
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 to provide
10 lactation consultant services; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medicaid population would greatly benefit
13 from increased access to lactation consultant services to assist
14 breastfeeding mothers; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
19 Human Services Med-QUEST Division, in collaboration with the
20 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, is requested to
21 expand the types of qualified providers allowed to provide
22 lactation consultant services for the Medicaid population in the
23 State; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to expand the types of
26 qualified providers, the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST
27 Division is requested to take any steps necessary to obtain
28 necessary approvals, create internal processes, and credential
29 appropriate providers who have obtained International Board of
30 Lactation Consultant Examiners certification or are Certified
31 Lactation Counselors; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
34 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to submit a report to
35 the Legislature on the steps taken and progress made in
36 expanding the types of providers who can provide lactation
37 consultant services no later than twenty days prior to the
38 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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