

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4670

Introduced by **ENGR. CARLITO S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to reapportion the Lone District of Aklan into two (2) congressional districts.

This is a calibrated and attuned version of HB 3860 that was filed during the 15th Congress and HB 112 that was likewise filed during the 16th Congress by my predecessors. The proposed measure dividing the existing 17-town lone district into two would mean enhanced representation and better governance, but without violating the standards of proportional representation and minimum population in the creation of legislative districts as prescribed in Section 5, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution.

Aklan is the oldest province in the Philippines, organized in 1213 by settlers from Borneo, as the *Minuro it Akean* to include what is now Capiz. It became an independent province when President Magsaysay signed into law on April 25, 1956, Republic Act 1414 separating Aklan from Capiz. Aklan was inaugurated as an independent province on November 8, 1956. It is now a first-class province and takes pride of its booming tourist industry and agro-marine economy.

Modesty aside, in 2013 when I completed my third term as

governor, Aklan ranked first out of 80 provinces in the Philippines with highest share of local income to total regular income, with a rating of 45.3%, according to the Department of Finance (DOF). The Tax Watch Campaign of the DOF also showed that Aklan, where the country's top prized tourism destination Boracay Island is located, generated a total income of P491.755 million out of its total regular income of P1.086 billion, or 45.3 LSI to ARI share. The uptrend continued in 2014 with a Php 492.969 million generated income from local sources and cling as the top LSI earner province.

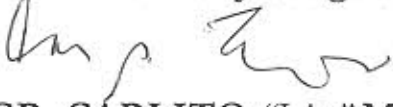
Aklan has also the fastest growing population in Western Visayas, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Aklanons have reached 574,823 in number, PSA's 2015 Census of Population showed. The population size has increased by 39,098 from 535,725 in 2010 and by 123,509 from 451,314 in 2000. Aklan had an average annual population growth rate of 1.35 percent from 2010 to 2015, according to PSA. More than half (51.72 percent) of the province's population are in the Eastern towns of Kalibo, New Washington, Banga, Batan, Altavas, Balete, Libacao, and Madalag (297,318), while the remaining 48.28 percent, or 277,505, are in the Western side: Numancia, Makato, Lezo, Malinao, Tangalan, Ibajay, Nabas, Malay, and Buruanga. Following the dictum endowed under Article 6, Section 5, paragraph 3 of the 1987 Constitution, *"each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory... with a population of at least 250,000 shall have at least one representative"*, this means that the population requirement for the creation of a new legislative district is religiously met.

The two previous bills of similar import had passed the legislative calisthenics in the House of Representatives but failed to gain approval in the last two congresses in the Senate. Technically, the aim of the creation of a new legislative district should be the improvement of the delivery of government services

and this is the popular, prevalent and general sentiment and outlook of Aklanons.

Aklan will have its eight eastern towns (*Kalibo, New Washington, Banga, Balete, Altavas, Batan, Libacao, and Madalag*) that would embrace the first legislative district, and nine western municipalities (*Malay, Ibajay, Buruanga, Nabas, Tangalan, Makato, Lezo, Malinao and Numancia*) would comprise the second legislative district. That would plunk Boracay island – that is a fragment of the town of Malay – under the representative of the new second district of the province.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" MARQUEZ

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF
THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF AKLAN

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

SECTION 1. *Legislative Districts.* – The Province of Aklan shall have two (2) legislative districts to commence in the next national elections after the effectivity of this Act.

Henceforth, the municipalities of Altavas, Balete, Banga, Batan, Kalibo, New Washington, Libacao and Madalag shall comprise the First Legislative District, while the municipalities of Buruanga, Ibajay, Lezo, Makato, Malay, Malinao, Nabas, Numancia and Tangalan shall comprise the Second Legislative District.

SECTION 2. *Incumbent Representative.* – The incumbent Representative of the Lone District of the Province of Aklan shall continue to represent and serve the said district until the new Representatives for the two (2) districts shall have been elected, qualified and assumed office.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Elections shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.