



April 12, 2023

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HCR7 HD2 – 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.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR7 HD2, which is 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.

We thank the Women’s Caucus for introducing this resolution to increase access. We also thank DHS Med-QUEST for continuing to care for Hawaii residents and for their shared commitment to strengthening health and well-being in Hawaii. Prioritization of access to maternal health care is critically important for ensuring health and well-being for mothers and future generations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion notes, “Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for the United States. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can impact future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.”

We urge the legislature to encourage access to lactation consultant services for Hawaii’s Medicaid beneficiaries. The evidence for the benefits of breastfeeding is widely researched and published and it’s important to ensure that all mothers have access to these services, including QUEST members. HMSA’s Pregnancy Support Program currently supports QUEST members in need of lactation consultant services by referring them to various community resources. However, these community resources have limited access. The Affordable Care Act mandates that health insurance plans must provide breastfeeding support, counseling, and equipment for the duration of breastfeeding¹ and states including New York², Georgia³, and Washington, D.C.⁴ are already successfully providing reimbursement to certified health care professionals who are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) through Medicaid. Hawaii has an incredible opportunity to increase access and outcomes by expanding the types of qualified

¹ <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/breast-feeding-benefits/>

² https://health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/breastfeeding/medicaid_coverage/lactation_counseling_services.htm

³ <https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2022-08-05/dch-enrolling-lactation-consultants-new-provider-type>

⁴ http://www.dcbfc.org/pdfs/Medicaid_Enrollment_and_Reimbursement_for_the_IBCLC_122020.pdf



providers allowed to provide lactation consultant services for the Medicaid population in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR7 HD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Kurisu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Krista Olson, IBCLC, MC-MCH, Breastfeeding Coordinator for LATCH (Lactation Access Transforming Communities in Hawai'i, a joint project of Early Childhood Action Strategy & Breastfeeding Hawai'i)

RE: SUPPORT for HR7/HD2 Requesting the Department of Human Services Med Quest Division To Expand Types of Qualified Providers Allowed to Provide Lactation Consultant Services For the Medicaid Population

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 1:10 PM

POSITION: Strong Support

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of LATCH, a shared endeavor of Early Childhood Action Strategy and Breastfeeding Hawai'i, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HCR7/HD2 with no further amendments.

I practice clinically as an IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant), and work as a maternal child health advocate and researcher. I coordinate LATCH, a three-year project aimed at elevating community voice in discussions with insurers to address critical gaps in lactation care. We are funded to engage communities, providers, insurers, and policy makers to design an equitable system of funded breastfeeding support. HR7/HD2 will contribute to our efforts to bring key partners to the table to address barriers that prevent Hawai'i families from receiving the support they need to meet their infant feeding goals.

The International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) provides essential clinical care for breast/chestfeeding families. As a peer-reviewed author publishing and presenting on disparities in breast/chestfeeding health outcomes and barriers to lactation care in the Hawaiian Islands, I can testify that increasing access to insurance coverage for clinically-competent lactation care is critical for families enrolled in Medicaid. We see significant outcome and access disparities for families with QUEST Integration/Medicaid coverage in Hawai'i, and particularly for those living on neighbor islands. Racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding outcomes also persist throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony. Please contact me if you have questions or comments. krista@ecashawaii.org



April 7, 2023

Senator Joy Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HW 96813

*RE: H.C.R. 7/ H.D.2 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MED-QUEST DIVISION TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS
ALLOWED TO PROVIDE LACTATION CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE
MEDICAID POPULATION IN THE STATE.*

Dear Senator Buenaventura, Senator Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ellie Mulpeter and I am the Director of the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice (ALPP), a division of the Healthy Children Project, Inc. ALPP operates the Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) certification program. I am testifying today to express our support of House Concurrent Resolution 7 and H.D. 2, with a request to clarify the inclusion of CLCs within the scope of the request.

The Resolutions request the Med-Quest Division expand the types of qualified providers allowed to provide lactation support for the Medicaid population of Hawaii. ALPP applauds this effort to increase access to lactation care in Hawaii and appreciates the work of the Committee on Health and Human Services to amend the language to be more inclusive.

Specifically, the Resolutions recognize in lines 9-12 on page 2, that Hawaii's QUEST Integration Program does not currently allow individuals who possess "a Certified Lactation Counselor certification from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice to provide lactation consultant services". However, the Resolutions do not include those individuals in the request that the Med-Quest Division obtain the

necessary approvals to expand access to individuals possess “a Certified Lactation Counselor certification from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice” in lines 27 to 32 on page 2.

