
SENATE CONCURRENT 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



1 percent of school faculty surveyed felt that the period
2 education offered in schools was adequate, while fifty percent
3 of students said it was not; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the 2021 Understanding Period Poverty in Hawaii
6 report indicated that nearly half, specifically forty-eight
7 percent, of respondents received little or no information about
8 their periods before their first period started; and
9

10 WHEREAS, in 2024, California passed the Know Your Period
11 Act (Assembly Bill No. 2229), requiring menstrual health
12 education to be included within sexual health standards; and
13

14 WHEREAS, before the adoption of Assembly Bill No. 2229,
15 California students were "learning more about the anatomy of
16 frogs" than their own menstrual cycles; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
21 Education is urged to take immediate action to strengthen
22 menstrual health education initiatives in the State's schools;
23 and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 urged to adopt a comprehensive menstrual health education
27 curriculum that:
28

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



1 options and choices for accessing the materials;
2 and

3
4 (D) Education: The program should be positive, and
5 not fear- or shame-based and should include
6 education on menstrual health and the use of
7 menstrual products;

8
9 (2) Includes content on health promotion, analyzing
10 influences, accessing information, communication,
11 decision-making, goal setting, healthy behaviors, and
12 advocacy;

13
14 (3) Is respectful toward people of all races, genders,
15 sexual orientations, ethnic backgrounds, and cultural
16 backgrounds;

17
18 (4) Includes the topics of hygiene, stigmas, and health
19 challenges, and incorporates materials beyond those on
20 the general biological processes of the menstrual
21 cycle; and

22
23 (5) Is age-appropriate and provides defined goals for
24 students in grades five, eight, and twelve; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for elementary school
27 students, the menstrual health education curriculum should:

28
29 (1) Include instruction on menstrual dignity;

30
31 (2) Require teachers to show hygiene products and to use
32 anatomically correct diagrams;

33
34 (3) Require schools to have menstruation-positive,
35 age-appropriate children's books available in the
36 school's library;

37
38 (4) Integrate teaching standards designed to help students
39 understand:

40
41 (A) The menstrual cycle's purpose as a biological
42 process within the menstruating body; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) Emphasize that students must not stigmatize the menstrual cycle; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for high school students, the
2 menstrual health education curriculum should:

- 3
- 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 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
33 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of
34 Education.

