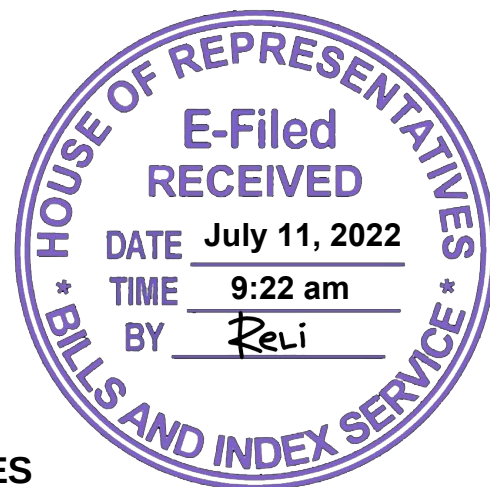


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1751

Introduced by **Representative Raul C. Tupas**

**AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Travel and tourism remain to be among the largest economic sectors in the Philippines. After the pandemic, the booming travel and tourism sector is currently driving the growth of many industries as it continues to create jobs, drive exports and generate prosperity for the country.

Pursuant to the policy of the State to promote sustainable tourism industry throughout the country, this bill seeks to declare the Islas de Gigantes in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo as an ecotourism zone with the goal of developing and promoting the island into a tourist destination, generating investments and creating job opportunities, and protecting the natural resources within the area.

Islas de Gigantes is an island chain within the larger Western Visayas archipelago in the Visayan Sea. It is politically located in the Municipality of Carles, Iloilo and has four barangays: (1) Asluman; (2) Granada; (3) Lantangan; and (4) Gabi.

The Gigantes Islands consist of several islands; the two largest are Gigantes Norte (North Gigantes) and Gigantes Sur (South Gigantes). In addition to the two main islands, the Gigantes group includes the following minor islets: Cabugao Gamay, Cabugao Dako, Bulubadiang, Gigantillo, Antonia, Bantigui, Tanguingui, Turnina, Polopandan, Waydahon and Gigantuna.

The islands are blessed with pristine white sand beaches, bountiful fresh seafood, and jagged rock formations. Some of the main tourist attractions are the Cabugao Gamay Island, Tangke Salt Water Lagoon, and the North Gigantes Island Lighthouse. Despite the increase of tourist arrivals in recent years, Gigantes has retained its off-beat charm and remains relatively underdeveloped compared

to Boracay, Bohol, and other mainstream tourist destinations in the Philippines.

This bill is in line with the National Tourism Development Plan of the government which supports the development of Philippine tourism product and raises the competitiveness of the Philippines as a tourism destination.

The bill was deliberated and approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17th and 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1751

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AN
ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism
Zone Act.”

SECTION 2. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a
tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,
culturally-sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local
communities.

SECTION 3. The Islas de Gigantes, consisting of four (4) barangays,
namely, Asluman, Granada, Lantangan and Gabi, all located in the
Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo, is hereby declared an ecotourism
zone, to be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone”. As such,
its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT),
subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
ecotourism zones.

Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
(DENR), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)
and the municipal government of Carles, shall prepare and jointly
implement the development plan for Islas de Gigantes, and shall
incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

The DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA, the
municipal government of Carles and other concerned agencies of the
government, shall delineate well-defined geographic areas within the Islas
de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone and coordinate the integrated development

1 of the area for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions. The
2 development shall ensure the preservation of the flora and fauna and
3 perpetuate the historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

4
5 **SECTION 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DENR shall include in their
6 respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the
7 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
8 Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

9 **SETION. 5.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the
10 Secretary of the DOT, in consultation with the DENR, the TIEZA and the
11 municipal government of Caries, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
12 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

13
14 **SECTION 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other
15 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
16 deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

17
18 **SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
19 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20
21 Approved,