

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7237**



Introduced by Honorable HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fishworkers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources."

This bill seeks to establish an inland multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat. Given the municipality's geographical makeup, Kalamansig's local economic networks predominantly rely on agricultural and fisheries production for income generation. The establishment of a local multi-species freshwater hatchery under the supervision and management of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA) and the pursuit of research and experimentation in modern and locally adaptive breeding and production techniques for freshwater species will help the Municipality of Kalamansig in catalyzing the development of aquaculture as an alternative source of municipal income.

Moreover, establishing a multi-species freshwater hatchery in Kalamansig will provide additional direct employment to local workers and will expand and diversify income opportunities to local workers that may have relevant and/or transferrable skills, e.g., those who fish in municipal waters, graduates of courses relating to agriculture.

Furthermore, the establishment of a multi-species freshwater hatchery in Kalamansig would aid in long-term efforts to assure food security not only in the municipality, but in the Province of Sultan Kudarat as a whole.

In view of the potential benefits of the establishment of a local multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat, early consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HORACIO B. SUANSING JR.
Second District of Sultan Kudarat

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7237

Introduced by Honorable HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF SUL TAN KUDARAT,
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 freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat.

SECTION 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species freshwater 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 freshwater hatchery, the BFAR-DA, through a Memorandum of Agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government unit of the Municipality of Kalamansig. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the personnel of the local government unit concerned on the management and operation of the multi-species freshwater hatchery.

SECTION 3. The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation in the breeding and production of freshwater species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit and enhance the fisheries industry.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General

Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 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 management of the multi-species freshwater hatchery to the local government of Kalamansig.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of national circulation.

Approved,