society. Further, this also ensure equity for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals who also menstruate.

I know personally how much of a difference it can make to have peace of mind regarding menstruation management. This effort also supports notions of bodily autonomy, and overall having control over one's own circumstances.

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

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:32:30 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am in strong support of SR78. 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.

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:37:03 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauralee Dice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SR78 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 because I wholeheartedly believe menstruating people need to have equal access to menstrual products. I have seen firsthand how people struggle financially and sometimes need to make tough decisions between menstrual products and other necessities like food or utilities.

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

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:02:23 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha GVO and HHS Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in strong support of SCR87/SR78 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)

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:26:09 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a faculty member at a community college, a counselor and I used to buy barrels of tampons from Costco and put them in the bathrooms ourselves. It is amazing how overlooked women's health issues are. We don't expect people to bring their own toilet paper, yet women are required to be always prepared even when their cycle is irregular and they suddenly get their period and have no resources with them. This is an excellent resolution, and I urge you to pass it.

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:50:11 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2023

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SR78 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

March 29, 2023

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vicechairs, and Committee Members,

My name is Courtney Hamakawa and I am a resident on the east side of the Big Island and I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. 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.

As a Hawaii DOE Homeless Liaison, I have witnessed the utter tragedy and shame that many of our homeless and low-income female students and families experience by having to go without feminine hygiene pads as for the families I work with, these items are considered "luxury" items. Some students have even been "scolded" for using the restroom during work/class time to make home-made pads out of wadded toilet paper. Some students have also missed school due to having periods and are embarrassed to go to school due to having no access to pads. We have to do all we can to make these already costly products less expensive and more accessible by being more readily available in more public restrooms. I urge all of you to pass this much needed bill to provide some level of relief to make these much needed period products more accessible in the public domain.

Respectfully,

Courtney Hamakawa
DOE- East Hawaii Community Homeless Concerns Liaison

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:31:11 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Grave	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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 because I have experienced period poverty while attending UH Manoa. Students have enough to worry about, and historically, have little to no income to purchase these products. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill

SR-78

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:33:21 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexxi Mellor	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Lexxi Mellor, I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thomson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, and I **strongly support** bill SR78. This bill is important to me not only as a citizen of Hawai‘i but also as a woman. Allowing menstrual products inside public restrooms helps pave the way for inclusivity, equality, and respect. It will be sending a positive message to the young girls in Hawai‘i that not only is it okay to be a woman, but it is an important part of your identity and is something to be embraced. Menstruation is a natural part of a woman's reproductive system and is biologically necessary for the human race as a whole. It should not be seen as something that should be promoted and not frowned upon. Easily accessible menstrual products makes it more convenient for people who need to access them quickly and easily, without having to go out of their way to ask someone else for help. It allows that part of dignity and respect to still be preserved. It also has the ability to help ensure that people who menstruate have access to the products they need, regardless of their income or ability to plan ahead. This is specifically vital for women that experience unexpected periods or are unable to afford or access menstrual products outside of the public restroom.

To summarize what has been stated previously, I, Lexxi Mellor, **strongly support** bill SR78 and believe it is a way to help promote inclusivity, equality, and respect in the community.

LATE

SR-78

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Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Milianta-Laffin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

Resolution SR78 builds on legislation that my Ilima Intermediate School students worked on with the Mai Movement to get free period products in all Hawaii public schools. This policy says that we care for all K-12 menstruators, now let's care for ALL menstruators in our state's public buildings by supporting this resolution and future policy.

Recently, I attended a teacher convention at the San Francisco Convention center and unexpectedly got my period. In all restrooms in that convention hall, free period products were provided. Having free and easy access meant that I was able to focus on my meeting, instead of having to leave the building to find products.

Please support this resolution and mahalo to the Mai Movement for supporting all menstruators in our state!

Mahalo for Reading,

Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin

Ilima Intermediate School Teacher