



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System/Campus

SR23/SCR27 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO SUPPORT ENDING
MENSTRUAL INEQUITY BY PROVIDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO ALL
PERSONS, FREE OF CHARGE, IN ALL UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESTROOMS

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Resolution 23 (SR23)/Senate Concurrent Resolution 27 (SCR27) relating to ending menstrual inequity at the University of Hawai'i (UH). We are supportive of these resolutions, however, would respectfully request that the resolutions be amended to focus on providing period products for students across our ten campuses rather than for faculty, staff and the general public, as currently written.

The university has previously testified in support of providing free period products to our students across the system because it aligns with our current UH System Student Basic Needs Master Plan. UH recognizes that having free menstrual products available to students on campus could potentially help relieve some financial stress and allow students to remain focused on their academic goals instead.

Although these are resolutions, we did want to mention that cost is a factor when determining what we can provide to our students. Additionally, these resolutions expand the provision of free period products from our students to being available in every restroom on every campus for students, employees and the general public, which would increase the cost for implementation of this measure.

All ten campuses of the University have some level of programming that already provides a limited supply of menstrual products to our student population. Our vision to expand this program to reach the broader population of menstruating students would require an appropriation, and we would suggest \$1,000,000.00.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.