



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, people who experience period poverty—the lack of access or inability to afford sanitary products and lack of menstrual hygiene education—are unable to afford the costs of menstrual products they need due to insufficient or lack of income; and

**WHEREAS**, local surveys and research in 2021 by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i report that half of respondents missed work or school because of their period; and

**WHEREAS**, period poverty may lead to infections and other health and hygiene complications for people who menstruate when forced to limit the number of changes during a menstrual cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, period poverty is an “invisible barrier” to gender equality in Hawai'i and attributable to systemic problems, which can be addressed by engaging decision makers to increase political priority and catalyze action; and

**WHEREAS**, access to comprehensive education and period-friendly sanitation facilities for people who menstruate is essential to ensuring no one is held back because of menstruation; and

**WHEREAS**, period poverty is a public health issue and addressing period poverty can lead to improved health for menstruating individuals and provide increased access to the basic necessities required for these individuals to thrive;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor** of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim May 23–29, 2022 as

## **“PERIOD POVERTY AWARENESS WEEK”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness of period poverty, recognize the importance of ensuring health and hygiene for all people who menstruate, and support community-based efforts for collecting and distributing period products to those struggling with period poverty.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this sixteenth day of May 2022.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i