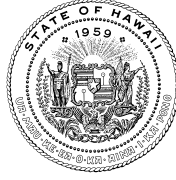


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MARCH 29, 2023, 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.C.R.132 / H.R.133

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AT NO COST IN STATE BUILDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES THAT ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND CONTAIN PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.C.R. 132 / H.R. 133.

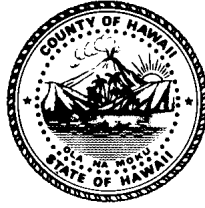
The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** on H.C.R. 132 and H.R. 133, which requests DAGS to provide menstrual products at no cost in State buildings under the jurisdiction of DAGS that are open to the public and contain public restrooms.

DAGS supports the intent of this measure to address period poverty and help

members of the public to have access to essential hygiene products. DAGS like other departments has budgetary constraints. In order to provide menstrual products at no cost in state buildings, DAGS urges the legislature to fund this effort. Budgetary items would include menstrual hygiene products, dispensing equipment along with associated personnel expenses.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of these resolutions.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 28, 2023
TO: House Committee on Labor and Government Operations
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HRC 132/HR 133

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

Additionally we would insist that it be a priority to ensure that there are always adequate supplies of menstrual products to our Correctional Facilities, as the recent article attached [here](#) details this is not always the case at least at HCCC. It was shocking and horrifying to hear that menstruating inmates were given adult diapers instead of menstrual products. Please do all you can to remedy this situation from happening again by prioritizing access of proper menstrual products to those in need at all State-run facilities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 3:38:04 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Gero	Alliance for Period Supplies	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Alliance for Period Supplies is in strong support of this legislation which will increase access to period products for those that need them. 2 in 5 women struggle to afford period supplies, and we know that likely includes those that visit state buildings. This legislation will allow menstruators to have equal access to civil engagement opportunities, work for those that work in public state buildings, and the ability to testify in person on bills that are important to them. We ask that you pass this resolution to ensure that those that frequent state buildings have access to period products.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 3:26:53 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Wilbur	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of the resolution. Passing this resolution is another positive step the state can take in combatting period poverty and menstrual inequity that a large number of our citizens face monthly.



SUPPORT FOR HCR132 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Honorable Chair Scot Matayoshi
Honorable Vice Chair Andrew Garrett

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00 am

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports HCR132**, which serves to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms of public buildings maintained by that department and appropriates funds. We **offer an amendment** to the resolution to place signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings to indicate the location of free menstrual products.

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i is a locally grown organization committed to addressing menstrual inequity and ending period poverty (defined as “the inability to buy and access menstrual products, due to factors including but not limited to financial constraints, lack of menstrual health education, feelings of societal shame or stigma surrounding menstruation, and inadequate access to clean facilities to maintain proper hygiene”). Research suggests that this issue disproportionately affects students, low-income and houseless girls and women, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals, and those that are incarcerated.

Free menstrual products are a public health necessity for our state public buildings. Such facilities support the everyday lives of the people of Hawai'i and have long provided a safety net for some of our most vulnerable populations.

First, menstrual products are a basic health requirement for over half of the local population. In fact, the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) adopted new policies in 2021 that recognize the adverse physical and mental health consequences of limited access to menstrual products, and recommend increasing their availability in the workplace and schools. Menstrual products should be considered as ubiquitous as toilet paper and paper towels, which are freely available and regulated in public restrooms to meet basic needs for health and sanitation. It is well-established in research² and our own statewide data³ that when menstruators have limited access to resources during menstruation, they seek other coping methods. This might include using unsafe and potentially harmful alternatives (e.g., leaves, paper towels, and socks),

¹ [Glossary for the Global Menstrual Movement](#)

² [Sebert Kuhlmann, Anne PhD, MPH; Peters Bergquist, Eleanor MA, MSPH; Danjoint, Djenie MPH; Wall, L. Lewis MD, DPhil. Unmet Menstrual Hygiene Needs Among Low-Income Women. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 133\(2\):p 238-244, February 2019. | DOI: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003060](#)

³ [2021 report conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#)

using menstrual products beyond the recommended time, or going with none at all. As a result, menstruators face potential serious medical issues including preventable infections that make them susceptible to cervical cancer, infertility, and toxic shock syndrome.

Second, although menstrual products are fundamental for over half of the local population, they are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruators. Local community members have reported increasing difficulty with making ends meet⁴ and paying for usual household expenses.⁵ We know from our work that those struggling to meet basic needs are likely to be the same individuals impacted by period poverty. A [2021 report conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) revealed that the exceptionally high cost of living and the significant wage gap for women exacerbate period poverty in our state. 90% of respondents believed menstrual products were expensive and nearly 30% of respondents reported that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining menstrual products (often due to cost).

