



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By

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SCR 27 SD1 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS, FREE OF CHARGE, TO STUDENTS AT ALL OF ITS UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND EDUCATION CENTER CAMPUSES AS PART OF A PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION EQUITY STRATEGY THAT ADDRESSES ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 27 SD1 urging the University of Hawai'i (UH) to provide menstrual products free of charge as part of a public health and education equity strategy that addresses economic disparities. We are supportive of this resolution.

This resolution aligns with our current UH System Student Basic Needs Master Plan, where UH has adopted The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice definition of students' basic needs that includes access to nutritious and sufficient food; safe, secure, and adequate housing - to sleep, study, cook, and shower; healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being; affordable technology and transportation; resources for personal hygiene care; and childcare and related needs. Providing free period products to our students fits into our current UH System Student Basic Needs Master Plan. UH recognizes that having free menstrual products available to students on campus could help relieve some financial stress and allow students to remain focused on their academic goals instead.

All ten UH campuses have some level of programming that already provides a limited supply of menstrual products to our student population. This resolution involves chancellors meeting with their respective student councils to determine the type and amount of products to be provided, further encouraging continued assessment and sustainability of these programs.

For uniformity purposes, we request one technical amendment to SCR 27 SD1 as currently drafted. Page 2, Line 13-14 "all persons" should be amended to "all students."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.