JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGANCOMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMANDEPUTY 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 LAWELAWE 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.



<u>SUPPORT FOR HR133 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the</u> <u>Department of Accounting and General Services</u>

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 <u>strongly supports HR133</u>, 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 <u>offer an amendment</u> 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 hygiene¹"). 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 <u>American Medical Association (AMA)</u> 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

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 **HR133** 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)



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

Support for HR133 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings RE:

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 HR133. The free provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of menstruators. A <u>national study</u> 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.

HR133 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 **HR133**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Mahalo, Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 9:28:42 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 HR133 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.

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 6:41:10 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 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. Furthermore, HR133 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

<u>HR-133</u> Submitted on: 3/25/2023 9:36:52 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 suport HR 133.

Mahalo!

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 9:50:07 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)

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 12:25:05 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.

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 11:12:04 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 HCR133, which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide menstrual products at no cost in specified restrooms of public buildings maintained by the state.

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

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 12:31:43 PM

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

Sub	mitted 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 HR133. 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.

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:08:01 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in support of 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.

Sarah Rosenbach

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HR 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.

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 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 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,

Lauren R. Sharkey c/o Case Lombardi

737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600

Honolulu, HI 96813

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:42:44 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 with research showing that 86% of menstruators experience their period unexpectedly while in public. Having no cost menstrual products in public spaces are a basic necessity and are in the same line as toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, which if a cost were attached 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.

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.

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 1:44:09 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 HR133! 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.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Representative Scot Matayoshi, Chair Representative Andrew Garrett, Vice Chair

TITLE OF BILL: HCR 132 & HR 133

DATE: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street





IN SUPPORT of HCR 132 and HR 133

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

I am Matthew Smedley, a citizen of O'ahu representing myself. I am testifying in favor of HCR 132 and HR 133, a bill that would provide menstrual hygiene products in state buildings and all public restrooms. This measure would assist all persons of Hawai'i as it is a monthly expense in most households on island. This is a natural and largely unavoidable bodily function that directly impacts half of all people, yet the responsibility and financial burden falls onto those who historically make lower wages.

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 would ensure 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.

While I do not have personal need for menstrual products I strongly believe it is essential they be provided for the general public. I have heard many horror stories of friends and loved ones unexpectedly beginning their menstrual cycle or simply having spotting and being caught without the necessary products. This has caused many people deep distress, embracement and shame. This should not be the case.

Mahalo for your time and please take care, Matthew Smedley

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:02:52 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 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.

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:33:12 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 as a Native Hawaiian woman, student worker, and Senator of the Associated Student of the University of Hawaiii. I 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, worry, and stigma.