



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2565

Introduced by HON. TUPAY T. LOONG of the 1st District of Sulu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is hypothesized that poverty breeds criminality. Thus, this bill seeks to provide an opportunity for the people of Sulu to break free from abject poverty and thereby distance themselves from the extremist groups and lawless elements.

Since the Province of Sulu is an archipelago, it has very rich marine resources that need only to be utilized efficiently. Setting up modified mariculture development parks in suitable locations in the First District of Sulu will definitely provide its people sustainable sources of livelihood. With a modified approach, this will likewise ensure that the environment is protected and ecological biodiversity be maintained. With the wanton and unsystematic approach to fishing and aquamarine resources gathering, it is indeed possible that there will come a time when the bodies of water of Sulu will no longer be able to provide substantial economic benefits. Using the modified mariculture development approach will reverse said situation and guarantee a sustainable livelihood for the fisherfolks.

As science advances, its benefits to the people, particularly the poor, must be made available at the soonest time possible. Specifically, the technologies of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) must be cascaded to the fisherfolks without delay. This will definitely mitigate the poverty being experienced by our people.

With the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently and earnestly requested.


HON. TUPAY T. LOONG

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2565

Introduced by HON. TUPAY T. LOONG of the 1st District of Sulu

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MODIFIED MARICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PARKS
IN SUITABLE AREAS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF SULU,
AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO
MANAGE SAID PARKS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This piece of legislation shall be known by its short title as the **“Sulu Modified Mariculture Development Act of 2014.”**

SECTION 2. Establishment. There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA), a modified mariculture development park in suitable areas in all the municipalities of the First District of the Province of Sulu.

SECTION 3. Authority to Municipal LGUs. The local government units (LGUs) of concerned municipalities are hereby authorized to manage said modified mariculture development parks in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the private sector as the case may be.

SECTION 4. Technical Support. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), under the supervision of the DA Head Office, is hereby tasked to provide technical assistance to LGUs and concerned private sector in the establishment and maintenance of such mariculture parks as may be necessary to implement the intents and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Research and Development. The BFAR is further mandated to identify suitable academic institutions in the Province of Sulu to act as its research and development arm to ensure the feasibility,

continuity and sustainability of said modified mariculture development parks. For this purpose, all academic institutions in the Province of Sulu are hereby enjoined and authorized to take an active role in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The concerned local government units of the municipalities covered under this Act shall formulate, with the assistance of BFAR, the implementing rules and regulations that will put into reality the intents and purposes of this Act.

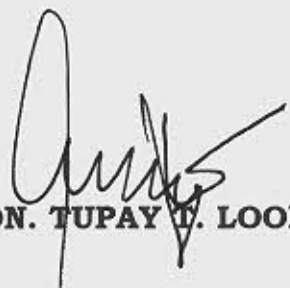
SECTION 7. *People's Participation.* The Municipal LGUs are hereby directed to enjoin community organizations, such as fisherfolk organizations, cooperatives and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in the implementation of this Act. Whenever necessary, the LGUs are hereby authorized to organize fisherfolks in their respective areas in order to ensure the participation of as many people as possible in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Security for Mariculture Parks.* The LGUs of Barangays are hereby tasked to provide safety and security to mariculture parks and all concerned persons working in said parks. In case of untoward incidents, the local police units and the Bantay-Dagat Task Force of BFAR are hereby deputized to effect security and police measures, as the case may be.

SECTION 9. *Funding Requirement.* The Secretary of the Department Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the initial funding requirements to establish and operate the said modified mariculture development parks. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the same shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.



HON. TUPAY L. LOONG