

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 651



Introduced by Rep. BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Calayan Group of Islands is a 3rd class municipality in the province of Cagayan with a population of 16,233 people in 2,654 households (2007 Census). It is composed of four islands located in the Babuyan Channel: Calayan, Camiguin, Dalupiri and Babuyan Claro.

The group of islands is touted to be a hidden, virgin paradise known to tourists as a real gem of adventure. It is endowed with nature's beauty and is preserved by its seclusion. It boasts of unexploited, untouched rock formation and talcum fine white sand beaches that give new definition to an island experience.

Visitors to the group of islands are treated to unexplored mountain, forest, caves, and coves. It is known to be a sanctuary of marine life and wild life, especially the Calayan Rail, a flightless bird identified as a separate species in 2004. It boasts of green vegetation with towering mother trees, the wood of which is commonly seen in the sala of prominent persons and rich businessmen.

However, no matter how attractive to tourists this municipality is, reaching the group of islands is another matter. Although sea travel to the municipality is more exciting because of dolphins and humpback whales that welcome visitors to the Calayan Group of Islands, one has to travel for about eight (8) hours of rough seas.

To make this island municipality more attractive to foreign and local tourists, the necessary infrastructure has to be made available. And one of these is the construction of a domestic airport that will not only cater to the tourists but also to entrepreneurs willing to invest in the municipality.

The passage of this bill is, therefore, earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE CALAYAN AIRPORT IN THE CALAYAN GROUP OF ISLANDS,
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. To enhance tourism in the Calayan Group of Islands, Province of Cagayan, which is endowed with untouched rock formation and talcum fine white sand beaches as well as unexplored mountain, forest, caves, and coves, there is hereby established in said island municipality an airport to be known as the Calayan Airport, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications shall include in its program the establishment and operationalization of the Calayan Airport.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,