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# HOUSE 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, period poverty has negative effects on a person's  
2 ability to meet basic necessities, gender equality, access to  
3 education and employment, and public health; and  
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5 WHEREAS, a growing number of menstruating girls, women, and  
6 gender-diverse persons are at risk due to the absence of readily  
7 available aid and financial support; 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 Mai'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 43.8 percent of  
24 Hawaii households reported struggling to pay for usual household  
25 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  
29 purchase menstrual products for approximately forty years



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



1 buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products;  
2 and

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

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