

# COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS** period poverty - the lack of access or inability to afford sanitary products and lack of menstrual hygiene education - is a public health matter, and addressing the issue can lead to economic opportunity for our island community and improved health for women, girls, and gender diverse individuals who menstruate, thus ensuring all people have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; 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 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 women, girls, and gender diverse individuals who menstruate is essential to ensuring no one is held back because of menstruation; and

**WHEREAS** the global goal to end period poverty is 2030 and the State and County of Hawai'i are committed to joining the world in this goal with the support of trusted community-based organizations such as Ma'i Movement Hawai'i, that recognize the importance of period products, education, and advocacy in ensuring health and providing economic stability.

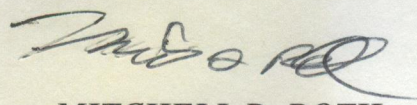
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 23 – 29, 2022** as

### **PERIOD POVERTY AWARENESS WEEK**

and encourage the people of Hawai'i County to join 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.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2022 in Hilo, Hawai'i.*



  
**MITCHELL D. ROTH**  
**MAYOR**