CLCs are qualified to provide lactation care and services. The CLC certification program “identifies a professional in lactation counseling who has demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes to provide clinical breastfeeding counseling and management support to families who are thinking about breastfeeding or who have questions or problems during the course of breastfeeding/lactation”.¹ CLCs play an important role in providing lactation care and services in Hawaii. As of today, there are 161 CLCs certified by ALPP providing vital lactation care and services in Hawaii.²

ALPP believes that expectant and breastfeeding families are best served when lactation care options are expanded, rather than restricted. To increase access to care, ALPP supports reimbursement for all qualified providers of lactation care and services based on certification by an accredited agency. Both the CLC and IBCLC certification programs are accredited by nationally recognized accreditation agencies. The CLC certification program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), while the IBCLC certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This approach is consistent with the *Model Policy Payer Coverage of Breastfeeding Support and Counseling Services* (“*Model Policy*”) issued by the United States Breastfeeding Committee and the National Breastfeeding Center.

On Page 1 of HR 6 HD2, we would like to suggest the following amendments:

ADD after line 20: *“WHEREAS, a lactation counselor is a professional who provides clinical breastfeeding counseling and management support to families who are thinking about breastfeeding or who have questions or problems during the course of breastfeeding. Lactation counselors have demonstrated the skills required to provide safe, evidence-based counseling for pregnant, lactating, and breastfeeding families, including the assessment of effective/ineffective breastfeeding and milk transfer.”*

ADD on line 22: “WHEREAS, lactation consultants *and lactation counselors* commonly work in hospitals, physician or midwife practices, public health programs, and private practice; and

ADD on line 26: WHEREAS, lactation consultants *and lactation counselors* in the United States are often nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners, dietitians, and other healthcare professionals

¹ Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. *Certifications*. Available at: <https://www.alpp.org/certifications/certifications-clc>

² Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. CLCs by State. Available by request.

who have obtained additional certification through the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners or *the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.*”

On Page 2 of HR 6, we would like to suggest the following amendments:

ADD on line 4: “WHEREAS, Hawaii’s QUEST Integration Program, which provides eligible low–income adults and children access to health and medical coverage through managed care plans, does not currently allow all qualified providers who have obtained *the International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) certification or the Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) certification* to provide lactation *support* services; and”

ADD on line 29: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to expand the types of qualified providers, the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to take any steps necessary to obtain necessary approvals, create internal processes, and credential appropriate providers who have obtained the International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) certification *or the Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) certification.*”

Inclusion of both CLCs and IBCLCs in the request will expand access to lactation care and services and increase care options for mothers and babies. The language used to describe both certifications is important to the implementation of any legislation around the profession.

During a previous hearing, there was an objection to inclusion of CLCs in the scope of the request on the ground that ALPP is a “continental” organization interfering in Hawaii. As a starting point, this objection ignores the fact that the 161 CLCs provide lactation care and services in Hawaii. More fundamentally, we respectfully suggest that ALPP’s geographic location is far less significant than benefits that will be provided to Hawaii’s families from expanding access to care.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these suggestions and to testify in support of these resolutions. I am available should you have any questions and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee going forward.

Sincerely,

Ellie Mulpeter, MPH, CLC
Director, Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2023 2:33:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Manant	Testifying for HAA, Hawaii Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is very sensible. As an organization that supports families, babies and breastfeeding, it is our wish as the Hawaii Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives to support this bill.



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: April 7, 2023

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

Re: Support HCR7 HD2 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.

Hrg: April 12, 2023 1:10PM

The Obesity Prevention Task Force, convened by the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ, **supports HCR7 HD2**. That requests 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.

By credentialing International Board Certified Lactation Consultants, which will lead to a pathway for them to bill for their extremely important services, more people will have access to the support they need to confidently breastfeed their babies.

Establishing a strong foundation for breastfeeding is imperative if a person is to succeed at breastfeeding. Infant feeding practices can significantly affect later growth and development and can protect against obesityⁱⁱ. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and continued breastfeeding with the addition of other foods until a child is at least twelve months of ageⁱⁱⁱ.

“A robust body of evidence suggests that breastfeeding has multiple health benefits for infants, and that paid family leave (and other forms of maternity leave) significantly increases the length of time that mothers breastfeed. In a review and analysis of studies of breastfeeding in developed countries, the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that full-term infants fed formula are at substantially greater risk than breastfed infants for acute ear infection, eczema, gastrointestinal infection, hospitalization for lower respiratory tract diseases in the first

year of life, asthma, childhood obesity, Type 2 diabetes, leukemia, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).^{iv}

These healthcare professionals need to be paid for their services, so they can continue to support breastfeeding individuals. They provide an extremely important service and one that ensures the next generation is a healthy one.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR7 HD2.

