

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3672



---

**Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As an island, the Province of Leyte relies heavily on fishing. Its coastal communities enjoy the diverse aquatic resources that surround the island. The fisheries in coastal municipalities do not only contribute to the development of the agriculture sector in the province, but also to the Philippine economy, at large.

Although Leyte leads in fishery production in Eastern Visayas, environmental hazards—especially during inclement weather conditions—hinder fisherfolks from maximizing the available aquatic resources. Coastal communities are also subjected to lack of livelihood when it is out of season. Furthermore, with the growing demand in food supply, extracting fishery juveniles may not be sustainable for the industry and the environment.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Merida in the Province of Leyte. A multi-species hatchery will not only increase food production but it will also contribute to the economic development and poverty alleviation in the Municipality of Merida. With the marine hatchery, consistent supply of fish from the facilities would be guaranteed. Furthermore, it will reduce the dependence of fisherfolks on wild-caught juveniles, thereby allowing for a more sustainable aquaculture. Finally, this will promote the policy of the State under the Constitution to provide extensive support to fisherfolks through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance.

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

  
**RICHARD I. GOMEZ**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3672

---

**Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez**

---

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Merida, Province of Leyte.

Sec. 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction to comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Merida. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species hatchery.

Sec. 3. The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Merida, Province of Leyte, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Merida.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,