

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 671



Introduced by REP. CESAR V. SARMIENTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the best surfing destinations in Asia. The Department of Tourism is promoting the country as a Haven of Premier Surfing. Surrounded with great bodies of water such as the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea, the Philippines is endowed with surfing sites and spots that will not disappoint you if you are a surfer. The country's coastline is twice as long as the United States which means that it has a very big potential to become an international surfing destination.

Puraran is known not only for its stretch of pristine white beaches but also as the surfing capital of Catanduanes. It has gained a reputation both in the local and the international surfing communities as having the fastest, most hollow, right handed barrels in the world known as the *Majestics*. The waves here are similar to that of Hawaii. Tourists visit Puraran especially during surfing seasons. The province of Catanduanes has also sponsored some national and international surfing competitions.

Surfing in Puraran is not new. Surfers all over the world already enjoyed the majestic waves of this beautiful place. However, the area needs to be developed in order to attract more tourists. To date, there are just two resorts and a few cottages that are catering to the increasing demands of visiting tourists. As a budding tourist spot, it should be improved so that services and facilities that are being offered will truly be world class.

In line with the Department of Tourism's promotion of the Philippines as a surfing destination, the passage of this bill is highly recommended.

CESAR V. SARMIENTO

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House Bill No. **671**

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE PURARAN BEACH AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN
PURARAN, BARAS, CATANDUANES AS A TOURIST SPOT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Puraran Beach and its premises located in Puraran, Baras, Catanduanes is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SEC. 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance tourism in the area: *Provided, That* said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 4. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations under the annual General Appropriations Act and/or against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,