

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1503

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2021

RE: S.R. No. 77

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.R. No. 77 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to promote greater gender equity in the public school system with regard to menstruation and menstrual hygiene.

More specifically, this measure requests that:

- (1) The Department of Education provide free menstrual products to students on all public school campuses in the State;
- (2) The Board of Education include criteria relevant to gender equity in the evaluation tool of the Superintendent; and
- (3) The Hawaii youth risk behavior survey include specific questions regarding menstrual equity and access to menstrual products.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Teachers Association, American

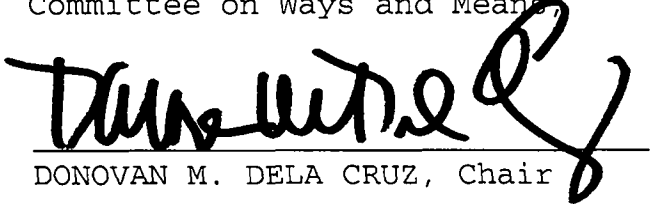


Association of University Women of Hawaii, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I Support The Girls - Hawaii, and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Department of Education provides students with free hygiene products such as toilet paper and hand soap in restrooms in order to maintain a healthy school environment, but does not provide free menstrual products. Your Committee notes that in the 2019-2020 school year, the Department of Education considered forty-seven percent of its public school students to be "economically disadvantaged" and further notes that a 2020 Aloha United Way report states that sixty percent of families in the State are struggling to meet basic needs due to the economic impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Your Committee further finds that lack of access to affordable menstrual products contributes to student absenteeism and tardiness. Accordingly, your Committee believes that the requests made in this measure are worthy of consideration and may help to improve gender equity on public school campuses and encourage more consistent school attendance.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 77 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

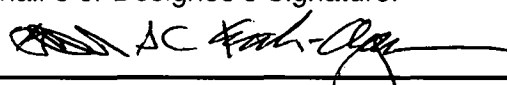


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SR 77	EDU, WAM	3/30/21		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	11			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes