

MAR 11 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Board of Education policy number
2 1110-10 states that "gender equity extends the doctrine of
3 fairness to all areas of activity in the public school system";
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2014, the United Nations declared menstrual
7 hygiene a public-health, gender-equality, and human rights
8 issue; and

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10 WHEREAS, half the population will experience menstruation
11 while at school; and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii public schools are insufficiently funded;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, the funding that is allocated by the Legislature
17 and expended by the Department of Education should be equitably
18 allocated among students who menstruate and those who do not;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's budget allocation
22 for extracurricular activities, including athletics,
23 disproportionately benefits students who do not menstruate; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Education maintains a healthy
26 school environment by providing free products to students such
27 as toilet paper and hand soap in restrooms, yet the Department
28 of Education does not provide students with free menstrual
29 products; and

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31 WHEREAS, students who are menstruating are burdened with
32 the additional cost of menstrual products to maintain a healthy



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1 school environment for everyone, including students who do not
2 menstruate; and
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4 WHEREAS, some students who are menstruating do not come to
5 school or leave school early because they cannot afford the
6 menstrual products that maintain a healthy school environment;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, a 2019 nationwide study conducted by the
10 University of Richmond found that students who were unable to
11 afford menstrual products were 5.89 times more likely to miss
12 school, 5.82 times more likely to be late to school, and 4.14
13 times more likely to leave school early compared to those who
14 could afford menstrual products; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has identified that
17 forty seven percent of public school students in the 2019-2020
18 school year were considered "economically disadvantaged"; and
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20 WHEREAS, the 2020 ALICE Report by Aloha United Way states
21 that almost sixty percent of Hawaii's local families are
22 struggling to meet basic needs due to the economic impact of the
23 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic; and
24

25 WHEREAS, according to the nationwide survey conducted by
26 Always of Proctor and Gamble, since the pandemic, one out of
27 three parents are worried about their ongoing ability to afford
28 menstrual products; and
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30 WHEREAS, a 2016 New York City pilot program found that
31 access to free menstrual products in public schools increased
32 attendance by 2.4 percent, leading to a package of legislation
33 providing free access to menstrual products for New York City's
34 students; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
39 Education is requested to provide free menstrual products to
40 students on all public school campuses; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
2 requested to include criteria in the evaluation tool of the
3 Superintendent based on minimizing factors of achieving true
4 gender equity; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii youth risk behavior
7 survey for high school and middle school students should include
8 questions regarding menstrual equity and access to menstrual
9 products, including:
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- 11 (1) Do you always have access to period products at school
12 for the entire duration of your period?;
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14 (2) Have you ever not been able to purchase period
15 products at school?; and
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17 (3) Have you ever skipped school, left school early, or
18 come to school late because you didn't have access to
19 period products?; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
23 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Lana Acasio

