

SR-77

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:24:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SR 77. Thank you!

March 27, 2021

Ways and Means Committee
Senator Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Moana Olaso, Affiliate Director for I support The Girls Hawaii, supporting the Senate Concurrent Resolution 100.

Many donors, volunteers, and recipients urge you to support Senate Resolution 77 to encourage the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide free, quality menstrual products to our Hawai'i public school students. We all care about provisions like basic healthcare and safety to public school students in Hawai'i who currently suffer from inadequate access to menstrual products, and with your support, you show that you care about our keiki and their future.

House Resolution 147 encourages the Hawai'i Department of Education to promote common goals:

- **Gender Equality:** Lack of access to menstrual products is a form of gender-based oppression. Menstrual products are essential to reproductive health and should be deemed as such. Menstruators should have the opportunity to maintain their dignity when in school.
- **Public Health:** The medical issues facing individuals without access to menstrual products, including preventable infections that can cause susceptibility to cervical cancer and infertility, are life-threatening.
- **Basic Hygiene:** Just as we all expect toilet paper and paper towels to be readily available in public restrooms, we can and should expect the same of menstrual products. Menstruation is a natural occurrence, experienced by over half the population throughout their lives, and should not be treated any differently.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 recognizes that access to menstrual products is integral to health and safety. For your reference, here are some of the challenges people who cannot access menstrual products face:

- **Medical Consequences:** Lack of access to menstrual products can cause physical infection and disease and can lead to cervical cancer.
- **Civic Consequences:** Students who lack access to menstrual products may choose not to attend school in order to avoid having to use products incorrectly or wear stained articles of clothing in public. People who menstruate deserve to participate fully in public life, and therefore they deserve access to menstrual products.

We care about access to menstrual products because over the last 2 years, tens of thousands of products were selflessly donated to our organization so that students were able to stay in school. Many times, students feel that they have no choice but to leave school or not to attend, due to the lack of availability of free menstrual products in school. Should we not be able to give these products freely if we currently don't ask for kids to pay for toilet paper when needed?

I urge you to support Senate Resolution 77 to help improve the lives of public school students in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

E. Moana Olaso
Affiliate Director
I Support The Girls Hawaii

SR-77

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 8:15:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Members of AAUW of Hawaii supports SR77, requesting the DOE to provide free menstrual products to students on all Hawaii public school campuses. The access to menstrual products would positively impact the health, mental well-being and school work of the students.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes over 3800 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important resolution and thank you for your consideration.

SR-77

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:26:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WAM Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in **strong support of SCR100/SR77**, a resolution that takes steps to end period poverty and menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, gender equality and education equity.

Nearly half of the world menstruates and yet menstrual inequity is becoming a public health crisis as individuals lack access to menstrual products due to financial, educational and accessibility barriers. Support of the resolution not only provides direct and immediate assistance to our children in need when 47% were already deemed economically disadvantaged by the DOE pre-COVID, but it also ensures that we continue to raise a productive society and offer equal opportunities to education that will bolster and encourage future market work and participation in society.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)