Mahalo,



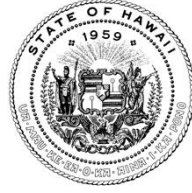
Peggy Mierzwa
Policy & Advocacy Director
Hawaii Public Health Institute

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

ⁱⁱ S. Arenz et al., Breast-feeding and childhood obesity - a systematic review, 28(10) International Journal of Obesity and Related Metabolic Disorders 1247-56 (2004).

ⁱⁱⁱ American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP Reaffirms Breastfeeding Guidelines, <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/AAP-Reaffirms-Breastfeeding-Guidelines.aspx> (last updated February 27, 2012).

^{iv} http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_1059.pdf



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
1:10 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and via Video Conferencing

On the following measure:

H.C.R 7, H.D. 2, 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.

Chair Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

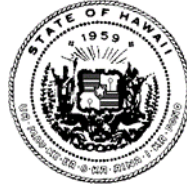
My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this concurrent resolution.

The purpose of this bill is to request 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.

We appreciate efforts to expand access to health care service in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 10, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 7 HD2 – 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.**

Hearing: April 12, 2023, 1:10 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers comments. DHS defers to the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs.

PURPOSE: The resolution requests that DHS Med-QUEST Division (MQD), in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, expand the types of qualified providers allowed to provide lactation consultant services for the Medicaid population in the State; and report to the Legislature on the steps taken and progress made in expanding the types of providers who can provide lactation consultant services no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

The HD1 amended the resolution by:

- (1) Amending the title;
- (2) Requesting the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to collaborate with the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division on expansion on types of

- providers allowed to provide lactation consultant services to the State's Medicaid population;
- (3) Including Certified Lactation Counselors as the type of counselor to be included as a qualified provider.

The HD2 amended the measure by:

"clarifying that the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to take any steps necessary to obtain necessary approvals, create internal processes, and expand access to appropriate providers who have obtained International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification."

DHS appreciates the commitment of the Legislature to improve access to maternal and child health services of lactation consultation services and fully supports their expansion as feasible. However, MQD would respectfully clarify that qualified providers can provide lactation consultation services currently, although billing for the services may be included as part of a bundled payment code. MQD also recognizes the need for greater clarity regarding who can provide the services, how to bill for them, and in what setting may also help improve access to and the provision of lactation consultation services.

Also, although MQD cannot change federal rules for enrolling Medicaid providers or regarding providers who can bill for services, MQD can research and review lactation consultation services and make changes aligned with the intent to expand access to the services. However, though MQD can report on these efforts in the requested legislative report, it may take longer than when the report to the legislature is due twenty days before the next session, which will start on January 17, 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2023 1:58:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill HCR7 HD2. As a mother of three who has breastfed each of my children, I am in full support of having med-quest approve all services for breastfeeding consultation by any provider who is qualified with the appropriate credentials and certifications. I benefited greatly from the support of breastfeeding consultants and counselors during my children's first years and beyond.

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2023 6:17:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Conover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lactation Consultants are vital health care providers for our moms and babies during the critical transition from birth -> newborn.

Connie Conover

Certified Nurse Midwife

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 9:24:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators of the Committee on Health and Human Services, Chairwoman Senator Buenaventura and Vice Chair Senator Aquino.

I have been a nurse for over thirty years. I am a mother and breastfed my child to the age of nine months. It was a struggle after going back to work and needing to pump several times during my twelve hour shift with little privacy available. I had great support from my husband as well as my coworkers. But not every new mother has the same support or knowledge that I had as a seasoned nurse. My daughter had her first need for an antibiotic at the age of eight when she had her first ear infection. I believe this is in part due to having been breastfed and fed healthy, nutritious food throughout her childhood.

The many health benefits to both the mother and the infant with breastfeeding are well documented. It is recommended to exclusively breast feed for the first six months of life and should be continued with the introduction of other food sources over the next six months or longer. There are many barriers to breast feeding which can be minimized with the availability of lactation consultants. In addition, there is a cost benefit to covering lactation consultation as breast fed babies have less lower respiratory tract infections and have lower incidence of gastrointestinal problems such as necrotizing enterocolitis and gastroenteritis as well as many other illnesses. Wouk et al. (2018) show that when there are more lactation consultants available prevalence of breast feeding at six weeks is also increased; however, was increased when the lactation consultants were in the same county of residence as the mother and infant.

