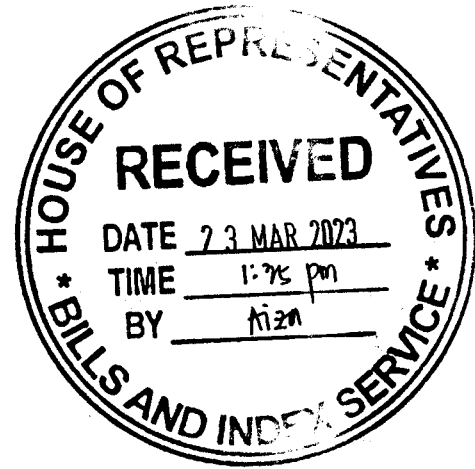


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7772**



Introduced by Rep. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Candijay, Province of Bohol is a rising tourist destination in the Philippines. Its dramatic scenery and natural tourist attractions beckon one to explore and relax to the slow rhythm of rural life. Home to several natural resources such as the Canawa Spring and Kawasihan Islet Sand Bar, there are also potential eco-tourism destinations that are now attracting visitors. One such tourist site is the Kankoka Hills located in Barangay Cambane, Municipality of Candijay. It is a scenic site where one can enjoy a panoramic view of Bohol's highlands. From the view deck, the surrounding provinces of Leyte and Camiguin Islands can be viewed. With the lack of needed development and promotion, the tourism potential of the place has been largely untapped.

As part of the present administration's core program for the development of the country, ecotourism is considered an important economic tool that will create a significant source of business opportunities for the local community. The declaration of the Kankoka Hills as an ecotourism site will develop the area into a fully grown tourist destination that will offer both local and foreign visitors a glimpse of its natural beauty while ensuring that it is managed in ways that are sustainable, pro-community and pro-ecology.

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


HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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HOUSE BILL NO. **7772**

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AN ACT
DECLARING KANKOKA HILLS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDIJAY,
BOHOL, AN ECOTOURISM SITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. The Kankoka Hills located in Barangay Cambane, Municipality of Candijay, Bohol, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. The development of Kankoka Hills as an ecotourism site shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

SECTION 2. The Municipal Government of Candijay, in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), and other concerned agencies of the government, shall jointly prepare a development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance tourism in the area within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous flora and fauna therein: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of Candijay.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Candijay in the implementation of the development plan by providing technical assistance in the formulation, development, and implementation of programs and strategies that will generate livelihood and employment opportunities for the community therein while ensuring that it is managed sustainably. It shall include Kankoka Hills in all its national and regional promotion programs.

SECTION 4. The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriations authorized for the DOT. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation and maintenance thereof shall be charged from the fees to be imposed by the Municipal Government of Candijay. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SECTION 6. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT and the DENR, in consultation with the Municipal Government of Candijay and other government agencies concerned, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,