
SENATE CONCURRENT 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



1 Consultant Examiners or the Academy of Lactation Policy and
2 Practice's Certified Lactation Counselor Program; 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 Senate of the Thirty-second
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Human Services Med-QUEST Division is requested to expand the
20 types of qualified providers allowed to provide lactation
21 consultant services for the Medicaid population in the State;
22 and

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

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

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

