

MAR 11 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS ON ALL HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Board of Education policy number
2 1110-10 states that "gender equity extends the doctrine of
3 fairness to all areas of activity in the public school system";
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2014, the United Nations declared menstrual
7 hygiene a public-health, gender-equality, and human rights
8 issue; and

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10 WHEREAS, half the population will experience menstruation
11 while at school; and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii public schools are insufficiently funded;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, the funding that is allocated by the Legislature
17 and expended by the Department of Education should be equitably
18 allocated among students who menstruate and those who do not;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's budget allocation
22 for extracurricular activities, including athletics,
23 disproportionately benefits students who do not menstruate; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Education maintains a healthy
26 school environment by providing free products to students such
27 as toilet paper and hand soap in restrooms, yet the Department
28 of Education does not provide students with free menstrual
29 products; and

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31 WHEREAS, students who are menstruating are burdened with
32 the additional cost of menstrual products to maintain a healthy
33 school environment for everyone, including students who do not
34 menstruate; and

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1 WHEREAS, some students who are menstruating do not come to
2 school or leave school early because they cannot afford the
3 menstrual products that maintain a healthy school environment;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, a 2019 nationwide study conducted by the
7 University of Richmond found that students who were unable to
8 afford menstrual products were 5.89 times more likely to miss
9 school, 5.82 times more likely to be late to school, and 4.14
10 times more likely to leave school early compared to those who
11 could afford menstrual products; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has identified that
14 forty seven percent of public school students in the 2019-2020
15 school year were considered "economically disadvantaged"; and

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17 WHEREAS, the 2020 ALICE Report by Aloha United Way states
18 that almost sixty percent of Hawaii's local families are
19 struggling to meet basic needs due to the economic impact of the
20 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic; and

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22 WHEREAS, according to the nationwide survey conducted by
23 Always of Proctor and Gamble, since the pandemic, one out of
24 three parents are worried about their ongoing ability to afford
25 menstrual products; and

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27 WHEREAS, a 2016 New York City pilot program found that
28 access to free menstrual products in public schools increased
29 attendance by 2.4 percent, leading to a package of legislation
30 providing free access to menstrual products for New York City's
31 students; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
35 that the Department of Education is requested to provide free
36 menstrual products to students on all public school campuses;
37 and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
40 requested to include criteria in the evaluation tool of the
41 Superintendent based on minimizing factors of achieving true
42 gender equity; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii youth risk behavior
3 survey for high school and middle school students should include
4 questions regarding menstrual equity and access to menstrual
5 products, including:
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7 (1) Do you always have access to period products at school
8 for the entire duration of your period?;
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10 (2) Have you ever not been able to purchase period
11 products at school?; and
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13 (3) Have you ever skipped school, left school early, or
14 come to school late because you didn't have access to
15 period products?; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
19 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: _____

Jan Acasio