Finally, establishing wider access to free menstrual products ensures more equitable access to and participation in public facilities by reducing barriers to building visitors. Research suggests that [86%](#) of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 34% have needed to leave what they were doing to retrieve menstrual products at home. Locally, 50% of survey respondents reported missing school or work on account of menstruation, and indicated that it significantly disrupted participation in their daily activities. Such disruptions cost considerable time and resources, can take a significant toll on social and emotional health⁶, and can decrease school and work performance.

Excitingly, Scotland became the first country in the world to pass legislation in 2020 that offers menstrual products free of charge to anyone who needs them. Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) also introduced sweeping legislation to address menstrual needs in the federal bill [H.R. 3614 - Menstrual Equity For all Act of 2021](#). In the past two years, [Ann Arbor](#), [Austin](#), and [Washington DC](#) have all passed legislation to make menstrual products free and available in state facilities, with other states, like [California](#) and [Illinois](#), pursuing similar legislation. By passing such necessary legislation, Hawai'i will be seen as a leader in the menstrual equity movement nationally and globally.

Offered Amendment: On page (3), line (1): “Maintain signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products.”

We urge you to support **HCR132** and welcome you to contact us with any additional questions you may have. Mahalo for your leadership and service to Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Nikki-Ann Yee
Co-Founder
Ma'i Movement Hawai'i

⁴ [Alice in Hawai'i: 2022 Fact and Figures report](#)

⁵ [Household Pulse Survey](#)

⁶ [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#)



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Honorable Chair Scot Matayoshi
Honorable Vice Chair Andrew Garret

DATE: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00 am

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: **Support for HCR132** - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings
Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair, and committee members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. Members currently include 29 organizations and agencies (private, public, membership), as well as individuals. The coalition encourages the inclusion of interested parties and in achieving equitable representation.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition respectfully submits testimony **in strong support of HCR132**. The free provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of menstruators. A [national study](#) commissioned by Free the Tampon found that 86% of people who menstruate have started their periods unexpectedly in public, and 79% have had to improvise a tampon or pad out of toilet paper or something else. Women, māhū, trans men, gender non conforming and non-binary people who menstruate deserve to have their basic needs met.

Local data from the [2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#) explored the extent of period poverty and menstrual inequity in the state. Nearly 30% of respondents reporting that they or someone in their household experienced difficulty obtaining period products, **of which high cost was the most cited reason**. 84.7% believe menstrual equity is a real problem, like food and housing insecurity.

By providing menstrual products in state buildings, Hawai'i helps ensure those who menstruate have equal access to public facilities, irrespective of their gender or economic status.

HCR132 is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity in Hawai'i and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, and gender equality for girls, and transgender and non-binary people. For all of these reasons, the Hawai'i Women's Coalition is pleased to support **HCR132**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Mahalo,
Hawai'i Women's Coalition



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 1015

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.548.0270

E-mail huikauka@gmail.com

2022-2023 Advocacy Committee

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March 28th, 2023

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela

Rep. Adrian K. Tam

Rep. Rose Martinez

Rep. David Alcos III

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama

Group Testimony in Support of HCR 132 RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY/PRODUCTS

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We support the concurrent resolution to provide menstrual products free of charge in efforts to ensure basic health care equity.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 9:28:00 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Airabella Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi & Vice Chair Andrew Takuya Garrett & Members of the LGO Committee,

My name is Airabella Molina and I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa with my BA in Public Health with a minor in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. I am a resident of the Kaneohe/Kahaluu district. I am very passionate about Period Poverty in Hawaii.

I am testifying in support of HCR132 to require the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I have witnessed Period Poverty first hand. Family and friends of mine have struggled with the inability to access menstrual products due to lack of income, education, cultural or societal shame or sanitary places to maintain hygiene. Period Poverty is a huge issue in Hawai‘i and is a pressing public health concern. In Hawaii, it was reported that the most common barrier when experiencing period poverty was cost (by a survey conducted in 2021 by Ma’i Movement Hawai’i). This is what made me passionate to end Period Poverty in Hawai’i along with Ma’i Movement.

In addition, this bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 6:40:21 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 8, 2023

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HCR132 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building. Furthermore, HCR132 requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

In 2021, Ma’i Movement Hawaii and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women published a study to better understand the ways that period poverty affects the menstruators of our state. The study found that 50% of respondents had missed school or work due to their periods and that nearly 30% of respondents had difficulty obtaining period products due to various barriers including cost, knowledge, accessibility, and stigma. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to ensure more inclusive and equitable access to public facilities and reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs. This bill also protects the dignity of all menstruating people and promotes greater menstrual equity in the State.

