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# HOUSE 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  
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 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  
30 Consultant Examiners; and  
31



# H.R. NO. 6

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's QUEST Integration Program, which provides  
 2 eligible low-income adults and children access to health and  
 3 medical coverage through managed care plans, does not currently  
 4 allow all qualified providers who have obtained International  
 5 Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification to provide  
 6 lactation consultant services; and

7  
 8 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medicaid population would greatly benefit  
 9 from increased access to lactation consultant services to assist  
 10 breastfeeding mothers; now, therefore,

11  
 12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 14 Session of 2023, that the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST  
 15 Division is requested to expand the types of qualified providers  
 16 allowed to provide lactation consultant services for the  
 17 Medicaid population in the State; and

18  
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to expand the types of  
 20 qualified providers, the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST  
 21 Division is requested to take any steps necessary to obtain  
 22 necessary approvals, create internal processes, and credential  
 23 appropriate providers who have obtained International Board of  
 24 Lactation Consultant Examiners certification; and

25  
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
 27 Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to submit a report to  
 28 the Legislature on the steps taken and progress made in  
 29 expanding the types of providers who can provide lactation  
 30 consultant services no later than twenty days prior to the  
 31 convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

32  
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,  
 35 Director of Health, and Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division.

36  
 37  
 38 OFFERED BY:   
 JAN 20 2023

