
SENATE RESOLUTION

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.

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 at least twelve months old; 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 health care professionals who have obtained additional
29 certification through the International Board of Lactation
30 Consultant Examiners or the Academy of Lactation Policy and
31 Practice's Certified Lactation Counselor Program; and



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

