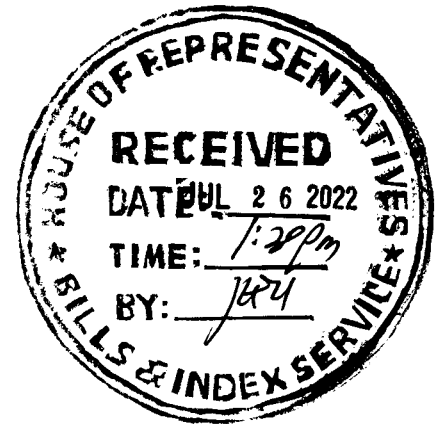


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill Number 2338



Introduced by **REP. EMMANUEL "TAWI" BILLONES**
and JANE TAN CASTRO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUACULTURE FEED MILL PLANT IN
BARANGAY BAHIT, MUNICIPALITY OF PANAY, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill has been approved in the 18th Congress, the House of Representatives under House Bill No. 9622 per Committee Report No. 1056; and in consequence, the bill was transmitted to the Senate, but the same was not finally passed because Congress had already adjourned.

The aquaculture industry has been a source of livelihood in the Province of Capiz that sustained the lives of many Capizeños and contributed to Roxas City's being the Sea Food Capital of the Philippines. What is more, the said aquaculture industry in the Province of Capiz has substantially contributed to the national economy since the primary source of aquaculture products, such as but not limited to prawns and mud crabs, that were exported to different countries was the Province of Capiz. Sadly, the past years, however, have witnessed the downturn and the demise of the industry. While the Province of Capiz remains to be a suitable and befitting location for aquaculture industry, engaging in the same has become economically tough and unavailing. The price of the aquaculture feeds has become so prohibitive if not exorbitant to the point of rendering aquaculture not worth the toil. Solely, this is brought about by the absence of an aquaculture feed mill plant in the Province of Capiz. At present, the aquaculture feeds supply in Capiz comes partly from the Provinces of Iloilo and Cebu, while the bulk come from Manila. The cost of transport of the aquaculture feeds from their sources

to Capiz jacks up the price of the feeds. This accounts to the high retail cost of the aquaculture feeds which, in turn, diminishes if not negate the projected profit. The passage of this bill is both necessary and urgent in order to save a very important industry that is intertwined not only with the Capizeños' economic environment but also their culture and tradition.

In this light, the passage of this bill is imperative and earnestly sought.


EMMANUEL "TAWP" BILLONES
Representative
1st Congressional District of Capiz


JANE TAN-CASTRO
Representative
2nd Congressional District of Capiz

CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC}
NINETEENTH CONGRESS }
FIRST REGULAR SESSION }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
H. NO. 2338

BY: REPRESENTATIVES
EMMANUEL BILLONES AND JANE TAN CASTRO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AQUACULTURE FEED MILL PLANT IN
BARANGAY BAHIT, MUNICIPALITY OF PANAY, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ
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 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), an aquaculture feed mill plant in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of Capiz.

SECTION 2. The DA-BFAR shall, upon the effectivity of this act, prepare a project study and/or proposal detailing the mechanics for the establishment of the aquaculture feed mill and the budget needed therefor. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the

establishment of the said aquaculture feed mill plant in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of Capiz, and the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management and operation of the feed mill plant to the Management Board which shall be composed of five (5) members comprising of one (1) representative from each of the Local Government Unit (LGU) concerned, the Panay Aqua Farmers Consumer Cooperative (PAFCC) representing the private sector and which is hereinafter referred to as the “Proponent Cooperative”, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Capiz State University (CAPSU), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Management Board is the policy making body of the aquaculture feed mill plant and its members shall serve for a term of five (5) years.

SECTION 4. Within five (5) years after the establishment of the aquaculture feed mill plant, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall constitute and convene the abovementioned Management Board, and transfer to the same the joint management of the aquaculture feed mill plant with the assistance of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD). The DA-BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the incoming members of the Management Board on the management and operations of the aquaculture feed mill plant.

SECTION 5. The Management Board shall develop an education and training program which shall cater the marginal fisherfolk to educate them on new methods and technologies on aquaculture as well as the production of feeds.

SECTION 6. The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operations of the feed mill plant.

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

Approved.