
HOUSE 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
29 certification through the International Board of Lactation



1 Consultant Examiners or operate as Certified Lactation
2 Counselors; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's QUEST Integration Program, which provides
5 eligible low-income adults and children access to health and
6 medical coverage through managed care plans, does not currently
7 allow all qualified providers who have obtained International
8 Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification or
9 Certified Lactation Counselor certification to provide lactation
10 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, that the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST
19 Division, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and
20 Consumer Affairs, is requested to expand the types of qualified
21 providers allowed to provide lactation consultant services for
22 the Medicaid population in the State; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
25 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to take any steps
26 necessary to obtain necessary approvals, create internal
27 processes, and expand access to appropriate providers who have
28 obtained International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners
29 certification; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
32 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to submit a report to
33 the Legislature on the steps taken and progress made in
34 expanding the types of providers who can provide lactation
35 consultant services no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
3 Director of Health, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
4 and Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division.

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