

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 4455



Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF AJUY, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

Ajuy is a second class municipality in the province of Iloilo. According to the 2010 census, it had a population of 47,248 people. The town is composed of 34 barangays with a total land area of 17,557.19 hectares. Ajuy is a coastal municipality and agricultural at the same time.

The town is characterized by an irregular terrain with high mountain ranges in the upper western part, rolling hills, flat plains and coastal plains. There are no major rivers in the town but only tributary rivers and creeks such as the Gubaton river, Balogo river, Ga-as river, Pili river, Barrido river, Culasi creek, Nabaye creek, Dulang creek, Piliwan creek, and Serruco river which are the sources of sand and gravel, quarry, irrigation water, and other sources of livelihood among the people living near the river bank.

Majority of the people still rely on farming and fisheries for subsistence. Rice, corn, and sugarcane comprise the major agricultural products of Ajuy. Along its coastal barangays, prawns, crabs and all kinds of fishes are abundant during peak fishing months. Livestock, poultry raising, and tree farming are secondary sources of income of some farmers.

This town has several tourism potential areas that include the island of Calabazas which is home to the "Parola", Nasidman Island, Bay-ang Point at Barangay Bay-ang Peninsula, Salog beach located at the island of Punta Buri, and Panalikdikon Falls in Barangay Tipacla.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Ajuy to catalyze the development of aquaculture in the town which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people.

The approval of this Bill will contribute to the growth and development of the fisheries sector and allied industries. It will also help increase the income of fisher

folks who, together with farmers, require the consistent support of the national government.

In view thereof, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Tupas', is written over the printed name.

RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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THEREFOR**

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Establishment of Multi-Species Marine Hatchery in the Municipality of Ajuy Act."

SECTION 2. Establishment of Multi-Species Marine Hatchery - There shall be established under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Ajuy, Province of Iloilo.

SECTION 3. Supervision of the BFAR - Within three (3) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall transfer its management to the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC). It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NIPSC personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 4. Continuing Research- The BFAR-DA and NIPSC shall conduct continuing research and development on the multi-species marine hatchery to discover new methods that will enhance the fishing industry.

SECTION 5. Budget Allocation. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department of Agriculture's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The NIPSC shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The BFAR-DA and the NIPSC shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision and monitoring, and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR, of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 7. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,