
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DIGNITY FOR FEMALE INMATES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that throughout the
2 United States many female inmates earn small wages in state-
3 operated correctional facilities and struggle to buy necessary
4 feminine hygiene products from the in-facility commissaries.

5 Prison reform advocates say feminine hygiene products sold
6 at the commissaries are often of poor quality, limited in
7 quantity, and expensive, which results in some female inmates
8 having to cope without feminine hygiene products.

9 In 2017, following the congressional introduction of "The
10 Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act," which aimed to increase the
11 quality of life for female inmates, the Federal Bureau of
12 Prisons announced that it would provide free feminine hygiene
13 products to female inmates in the federal correctional system.

14 The legislature further finds that Hawaii lawmakers support
15 the well-being, dignity, and quality of life of the State's
16 female inmates and hope that the positive action by the Federal
17 Bureau of Prisons in providing free feminine hygiene products to



1 female inmates can serve as a model for the Hawaii correctional
2 system, which had five hundred fifty-two female inmates in state
3 custody as of December 31, 2017.

4 The purpose of this Act is to improve the well-being,
5 dignity, and quality of life of the State's female inmates by
6 requiring that the department of public safety provide free,
7 quality feminine hygiene products to female inmates and
8 detainees in the State's correctional facilities.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§353- Feminine hygiene products; female inmates and
13 detainees. (a) All female inmates in the custody of the
14 department upon admission and until release shall be provided
15 with feminine hygiene products at the department's expense and
16 upon request of the inmate.

17 (b) All female individuals arrested and detained in the
18 custody of the department for at least forty-eight hours and
19 until release shall be provided with feminine hygiene products
20 at the department's expense and upon request of the detainee.



1 (c) Upon request from a female inmate or detainee, the
2 department shall provide free feminine hygiene products in each
3 category as follows:

4 (1) Tampons, regular or super size;

5 (2) Sanitary napkins with wings, regular or super size;
6 and

7 (3) Panty liners, regular.

8 (d) The department shall ensure feminine hygiene products
9 provided under this section conform with applicable industry
10 standards.

11 (e) All female inmates and detainees shall be allowed to
12 maintain a number of feminine hygiene products within
13 their unit.

14 For purposes of this section, "feminine hygiene products"
15 means tampons and sanitary napkins for use in connection with
16 the menstrual cycle and panty liners."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

19 INTRODUCED BY:

Calvin L. Ay
Beth LaB
Guthrie Threlan

Gregory Ryan
Richard L. L...
Kirde L. L...
Lyn DeCite



H.B. NO. 2453

Matt Lopez
James A. Belotti

Kelly

[Signature]

John John

Scam

[Signature]

Mark J. Hall

Al St

Nadine K. Nelson

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Report Title:

Dignity Act; Female Inmates; Feminine Hygiene Products

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to provide free feminine hygiene products to all female inmates and detainees upon request.

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