

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The introduction of the following policies to the Hawai'i legislature aims to address the ongoing effects of menstrual inequity and period poverty within the state of Hawai'i, while promoting gender, basic needs, and socioeconomic inequities through ensuring the availability of safe and free menstrual products.

STATE BUILDINGS

We believe the provision of free menstrual products in public buildings would reduce health risks, alleviate the burden of period poverty, and protect the dignity of all menstruating people.

THE ASK

Request the Department of Accounting and General Services maintain a free stock of menstrual products, free of charge, in each covered restroom of each covered public building. To ensure access for all menstruating people, if a covered building has no gender-neutral restroom, free products will be available in at least one men's restroom.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- According to a recent [report](#) from Aloha United Way, the number of Hawai'i households that are struggling to make ends meet hit a new high in 2022, at 44%. Of those, 15% have income below the federal poverty level.
- Menstrual products are a basic necessity akin to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people.
- Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities, reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual equity in the State.

BILL & POLICY PRECEDENT.

- Introduced Federal bill [H.R. 3614 - Menstrual Equity For all Act of 2021](#)
- [Ann Arbor ORD-21-31](#) (Passed in 2021)
- [Austin Resolution No. 20220519-089](#) (Passed in 2022)
- [Washington DC](#) (Passed in 2022)

CURRENT SITUATION

Free period products are provided in the Hawai'i State Capitol bathrooms on the Senate side.

94%
RESPONDENTS

Believe government should provide free period products, such as pads and tampons, to anyone who needs them



GET INVOLVED
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SIGN THE PETITION!

UNIVERSITIES

We recognize that every person should have the opportunity to pursue a high-quality education in an environment that promotes public health equity, education equity, and mental and emotional well-being.

THE ASK

Request the University of Hawaii System to provide menstrual products, free of charge, to students at all university, community college, and education center campuses.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- New [research](#) led by George Mason University's College of Public Health found that one in ten college students in the US is affected by period poverty every month and 14% experienced period poverty in the past year.
- A November 2021 [report](#) co-authored by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i revealed that nearly 30% of respondents reported that they or a household member experienced difficulty obtaining menstrual products.
- A 2021 Basic Needs Insecurity [report](#) for the University of Hawai'i found that 58% of students experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity and 14% experienced homelessness in the previous year.

COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED PERIOD POVERTY WERE...

MONTHLY
2.3
TIMES



more likely to report depressive symptoms

PAST YEAR
1.8
TIMES



more likely to report depressive symptoms

BILL & POLICY PRECEDENT.

- Introduced Federal bill [H.R. 3614 - Menstrual Equity For all Act of 2021](#)
- [Illinois HB641](#) (Passed in 2021)
- [Washington DC](#) (Passed in 2021)
- [California AB367](#) (Passed in 2021)

CURRENT SITUATION

Free period products are provided at the following campuses through grants, community donations, and by Ma'i Movement Hawai'i: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Kapi'olani Community College, Windward Community College, Hawai'i Community College, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Honolulu Community College