

---

---

# SENATE 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  
6

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 at least twelve months old; and  
11

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  
15

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  
21

22           WHEREAS, lactation consultants commonly work in hospitals,  
23 physician or midwife practices, public health programs, and  
24 private practice; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, lactation consultants in the United States are  
27 often nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners, dietitians, and  
28 other health care professionals who have obtained additional  
29 certification through the International Board of Lactation



1 Consultant Examiners or the Academy of Lactation Policy and  
2 Practice's Certified Lactation Counselor Program; and

3  
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 to provide  
9 lactation consultant services; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medicaid population would greatly benefit  
12 from increased access to lactation consultant services to assist  
13 breastfeeding mothers; now, therefore,

14  
15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
18 Human Services Med-QUEST Division, in collaboration with the  
19 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, is requested to  
20 expand the types of qualified providers allowed to provide  
21 lactation consultant services for the Medicaid population in the  
22 State; and

23  
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

30  
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

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
40 Services, Director of Health, Director of Commerce and Consumer  
41 Affairs, and Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division.