Expanding lactation consultant certifications to also include certification from International Board of Lactation consultant examiners and from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice will improve the outreach to new mothers that need guidance and support. Any expenses to increase the workforce in the pre and post-partum period can save health care spending in the long run. Our keiki will be healthy and strong. I strongly support this bill as a mother and a nurse.

Mahalo for your time.

Reference

Wouk, K., Chetwynd, E., Vitaglione, T., & Sullivan, C. (2017). Improving Access to Medical Lactation Support and Counseling: Building the Case for Medicaid Reimbursement. *Maternal and child health journal*, 21(4), 836–844. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-016-2175-x>

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/8/2023 8:16:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madisen Minkel	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee,

My name is Madisen Minkel and I am writing to you today as a resident of Hawaii and as a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). I am certified through the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. I am writing to you today regarding H.C.R. 7/H.D. 2– REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MED-QUEST DIVISION TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS ALLOWED TO PROVIDE LACTATION CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE MEDICAID POPULATION IN THE STATE.

As a CLC, I provide qualified lactation support and care to breastfeeding families. This work is challenging, but so rewarding and beneficial for families and their babies. In my work as a CLC, I provide complex and comprehensive care for, including conducting assessments, providing counseling and education, appropriately identifying commonly experienced issues and providing referrals out to other healthcare providers as necessary

As I understand it, H.C.R. 7/H.D. 2 now include both IBCLCs and CLCs and would request the Med-Quest program to cover both types of providers. However, in reading the most recent version of the Resolutions, it is not clear who qualifies as a CLC. To avoid confusion and the risk of missing out on the inclusion of CLCs, I would like to request that CLCs be clearly defined in these resolutions as a “Certified Lactation Counselor who has obtained certification from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.” IBCLCs are clearly defined as those persons with certification from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE), and CLCs should be afforded the same type of clear definition.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to amend these Resolutions and expand access to care for Hawaii’s mothers and babies. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Madisen Minkel

madisenleinani@gmail.com

Dear Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee,

My name is Allison Hanley and I am writing to you today as a Big Island resident in the Puna district and as a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). I am certified through the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. I am writing to you today regarding H.C.R. 7/H.D. 2– *REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MED-QUEST DIVISION TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS ALLOWED TO PROVIDE LACTATION CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE MEDICAID POPULATION IN THE STATE.*

As a CLC, I provide qualified lactation support and care to breastfeeding families. This work is challenging, but so rewarding and beneficial for families and their babies. In my work as a CLC, I provide complex and comprehensive care for, including conducting assessments, providing counseling and education, appropriately identifying commonly experienced issues and providing referrals out to other healthcare providers as necessary.

As a neighbor island resident I am familiar with the challenges of accessing healthcare in a rural setting: provider shortages, long wait times to simply schedule an appointment, and driving cross-island or flying to Oahu for care. Often these challenges limit the type and quality of healthcare families on the Big Island are able to obtain - especially when caring for infants. Many do not have the ability to take off work to travel to access healthcare, or pay for lactation services out of pocket when they are not covered by insurance. Including CLCs as qualified providers for lactation services will expand access to some of our most vulnerable families where they live so that all of the keiki of Hawaii will grow and thrive.

As I understand it, H.C.R. 7/H.D. 2 now include both IBCLCs and CLCs and would request the Med-Quest program to cover both types of providers. However, in reading the most recent version of the Resolutions, it is not clear who qualifies as a CLC. To avoid confusion and the risk of missing out on the inclusion of CLCs, I would like to request that CLCs be clearly defined in these resolutions as a *“Certified Lactation Counselor who has obtained certification from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.”* IBCLCs are clearly defined as those persons with certification from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE), and CLCs should be afforded the same type of clear definition.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to amend these Resolutions and expand access to care for Hawaii’s mothers and babies. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Allison Hanley

HCR-7-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 11:08:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Resources

FROM: Patricia Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN, IBCLC (Ret) Maternal Infant Clinical Nurse Specialist , IBCLC (1989-2019) in State of Hawaii

RE: HCR7 HD2 STRONG SUPPORT

DATE: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:10pm

Good Afternoon.

I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 7 HD2, instructing the Department of Human Services, in coordination with DCCA ,to provide a Pathway for ONLY the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) to provide Lactation services for the Hawaii MedQuest population. The IBCLC is the Gold Standard for Lactation Providers in our Nation and the World.

i encourage you to pass this Resolution!

Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts on this important need for MedQuest women and their breastfeeding infants,