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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and  
2 gender-diverse persons are at risk of period poverty due to the  
3 absence of readily available aid and financial support; and  
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5 WHEREAS, period poverty has negative effects on a person's  
6 ability to meet basic necessities, gender equality, access to  
7 education and employment, and public health; and  
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9 WHEREAS, period poverty and menstrual inequity result  
10 directly from socioeconomic, gender, and racial injustices, as  
11 recognized in the November 2021 report co-authored by the Hawaii  
12 State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement  
13 Hawai'i; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the report noted that the State's exceptionally  
16 high cost of living and wage gap for women specifically  
17 exacerbate period poverty, with nearly thirty percent of  
18 respondents reporting that they or a household member  
19 experienced difficulty obtaining menstrual products, with cost  
20 being the most cited reason; and  
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22 WHEREAS, recent data collected by the United States Census  
23 Bureau for the Household Pulse Survey indicated that 43.8  
24 percent of Hawaii households reported struggling to pay for  
25 usual household expenses in the last seven days; and  
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27 WHEREAS, viewed within the context of many families'  
28 struggles to pay for living expenses, the ongoing need to



1 purchase menstrual products for approximately forty years  
2 consumes a disproportionate amount of a menstruating person's  
3 financial resources compared to a non-menstruating person; and  
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5 WHEREAS, providing free menstrual products in public  
6 buildings would reduce health risks, alleviate the burden of  
7 period poverty, and protect the dignity of all menstruating  
8 people; and  
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10 WHEREAS, access to free menstrual products would also  
11 ensure inclusive and equitable access to public facilities,  
12 reduce barriers faced by residents and visitors to state  
13 buildings in meeting basic needs, and promote greater menstrual  
14 equity in the State; now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
19 Accounting and General Services is requested to help members of  
20 the public, regardless of their gender or biology, have access  
21 to essential hygiene products by providing menstrual products at  
22 no cost in state buildings under the jurisdiction of the  
23 Department of Accounting and General Services that are open to  
24 the public and contain public restrooms; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting  
27 and General Services is requested to maintain a stock of  
28 menstrual products, free of charge, in every women's restroom  
29 and every gender-neutral restroom of a state building under the  
30 jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General  
31 Services that is open to the public and contains a public  
32 restroom; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting  
35 and General Services is requested to install in each of these  
36 restrooms a dispenser or similar device for the provision of  
37 free menstrual products; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a state building has no  
40 gender-neutral restroom, the Department of Accounting and  
41 General Services is requested to provide free menstrual products  
42 in at least one men's restroom of that state building and



1 maintain signage in all restrooms of those covered public  
2 buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products;  
3 and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller.

