



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5658**

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ

**AN ACT
GRANTING FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP TO MR. PHILLIP LEACH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to PHILLIP LEACH, an American national who has planted his roots and contributed much to the Philippines as a businessman and a philanthropist.

Leach first came to the Philippines seven (7) years ago as a pilot. During his stay here, he saw the potential of one of our prime resources - coconuts. He founded Pacific Rim Natural Foods, a company that sells higher value coconut products, uplifting countless farmers and encouraging a healthier way of life. Further, the company directly employs regular and part-time employees. Just last year, the company launched their Radical Organics brand of Organic Toasted Coconut Chips. Several retailers carry these products. The company also exports the same to Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Asia.

Pacific Rim Natural Foods has found a way to forego the use of preservatives by using nitrogen to package its products, effectively extending the shelf life of coconut products two to three times longer than usual. In fact, the Department of Agriculture has invited Pacific Rim Foods to foreign venues as its guest to further promote quality Philippine

exports using the latest in technology to ensure that the image of products produced in the Philippines continues to improve and become a recognized standard of quality worldwide.

Sometime in the year 2014, Leach invested approximately sixty million pesos (Php 60,000,000.00) in the local economy by establishing a tourism company in Boracay. This business employs around fifteen (15) full-time regularized employees and pays twenty-five percent (25%) above minimum wage plus commissions. Leach has been on the right track towards becoming a model employer, which is further evidence of his desire to contribute to the Philippines, a country that he has considered home.

Following his footsteps, his oldest son, Phillip Eric, is here with his family and has been his right hand in all these endeavors. He founded the Disaster Aid Response and Rebuilding Team ("DARRT"), an NGO that is helping build eco-friendly, disaster-resistant homes using earthbag technology for those affected by Typhoon Yolanda.

Leach and his family have dedicated their lives to helping the Filipino people whether through building up agricultural exports, being an exemplary employer, or through philanthropy.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly sought.


PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ



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

SECTION 1. Phillip Leach is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

After the taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, Phillip Leach shall enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

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

Approved,