

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6717

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. and Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE¹

Pili is considered to be one of the most important commodities sold by the Bicol region in the local and international markets. It (*Canarium ovatum*) is one of the twenty major fruit crops which the Philippines produces with greatest advantage and competitiveness on a global scale.

Historically, the Philippines is the only country which produces and processes pili in commercial quantity giving it a virtual monopoly of the foreign market (Coronel, 1990)². The export potential of pili and processed products is high. In fact, according to Lanuza (1970)³, the Philippines had been exporting pili nut to several countries since pre-war years. In 2015, the volume of production reached 6,258.37 metric tons, which was 1.2% higher than the 2014 production harvested from 1,910 hectares. Sorsogon province had the largest share with 1,373 hectares or around 72% of the total area harvested with Pili (PSA 2015)⁴.

Pili is indigenous to the Philippines (Meril, 1923)⁵. It is produced in at least six (6) regions namely: Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, Caraga,

¹ Orolfo, EB. 2000. Assessment of the Pili Industry in the Bicol Region.

² Coronel, R.E. 1990. Promising Fruit of the Philippines.

³ Lanuza, E. A. 1970. Pili Culture. Plant Industry Digest 32: 33 (1) 7-11.

⁴ Department of Agriculture. 2016. Bicol Region Agricultural Commodity Situationer.

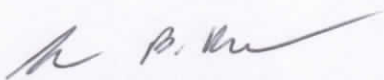
⁵ Merill, E.D. 1923 An enumeration of Philippine Flowering Plants. Bu. of Printing Manila.

Western Visayas and Southern Mindanao. It is compatible with a large variety of plants in a wide range of agro-ecological conditions. The tree is very sturdy and lives long. It also has both pharmaceutical and industrial uses. The resin extracted from the bark has been an export product of the country for years. It is an ingredient in the manufacturing of plasters, ointments, paints, varnish, sealants, lacquers, asphalt, water and fire proofing, linoleum, plastics and printing inks. Oil from both kernel and pulp is considered equal if not better than olive oil in quality and is suitable for culinary uses. It is said to be superior to almond (West, 1993)⁶.

As a commercial commodity, pili has favorable attributes not possessed by other Philippine fruits. Its nuts are not perishable. The fruit can be marketed fresh, as shelled nuts, dried kernel or processed into various delicacies. It does not require costly storage treatment. If properly dried, it can be stored for 1 year under ordinary room condition, thus, giving enough time to speculate for better prices. Aside from its commercial importance, pili fits well as a material for the agro-eco-tourism program of the government. The spreading crown provides shelter to wildlife and serves as wind breakers during typhoons. It is a good material for rehabilitating watershed areas and prevent soil erosion because of its deep penetrating root system, sturdy stems and vigorous crown.

Despite the dominance of Bicol, in particular, and the Philippines, in general, in pili production, further innovations in the industry should continue to maximize opportunities. Hence the need for creating a research center, as a catalyst of advancement and development, becomes an imperative to make the industry locally productive and globally competitive.

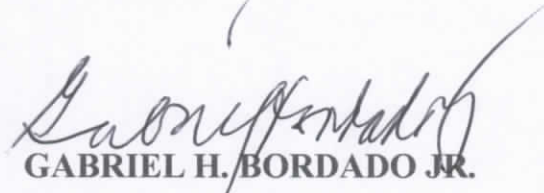
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List



GABRIEL H. BORDADO JR.

Representative

3rd District, Camarines Sur

⁶ West, E. P. 1923. The Composition of the Pilinut oil. Phil. Jr. Sci. 23 (3): 269-276.

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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING,
MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PILI NUT AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Pili Research and Promotion Act
of 2017”.

SECTION 2. It is the policy of the State to give priority to research and
development, as well as to science and technology education, training, and
services.

SECTION 3. The Pili Research Institute (PilRI) is hereby created, as an
attached office to the Department of Agriculture.

PilRI shall conduct researches in an all-out promotion of both the small-
scale and commercial cultivation of Pili nut in suitable areas of the country and

1 shall provide the lead in harnessing the technology in cultivating Pili, and the
2 efficient processing, marketing, and distribution of Pili nut products.

3
4 SECTION 4. The PilRI shall have the following objectives:

- 5 a) To conduct agricultural , industrial and economic research for the
6 development of the Pili industry;
- 7 b) To acquire, develop and propagate improved plant materials and
8 technology;
- 9 c) To train professionals, students and Pili farmers on necessary
10 disciplines related to Pili production, utilization and marketing;
- 11 d) To design and implement, in coordination with institutions of
12 higher learning local and foreign scholarships and fellowship
13 programs on academic fields that will enhance Pili industry
14 development;
- 15 e) To organize local, regional and international conferences,
16 gatherings, fora and seminars on the current trends and
17 developments of the Pili industry;
- 18 f) To consolidate all researches by other institutions, as well as to
19 establish, maintain and operate an information and library center;
- 20 g) To design and implement a farm extension program to effectively
21 transfer modern farm technology to Pili farmers; and
- 22 h) To publish and disseminate research findings and make appropriate
23 recommendations to interested parties.

24
25 SECTION 5. The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the
26 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Science and
27 Technology (DOST) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), is herein
28 tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations.

29
30 SECTION 6. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos
31 (P100,000,000.00) necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
32 included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

33
34 SECTION 7. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the
35 remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and
36 subsisting.

1 SECTION 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4

5 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.