
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STRENGTHEN MENSTRUAL
HEALTH EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE
MENSTRUAL CYCLE CURRICULUM.

1 WHEREAS, section 302A-452, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 requires the Department of Education to provide free menstrual
3 products on all public school campuses, including the campuses
4 of public charter schools; and

5
6 WHEREAS, both menstruating and non-menstruating students
7 should be aware of, and educated about, the natural bodily
8 processes of the menstrual cycle; and

9
10 WHEREAS, menstrual health education provides an opportunity
11 to eradicate stigmas; empower informed health decisions; and
12 ensure equal access to, and understanding of, menstrual
13 products; and

14
15 WHEREAS, inconsistent menstrual health education continues
16 to stifle progress toward achieving period equity, and some
17 students lack confidence in managing their menstrual cycle and
18 its symptoms, even with free products; and

19
20 WHEREAS, menstrual health education is largely absent from
21 or offered inconsistently in United States schools, with only
22 about 25.5 percent of state standards mentioning it; and

23
24 WHEREAS, thirteen states have taken the important step of
25 including menstrual health education in their schools' sexual
26 health education standards, recognizing that these courses
27 encourage students to be more inclusive of their menstruating
28 classmates; and

29
30 WHEREAS, data from the pre-survey results of the 2022
31 Hoohanohano Initiative pilot program indicated that eight
32 percent of school faculty surveyed felt that the period



1 education offered in schools was adequate, while fifty percent
2 of students said it was not; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the 2021 Understanding Period Poverty in Hawaii
5 report indicated that nearly half, specifically forty-eight
6 percent, of respondents received little or no information about
7 their periods before their first period started; and

8
9 WHEREAS, in 2024, California passed the Know Your Period
10 Act (Assembly Bill No. 2229), requiring menstrual health
11 education to be included within sexual health standards; and

12
13 WHEREAS, before the adoption of Assembly Bill No. 2229,
14 California students were "learning more about the anatomy of
15 frogs" than their own menstrual cycles; now, therefore,

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
19 that the Department of Education is urged to take immediate
20 action to strengthen menstrual health education initiatives in
21 the State's schools; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
24 urged to adopt a comprehensive menstrual health education
25 curriculum that:

- 26
27 (1) Includes the four pillars of menstrual dignity:
28
29 (A) Privacy: Menstruating students should be offered
30 space and autonomy, and guaranteed personal
31 safety;
32
33 (B) Inclusivity: Menstrual health education programs
34 should be culturally responsive and
35 gender-affirming;
36
37 (C) Access: Menstrual health education programs
38 should be multilingual and accessible for
39 students of all abilities, and should offer
40 options and choices for accessing the materials;
41 and
42



- 1 (D) Education: The program should be positive, and
2 not fear- or shame-based and should include
3 education on menstrual health and the use of
4 menstrual products;
5
- 6 (2) Includes content on health promotion, analyzing
7 influences, accessing information, communication,
8 decision-making, goal setting, healthy behaviors, and
9 advocacy;
10
- 11 (3) Is respectful toward people of all races, genders,
12 sexual orientations, ethnic backgrounds, and cultural
13 backgrounds;
14
- 15 (4) Includes the topics of hygiene, stigmas, and health
16 challenges, and incorporates materials beyond those on
17 the general biological processes of the menstrual
18 cycle; and
19
- 20 (5) Is age-appropriate and provides defined goals for
21 students in grades five, eight, and twelve; and
22
- 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for elementary school
24 students, the menstrual health education curriculum should:
25
- 26 (1) Include instruction on menstrual dignity;
27
- 28 (2) Require teachers to show hygiene products and to use
29 anatomically correct diagrams;
30
- 31 (3) Require schools to have menstruation-positive,
32 age-appropriate children's books available in the
33 school's library;
34
- 35 (4) Integrate teaching standards designed to help students
36 understand:
37
- 38 (A) The menstrual cycle's purpose as a biological
39 process within the menstruating body; and
40



1 (B) Native Hawaiian views and cultural practices
2 related to the menstrual cycle, along with
3 related Western views and practices; and
4

5 (5) Help students feel comfortable with the use of
6 menstrual products, as age-appropriate; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for middle school students,
9 the menstrual health education curriculum should:

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11 (1) Include instruction on increasing menstrual dignity by
12 having guest speakers from local public health
13 organizations discuss resources on menstrual health;
14

15 (2) Incorporate established standards and use appropriate
16 educational materials, including worksheets, diagrams,
17 and articles;
18

19 (3) Integrate teaching standards designated to help
20 students understand:
21

22 (A) The menstrual cycle's purpose as a biological
23 process within a menstruating body;
24

25 (B) Native Hawaiian views and cultural practices
26 related to the menstrual cycle, along with
27 related Western views and practices;
28

29 (C) Common myths regarding the menstrual cycle's role
30 in the reproductive system; and
31

32 (D) The existence and impacts of period poverty,
33 including its effects on physical and mental
34 health;
35

36 (4) Help students feel comfortable with the use of
37 menstrual products, as age-appropriate; and
38

39 (5) Emphasize that students must not stigmatize the
40 menstrual cycle; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for high school students, the
2 menstrual health education curriculum should:

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- 4 (1) Further increase menstrual dignity and use
5 well-established coursework;
- 6
- 7 (2) Feature appropriate educational materials and guest
8 speakers;
- 9
- 10 (3) Integrate the standards applicable to students in
11 middle school, as well as additional standards
12 requiring students to be able to:
 - 13
 - 14 (A) Identify various reasons and health conditions
15 that may make a menstrual cycle "abnormal", and
16 the steps necessary to address those health
17 conditions when encountered; and
 - 18
 - 19 (B) Manage menstruation-related pain; and
 - 20
- 21 (4) Include comprehensive and in-depth translations of all
22 menstrual education materials for use by non-English
23 speakers of English as a second language speakers; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 requested to submit a report on its progress in implementing
27 this measure, including any findings, recommendations, and
28 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
29 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of
33 Education, and Chairperson of the Board of Education.

