



SUPPORT FOR SCR87 - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey
Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Committee Members

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Honorable Vice Chair Henry Aquino
Committee Members

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, March 31, 2023, 1:00 pm

Dear Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committee,

Ma'i Movement Hawai'i **strongly supports SCR87**, 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 **offer an amendment** 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.

¹ [Glossary for the Global Menstrual Movement](#)

First, menstrual products are a basic health requirement for over half of the local population. In fact, the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) 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), 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

² [Sebert Kuhlmann, Anne PhD, MPH; Peters Bergquist, Eleanor MA, MSPH; Danjont, Djenie MPH; Wall, L. Lewis MD, DPhil. Unmet Menstrual Hygiene Needs Among Low-Income Women. Obstetrics & Gynecology 133\(2\):p 238-244, February 2019. | DOI: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003060](#)

³ [2021 report conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i](#)

⁴ [Alice in Hawai'i: 2022 Fact and Figures report](#)

⁵ [Household Pulse Survey](#)

⁶ [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#)

(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.

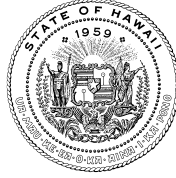
Offered Amendment: On page (3), line (1): “Maintain signage in all restrooms of those covered public buildings, indicating the location of free menstrual products.”

We urge you to support **SCR87** 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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY 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 COMMITTEES ON

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

MARCH 31, 2023, 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 87 / S.R. 78

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.

Chairs McKelvey and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Aquino, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 87 / S.R. 78.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** S.C.R. 87 and H.R. 78, 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.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: Senate Committee on Government Operations
Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey
Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Committee Members

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Honorable Vice Chair Henry Aquino
Committee Members

DATE: Friday, March 31, 2023, 1:00 pm

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: **Support for SCR87** - Relating to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings
Maintained by the Department of Accounting and General Services

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, 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 SCR87**. The free provision of menstrual products is vital for ensuring the health, dignity, and full participation of menstruators. A [national study](#) 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.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

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.

SCR87 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 **SCR87**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition



**Parents And
Children Together**

**BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST**

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 87/SR 78

TO: Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Gabbard & Members – Senate Committee on Government Operations
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino & Members – Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO

DATE: March 31, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports SCR 87/SR 78 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. The bill also requires access for all menstruating people by providing products in general-neutral restrooms and in the absence of that, in at least one men’s restroom with signage in the remaining men’s restrooms.

People living in poverty are most affected by lack of access to period products. This causes the medical and psychological impact of reusing products, using products for longer than indicated, not using any products, or resorting to other unsafe or unsanitary materials as a replacement for period products. Lack of access causes shame and isolation.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:48:03 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

March 29, 2023

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR87 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.

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. Further research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public. Establishing wider access to free menstrual products would help to reduce barriers faced by visitors to state buildings meeting basic needs. This bill also protects the dignity of all menstruating people, increases the inclusivity of our public facilities, 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

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:25:48 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a faculty member at a community college, a counselor and I used to buy barrels of tampons from Costco and put them in the bathrooms ourselves. It is amazing how overlooked women's health issues are. We don't expect people to bring their own toilet paper, yet women are required to be always prepared even when their cycle is irregular and they suddenly get their period and have no resources with them. This is an excellent resolution, and I urge you to pass it.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:56:37 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Davey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Imagine this, you are a young woman and your period arrives a day or so early - there you are, out doing errands, heading to school, heading to work and you forgot to put some tampons or pads in your purse (keep in mind how costly these products can be). You need to find a restroom ASAP - *AND most stores no longer provide access to their restrooms to the public*; you head to a state building - thank goodness you can find menstrual products! The alternative.... finding a restroom you can use, washing your clothes in a public sink, stuffing papertowels in your underpants hoping you make it to your destination. How embarrassing! You can get soap and papertowels and toilet paper - let's help provide menstrual products to those in need. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:43:46 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Nichols	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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. Just as we recently seen Minnesota's senate pass a bill covering free lunch, these products are just as necessary to our people. Food, clothes, housing, education, and healthcare are all things that we already provide assistance with; why can't hygiene products fall under the health aspect?

Thank you for your consideration, Mahalo

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:29:39 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauralee Dice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 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 wholeheartedly because I believe that all menstruating people should have equal access to these products.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:34:34 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicelle Herron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:28:45 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am in strong support of SCR87. 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.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:01:35 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha GVO and HHS Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in strong support of SCR87/SR78 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)

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:04:52 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEHAU KAILI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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 have experienced/witnessed/believe as a single mother of 4 daughters it will help bring awareness, peace of mind especially since Hawaii has become unaffordable. It is difficult for me to support them, but ma'i movement has made it possible. For my family to push forward with faith that we will be able to afford these products one day. I appreciate all that has been done.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:38:18 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla-Ann Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a woman born and raised in Hawai'i I know that this basic need lies upon the responsibility of the government. This need will provide people with periods a safe and private space to take care of themselves without shame, worry, and stigma.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:42:43 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Ishihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 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 and many people I know have experienced the shame and discomfort of being caught unaware by a sudden period in the middle of the day. It is both uncomfortable and unsafe to makeshift replacements for proper menstrual products.

Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public. 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 similar to toilet paper, hand soap, and other personal hygiene products, but are economically out of reach for a growing number of 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution,

Mahalo,

Emma.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:27:36 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylyn Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:11:44 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Shiroma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

Menstrual products are a basic necessity, 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. Growing up on the Windward side of the island and attending public school, I saw a number of classmates and friends who struggled by not having access to something as basic as this. Fortunately, I would have extra on hand and share with them, however, it shouldn't have to be this way.

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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:10:52 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

This bill is important because:

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sarah Rosenbach

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:53:09 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR87.

Mahalo!

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:44:35 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

Also because

- Research shows that 86% of menstruators get their periods unexpectedly while in public.- 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, 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.

Support this now.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:01:41 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TAMELA WILCOX	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am a current counselor /Instructor at Windward Community College Pu'uhonua Program. Being on campus and at the prison in Kailua I see first-hand what a difference it makes to have this movement continue. On campus students have the liberty of feeling self-assured that if it's that time of the month they will have supplies. The movement provides pads and tampons in every bathroom for all students. At the prison these pads and tampons need to be purchased and cost a pretty penny. The general hygiene at times lacks common decency with the attitude if you can't afford it, it's not our problem. We have taken away many rights of these inmates but general hygiene should not be one of them. This program gives a reassurance that every woman can feel comfortable in their own body. Please pass bill SCR87, it provides a basic need for at students and inmates I serve.

Mahalo

Tamela Wilcox

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:26:15 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Lashlee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mckelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 / SR78 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, 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.

As a menstruating person, I have often been caught off guard with my period. This is a common experience, and with hormonal birth control it becomes even more frequent. Periods are known to be unpredictable, and in my workplace (UH Manoa) and my school (UH Manoa) I rarely have resources to help me in these instances. When I discover I've bled through my underwear, it's a humiliating experience. The fact that I have nothing to prevent further damage is incredibly disappointing, and shameful. I do my best to have products when I can, but I'm on a college student budget, and sometimes have to make the choice between giving myself a meal I know I need and buying myself products I *might* need. It's unfair to say I should buy these in advance regardless, would you buy something you're not as likely to use over something you 100% will use in the near future? Although, this situation is not really seen in other menstruating folks- as they have two guaranteed possibilities - and must choose between them.

Anyways, when I have to crumble cheap, thin, toilet paper to use as a makeshift pad in two primary areas of my life I question why this is happening. Why do I have to walk all the way to the women's center to get a free pad? Why do I have to give up 1.8% of my hourly wage on a cheap, scented (...) tampon that might not even come out because the machines are hardly taken care of/restocked? Why do I have to choose over a meal (or several) to have support during these times simply because the thousands of dollars I put into my workplace and school do nothing in supporting my physical well-being?

This is basic support for menstruating people. Especially within UHM, where about 70% of the student body is female, these issues are highly important. People should feel secure in their

physical health in every setting, particularly in school and workplaces, and especially with something unavoidable (as you can see from my examples) and so common.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:49:51 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Aloha mai kākou:

RE: SCR 87

I write in support of SCR 87, which advocates for the dispensation of menstrual products on public facilities at no cost.

Menstrual products are a good that fulfills a human need. Our consciousness as humans has advanced rapidly in short time, and many of us now understand that we had arbitrarily placed great and unfair inequities on others on the basis of biological sex for most of our recorded existence. We have come understand now that human rights and unmet needs are experienced differentially, but are still human rights even if not universally experienced. Menstrual products are necessary for hygiene and thereby health. SCR 87 is a step on the long path towards true equality and dignity for all humankind

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

DP Armstrong

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:34:49 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalyn Kagimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 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.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:45:32 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Tokunaga May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in support of this bill to provide free menstrual products in public buildings. This is especially important to young girls and women who have limited access to these products.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shelly Tokunaga-May

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:50:06 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystine Ann Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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.

This bill 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 across public buildings, 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 and every menstruating person have the right to 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.

Periods can come as a surprise, as I have had this happen due to having irregular periods. Having these products available would greatly help the public.

Mahalo,

Krystine

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 11:21:17 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisamarie Bensman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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 am a professor in the UHCC system (speaking on my own personal behalf, not as a representative for the System) and I have had many students who have been unable to attend class because they don't have menstrual products. It has been such an issue that my department has been supplying products in our building restroom for around six years now. We pay out of pocket for these supplies because we want our students to be able to remain in class.

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, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisamarie Bensman, Ph.D.

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:29:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Grave	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87/SR78 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 have experienced period poverty while attending UH Manoa. Students, like I used to be, have enough to worry about and historically, have no income to purchase period products. These products should be a right, not a privilege. Menstrual products are a basic necessity, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

LATE

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:03:15 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Smith-Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SCR87 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 know what it is like to be without period products due to cost. No one should have to experience that. This is why I support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Tanya Smith-Johnson, MS, CPM

LATE

SCR-87

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 11:14:32 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Milianta-Laffin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

Resolution SCR87 builds on legislation that my Ilima Intermediate School students worked on with the Mai Movement to get free period products in all Hawaii public schools. This policy says that we care for all K-12 menstruators, now let's care for ALL menstruators in our state's public buildings by supporting this resolution and future policy.

Recently, I attended a teacher convention at the San Francisco Convention center and unexpectedly got my period. In all restrooms in that convention hall, free period products were provided. Having free and easy access meant that I was able to focus on my meeting, instead of having to leave the building to find products.

Please support this resolution and mahalo to the Mai Movement for supporting all menstruators in our state!

Mahalo for Reading,

Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin

Ilima Intermediate School Teacher