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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MED-QUEST DIVISION,  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF QUALIFIED  
PROVIDERS ALLOWED TO PROVIDE LACTATION CONSULTANT SERVICES  
FOR THE MEDICAID POPULATION IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and  
2 Prevention, breastfeeding has health benefits for babies and  
3 mothers, as breast milk provides a baby with ideal nutrition,  
4 supports growth and development, and can also help protect the  
5 baby and mother against certain illnesses and diseases; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends  
8 exclusive breastfeeding for about six months then continued  
9 breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods until a  
10 child is twelve months or older; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,  
13 Public Law 111-148, includes guidelines for coverage of  
14 breastfeeding support and counseling; and  
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16           WHEREAS, a lactation consultant is a certified health  
17 professional who specializes in the clinical management of  
18 breastfeeding and is trained to assist mothers in preventing and  
19 solving breastfeeding difficulties, such as sore nipples and low  
20 milk supply; and  
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22           WHEREAS, lactation consultants commonly work in hospitals,  
23 physician or midwife practices, public health programs, and  
24 private practice; and  
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26           WHEREAS, lactation consultants in the United States are  
27 often nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners, dietitians, and  
28 other healthcare professionals who have obtained additional



1 certification through the International Board of Lactation  
2 Consultant Examiners or operate as Certified Lactation  
3 Counselors; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's QUEST Integration Program, which provides  
6 eligible low-income adults and children access to health and  
7 medical coverage through managed care plans, does not currently  
8 allow all qualified providers who have obtained International  
9 Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification or a  
10 Certified Lactation Counselor certification from the Academy of  
11 Lactation Policy and Practice to provide lactation consultant  
12 services; and  
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medicaid population would greatly benefit  
15 from increased access to lactation consultant services to assist  
16 breastfeeding mothers; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
20 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
21 Human Services Med-QUEST Division, in collaboration with the  
22 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, is requested to  
23 expand the types of qualified providers allowed to provide  
24 lactation consultant services for the Medicaid population in the  
25 State; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
28 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to take any steps  
29 necessary to obtain necessary approvals, create internal  
30 processes, and expand access to appropriate providers who have  
31 obtained International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners  
32 certification; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
35 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to submit a report to  
36 the Legislature on the steps taken and progress made in  
37 expanding the types of providers who can provide lactation  
38 consultant services no later than twenty days prior to the  
39 convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
3 Services, Director of Health, Director of Commerce and Consumer  
4 Affairs, and Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division.

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