**PERIOD POVERTY & MENSTRUAL INEQUITY IN HAWAI‘I PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Ho‘ohanohano Initiative conducted by Ma‘i Movement Hawai‘i is a statewide pilot in six schools on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i island, Maui and Kaua‘i. The pilot distributes period products to students and tracks the product usage over time in each school. Pre- and post-surveys of students and faculty are conducted to measure the impact of free period products on student attendance, performance and overall well-being.

**6 SCHOOLS IN THE PILOT**
Elementary through high school in urban and rural communities. There are public, charter, Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools. 278 faculty and 871 students completed the pre-survey. Additional surveys will be conducted mid-year and end of year.

**LOW COST INITIATIVE**
30,876 products per semester
2,353 estimated menstruators
2.6 period products per month
$4 – $5 per student annually

**AGES OF STUDENTS**
A large proportion of students are Filipino (60%) and/or Native Hawaiian (22%). More than half reported getting their first period by the time the pre-survey was conducted.

**ABSENTEEISM & EDUCATION INEQUITY**
Absenteeism is one of the most powerful predictors of student success or failure. Chronic absenteeism, or missing 15+ days, is a key priority for Hawai‘i public schools. While few students were chronically absent because of their periods, the pilot establishes a clear link between access to period products, absenteeism and education loss.

**1 / 4 FACULTY SAY STUDENTS MISSED AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL DAY**
13% of students reported missing at least one school day because they lacked access to period products. Of those, 26% missed 3 or more school days in a year.

**1 / 2 FACULTY SAY STUDENTS MISSED PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY**
22% of students reported missing part of the school day because they lacked access to period products. Of those, 31% missed classes 3 or more days in a year.

**8 / 10 STUDENTS FACE DIFFICULTIES GETTING PERIOD PRODUCTS**
56% of faculty have witnessed it.

**BARRIERS TO ACCESS**
Embarrassment
Cost
Education
Accessibility
All of the Above
I’m Not Sure

**WHEN STUDENTS LACKED PERIOD PRODUCTS THEY USED**
Newspapers
Diapers
Leaves
Folder Paper
Napkins
Socks
Toilet Paper
Old Rags

**53% OF FACULTY**
Are unsure if students receive adequate education about menstruation and how to manage it. Only 8% of faculty said education was adequate, while half of students said it was not.

**“I USED A RED-MAROON JACKET TO HIDE THE LEAKING. I WANTED TO MISS SCHOOL BUT JUST CARRIED ON WITH MY JACKET.”**
- Middle School Student, Kaua‘i

**Say Yes to Free Period Products in Schools**

**It’s Time to Take Action**

**95% Students 91% Faculty**

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