Menstruation is a bodily function that is just as important as any other bodily function. It is a biological process, and people who menstruate cannot simply “opt out” of having their periods. Thus, menstrual products are a basic necessity like 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. The state currently provides soap, toilet paper, and paper towels in its bathrooms (and continues to stock them when vandalism or theft occurs) because those are basic necessities that people need to address

their bodily functions. The state doesn't expect non-menstruators to provide their own rolls of toilet paper in each of its buildings, yet it currently does expect menstruators to provide their own menstrual products. This is unfair and has been the status quo for far too long. The State of Hawaii can do better, and the people of Hawaii deserve better.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sarah Kern

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 7:25:29 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 7:25:32 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valley B. Varma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I believe that This bill is an initiative that takes steps in addressing menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people.

Mahalo for your support of this bill and the opportunity to testify in it’s favor.

Aloha,

Valley Varma

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 7:26:02 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicelle Herron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

Menstrual products are a basic necessity, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 10:18:01 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anabelle Elaydo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supporting 100%

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 5:19:21 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cedar Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

‘O Cedar ko'u inoa. No Lā‘ie mai au. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit written testimony today. I'm writing in support of Bill HCR132/HRR in regarding the request that the Department of Accounting and General services provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms of public buildings maintained by that department. As a kanaka who menstruates I feel that it is important for menstrual products to be accessible to those who need it. More times than I'd like to admit I've had to use makeshift products made of toilet paper/paper towels because I either couldn't afford tampons/pads or just didn't have one when I needed it. Should this Bill be passed we would be one step closer to providing that accessibility to our current and future people and help mitigate moments like mine for those who find themselves in the similar situations while using certain public restrooms. It would truly be an investment in our public's wellness.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Cedar W.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 6:50:16 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee on Labor and Government Relations,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, this bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I ask that you support this bill to allow access to menstrual products to all menstruating people in an effort towards eliminating period poverty and menstrual inequities.

Respectfully submitted,

Winona Lee

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 9:36:26 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HCR 132.

Mahalo!

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 9:49:50 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in strong support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this resolution because it aligns with current recommendations on public health for access to reproductive services and products. According to the United Nations, menstrual equity is not only a health issue, but also a human rights concern.

(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/high-commissioner-human-rights-statement-menstrual-health>)

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 12:23:02 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 2:44:44 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylyn Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the cost of Living and prices rising it's hard for me as Mother to provide menstrual products for my daughter and I. Though I work 2 Jobs it's still hard to make ends meet. Since signing up for Ma'i movement It really helped us a lot. It's comforting to know that we are being taken cared of and have products available for us when we need. If you have free products for woman In public restrooms that will Just change everything in such a positive way. Please make this possible for all women we will all appreciate this very much. Especially for the ones who can't afford them.

Mahalo

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 5:45:00 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Mikuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure which will ensure a basic level of personal hygiene and sanitation for our citizens. Menstrual products are a basic necessity, just like toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products. Menstruators often get their periods unexpectedly while in public and may not be near a store to make a purchase or may not have available funds. This bill addresses menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Mikuni, Palolo, Oahu Resident

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 10:45:47 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wyatt Tamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I support this because I have a close friend to whom the passage of this bill is both personal and of great importance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 11:10:48 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystine Ann Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

Mahalo nui loa for following and supporting us this legislative session. I am testifying in support of HCR132, which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms of public buildings maintained by that department.

This resolution is really important to me because as a graduate student, I have struggled with affording and obtaining the appropriate menstrual products during my menstrual cycle. Due to this, I've actively fought period poverty with projects focused on menstrual equity. In August 2022, I won a \$500 grant from the Pad Project which provided me with 2,376 menstrual pads to distribute. I've been distributing pads in the East-West Center Residence Halls. While useful, I think we can take this a step further and have it available within public spaces, and also have more menstrual product options available. In the Fall of 2022, I hosted two film nights focused on period poverty and had discussions with international students of the East-West Center community in regard to their struggles with affording menstrual products in the community. At the East-West Center, the International graduate students have difficulty affording living here, going to school, and caring for themselves during their menstrual cycle. My fellow students have reported to me that they will often put menstrual products last on their priority so they can afford food and will skip class due to having their menstrual period. This is unacceptable. These students have the right to their education and these products are a basic need for all menstruating individuals. I recently won a \$3,000 grant to fund menstrual products at the East-West Center, but this is not sustainable. Please consider this resolution. It could help the general public.

