

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 9146

Introduced by REP. ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO DANIEL HONGJU UM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Being a citizen means being part of a political community which is personal and more or less permanent in character. As a political status, birth alone, does not make a person a citizen. As explained by the Supreme Court in the case of Jose Tang Chong v. The Secretary of Labor¹:

“While birth is an important element of citizenship, it alone does not make a person a citizen of the country of his birth. Youth spent in the country; intimate and endearing association with the citizens among whom he lives; knowledge and pride of the country’s past; belief in the greatness and security of its institutions, in the loftiness of its ideals, and in the ability of the country’s government to protect him, his children, and his earthly possessions against perils from within and from without; and his readiness to defend the country against such perils, are some of the important elements that would make a person living in a country its citizen. Citizenship is a political status. The citizen must be proud of his citizenship. He should treasure and cherish it.”

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Daniel Hongju Um, who was born on 16 October 1995 in Mandaluyong City to Korean and American parents. Mr. Um grew up in Manila where he first fell in love with and started to embrace the Filipino culture, values, and tradition. Throughout his life, he has forged deep and solid relationships with his Filipino friends at school, and was an active member of the Philippine Tennis Association (PHILTA) circuit.

¹ G.R. No. 47623, September 16, 1947.

Mr. Um was active in socio-civic activities, while he is still in high school volunteering in various medical missions, spending weekends reading books to children and volunteering at the Guitnangbayan School in San Mateo, Rizal where he raised funds for school computers and created animated educational videos to supplement existing learning materials for the conduct of the National Achievement Test.

Despite his admission to Harvard directly from high school, Daniel requested Harvard to defer his entrance to the said university and instead studied at the Ateneo University, where he immersed himself in the Filipino tertiary education system. Thereafter, Mr. Um brought with him this enthusiasm to serve, encourage and empower Filipinos when he went to Harvard University. While in the said University, he was active with the Harvard Philippine Forum, a venue where close-knit families of Filipinos, Filipino-Americans, and their friends actively promote Philippine culture. In recognition of his patriotic Filipino values, he was appointed president of the Filipino club where he raised cultural awareness through monthly Filipino-themed 'study breaks', Tagalog tables, guest lectures, and intercollegiate dance festivals. He wishes to bring back home to the Philippines the knowledge and experience he earned in the fields of computer science, biotech and economics gained abroad, to help with the development and prosperity of our country.

Mr. Um has always considered himself a Filipino and is proud of his Philippine ties and what he considers as his Philippine heritage. He has always believed that the Philippines is his only home and the place where he wants to spend the rest of his life – serving his kababayans, uplifting the lives of Filipinos and ultimately giving back to the country that he calls and considers as his own.

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


ROMMEL RICO ANGARA

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

SECTION 1. Grant of Philippine Citizenship to Daniel Hongju Um. – Mr. Daniel Hongju Um is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Oath of Allegiance. – Mr. Daniel Hongju Um shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized for this purpose. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 3. Certificate of Naturalization and Enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship. – Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall forthwith issue Mr. Daniel Hongju Um's Certificate of Naturalization, who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,