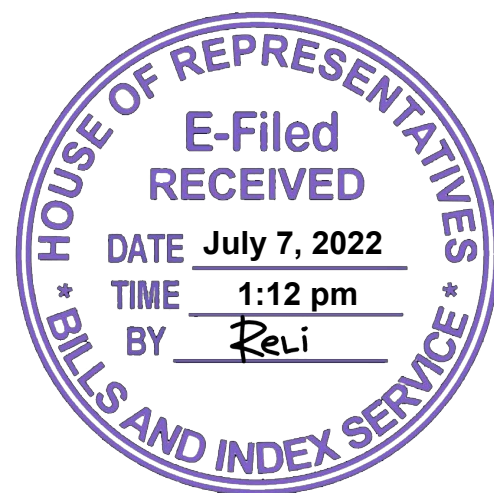


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1556



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

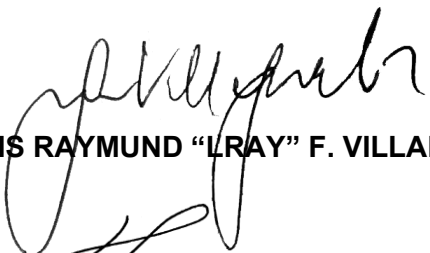
EXPLANATORY NOTE


This proposed measure seeks to establish a community forest in Barangays La Victoria and Panoypoyan in Bula, Camarines Sur.

A community forest is a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of DENR for the use of the residents or municipality/barangay from which said residents may plant, re-plant, collect and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

Community forestry projects are geared towards the involvement of local communities for better management, regulation and control. It promotes sustainability and empowerment of local communities who have better knowledge of the terrain and are in a better position to respond to emergencies such as poaching and encroachment.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.


MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE


TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA


NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

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HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND DETERMINING A COMMUNITY FOREST IN BARANGAYS
LA VICTORIA AND PANOYPOYAN IN BULA, CAMARINES SUR, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a community forest in Barangays La Victoria and Panoypoyan in Bula, Camarines Sur.

The DENR shall determine the size and specific forest limits of the established community forest within the barangay concerned.

Each established community forest shall be identified in accordance with a Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with city’s land use plan, and all existing and related plans, programs and project of the city and national government.

SECTION 2. The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the establishment and determination of the community forest, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit (LGU) concerned, under the direct supervision of the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, through a memorandum of agreement. It

shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management, utilization and conservation of the community forest.

The DENR, shall in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest resource inventory and determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest management planning. To ensure sustainability of the community forests, the management plan shall include the necessary replanting activities by the communities and the LGUs.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall include in the Department's program the establishment of the community forest in Barangays La Victoria and Panoypoyan in Bula, Camarines Sur, the funding of which shall be include in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization and conservation of the community forest.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,