Mahalo nui loa,

Krystine Cabrera

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 12:31:01 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and members of the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations,

I am in strong support of HCR132. This is an important step towards menstrual equity for members of our community who cannot afford to pay for period products. Not everyone will need these products at no cost, but we should ensure that those who do need them have access.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 11:17:02 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa W. Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure asking for menstruation products be made available for free in some public buildings. I think this is a great step in addressing the disparities that women disproportionately face.

March 27, 2023

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HCR 132 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AT NO COST IN STATE BUILDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES THAT ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND CONTAIN PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

HEARING: March 29, 2023 at 10:00 am
House Committee on Labor and Government Relations

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members:

I am testifying in support of HCR132 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and men's restrooms.

I support this because I believe it is important to prevent period poverty. Menstrual products are a basic necessity and meeting minimum needs by providing free period products will eliminate the invisible barriers to those who menstruate.

Thank you for consideration of this important issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Sharkey', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

Lauren R. Sharkey
c/o Case Lombardi
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600
Honolulu, HI 96813

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 12:05:31 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jozette Momoa-Smythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HCR132 & HCR133.

Mahalo!

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:05:35 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sebastian Church	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women's reproductive health is uncompromisingly important. The future literally depends on it. Menstrual products are as essential for female hygiene as toilet paper is for all people. Please pass HCR132 to support women in the workplace.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:28:43 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Shiroma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I support this because I believe that this is a right that should be provided to all, despite their financial challenges or disparities. Growing up, and still to this day, I have been asked when in public bathrooms or while in school bathrooms, for feminine products from friends, strangers and classmates if I had "a tampon" or "a pad" because they did not or could not afford this.

This should not be the case living in the United States or any place for that matter.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:35:41 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong **support** of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I believe access to no cost menstrual products in public building is extremely important because menstruation is a normal human reproduction function and research shows that 86% of menstruators experience their period unexpectedly while in public. Having no cost menstrual products in public restrooms are a basic necessity and are in the same line as toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but could be economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people, if a cost were attached to having access to them.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:24:14 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HCR 132 in order to support the young women in our state and women in general. We need all the help we can get and increasing the confidence of women to enter the public space regardless of where they are in their menstrual cycle is one result this bill can further.

mahalo

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:48:29 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisamarie Bensman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men's restroom with signage in the remaining men's restrooms.

I support this because I am a professor in the UHCC system (speaking on my own personal behalf, not as a representative for the System) and I have had many students who have been unable to attend class because they don't have menstrual products. It has been such an issue that my department has been supplying products in our building restroom for around six years now. We pay out of pocket for these supplies because we want our students to be able to remain in class.

This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people.

Menstrual products are a basic necessity, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisamarie Bensman, Ph.D.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:38:24 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Gentry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a female resident of Maui and I came across this bill as I was reviewing the new bills this session. While in CA on a trip I noticed that in some public facilities I visited they provided no cost menstrual products. When I saw this, I was in awe that such a thing is taking place. We as women do not ask to menstruate monthly and some of us do not have the extra expense to be able to pay for menstrual products. I am in agreement to this bill and support it. I think that all public restrooms and establishments should offer no cost menstrual products.

Mahalo

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 1:21:27 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pooloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR132 because access to free menstrual products in all public spaces allow for women to be truly supported. There are barriers to access whether its financial or physical, but having the products free and avialable, along with a clean and safe place for women to take care of their menstrual needs is not a privilege but a human right. Our society needs to elevate its care of women, work to support women in all sectors of liberty, and abolish stigma and shame around menstruation with education, understanding and compassion. Just this act alone will make a massive impact on the mental health and well being of young girls experiencing their period for the first time, or just in desparate need of menstrual products during their time of the month.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 1:43:19 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alanna Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HCR132! It is crucial for women to have access to free menstrual products in restrooms in order to meet their fundamental needs and advance better health.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:21:35 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Meade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Erik Meade and I am a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am testifying in SUPPORT of HCR132.

I have known and do know female students who are food insecure and passing HCR132 will help them and future students be able to eat.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

LATE

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 5:59:49 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea McDonough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HCR132/HR133 to request the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in each covered restroom of each covered public building under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in gender-neutral restrooms and in absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

I support this because I believe that menstrual products are a basic necessity, as is toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products. However, menstrual products are economically out of reach for a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and gender-diverse people. This bill is an initiative that takes steps to address menstrual inequity by reducing health risks, alleviating the burden of period poverty, and protecting the dignity of all menstruating people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

LATE

LATE

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:30:53 PM

Testimony for LGO on 3/29/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla-Ann Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this and know that this basic need should be taken care of by the government. This need will provide people with periods a safe and private space to take care of themselves without shame and worry.