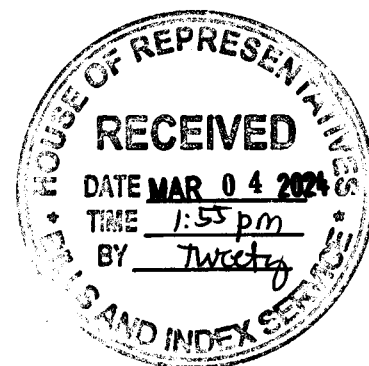


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10023

**Introduced by Representatives FAUSTINO 'INNO' A. DY V,
ANTONIO 'TONYPET' T. ALBANO, ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO,
IAN PAUL L. DY, JOSEPH S. TAN,
FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III, and ALLAN U. TY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to designate Isabela State University (ISU) as the National Water Resources University in the Philippines.

The ISU has long been active in the generation of scientific knowledge, in partnership with national and international agencies, for the empowerment of local communities.

One of ISU's research agenda is water resources management. Water resources management encompasses various disciplines such as civil engineering, agricultural and biosystems engineering, water resources engineering and other related fields such as geology, forestry, agriculture and aquaculture, environmental sciences, economics and sociology.

In pursuit of this research agenda, the ISU has already completed various projects on water resource management in the Cagayan River Basin and developed scientific tools for analysis and evidence-based decision making. It is also the lead agency in the DOST-funded Smart Water Infrastructure and Management (SWIM) R&D Center.

The ISU and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) — together with Kyoto University-Disaster Prevention Research Institute, the Japan Water Agency and Network of Asian River Basin Organization, National Water Resources Board, University of the Philippines, River Basin Control Office, Office of Civil Defense, National Irrigation

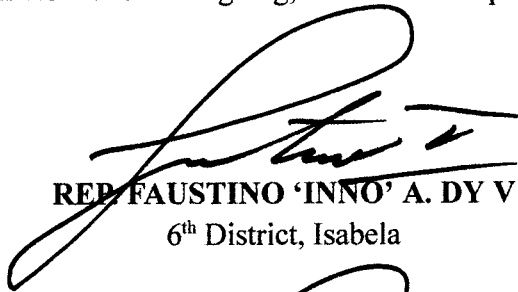
Administration and local government units (LGUs) — have established a strong partnership in the conduct of research and development, technology transfer, capacity building and policy development for river basin management.

This partnership has generated new knowledge, innovative techniques, scientific tools and integrated approaches for various agencies to help address problems in flooding, sedimentation and future climate scenarios that can be mainstreamed in other river basins in the Philippines and ASEAN countries.

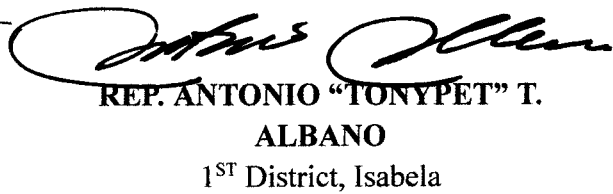
Additionally, the ISU has spearheaded the creation of a regional network of local universities to upscale the conduct of R&D and capacity building activities and mainstream integrated river basin management in the country.

The designation of ISU as the National Water Resources University will give it the authority to establish and maintain programs, centers, and facilities dedicated to water resources management education, research, and development.

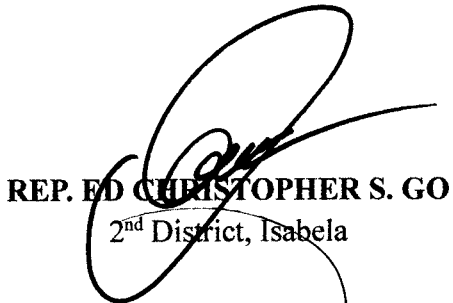
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



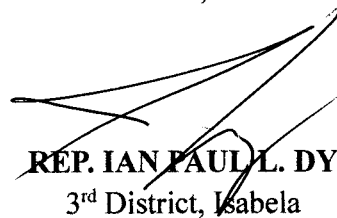
REP. FAUSTINO 'INNO' A. DY V
6th District, Isabela



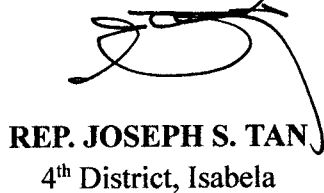
REP. ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO
1ST District, Isabela



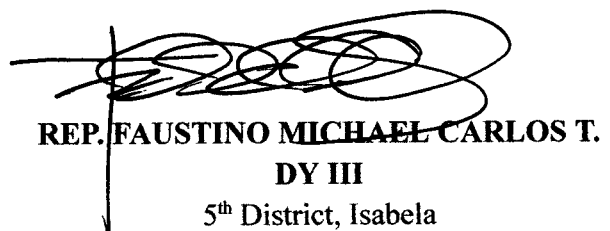
REP. ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO
2nd District, Isabela



REP. IAN PAUL L. DY
3rd District, Isabela



REP. JOSEPH S. TAN
4th District, Isabela



REP. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
5th District, Isabela



REP. ALLAN U. TY
LPG Marketers Association, Inc. Party List

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AN ACT
AMENDING PD 1434 AND DESIGNATING THE ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
AS THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES UNIVERSITY IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Isabela State University as National Water Resources University Designation Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The Isabela State University as the National Water Resources University.

Isabela State University, hereinafter referred to as the "University," is hereby designated as the National Water Resources University, tasked with advancing education, research, and innovation in the field of water resources management and related field.

SECTION 3. Purpose of the University. — As the national water resources university, the primary purpose of Isabela State University, shall be:

- (a) To promote and conduct research and development (R&D) activities related to water resources management.
- (b) To provide technical support to water-related agencies.
- (c) To provide support for research and development, capacity building, planning, and policy formulation related to water resources management and the country's water resources development.
- (d) To serve as a center of excellence in water resources management education, research, and technology development.
- (e) To produce highly skilled professionals and experts in the field of water resources management who are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address the country's water-related challenges.
- (f) To contribute to the sustainable management, conservation, and equitable distribution of water resources in the Philippines through cutting-edge research, technology transfer, and community engagement.
- (g) To foster innovation in water resources management practices and technologies that promote efficiency, sustainability, and resilience.
- (h) To provide leadership and guidance to regional and local initiatives aimed at water resources management and conservation.
- (i) To collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders to develop and implement policies, strategies, and best practices for water resources management at the national and local levels.
- (j) To promote public awareness and education on water resources issues, emphasizing the importance of responsible water use and conservation.
- (k) To establish partnerships with international institutions and organizations to facilitate knowledge exchange and cooperation in the field of water resources management.
- (l) To conduct research and development projects that address pressing water resources challenges, including water scarcity, pollution, and climate change impacts.
- (m) To offer capacity-building programs and training for professionals, policymakers, and communities involved in water resources management.
- (n) To support the development and dissemination of technologies and solutions for sustainable water use, treatment, and purification.
- (o) To serve as a repository of knowledge and data related to water resources, making research findings and information accessible to the public, researchers, and policymakers.

SECTION 4. The University. — Isabela State University, as the National Water Resources University, shall have the authority and responsibility to establish and maintain programs, centers, and facilities dedicated to water resources management education, research, and development.

The University shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) To promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or proper to implement this law, and to amend or repeal the same from time to time;

(b) To enter into, make and execute contracts and agreements with collaborating and funding agencies;

(c) To generate funds from all sources, whether local or foreign and whether government or private, to help finance its research programs and its capital and operating expenditures;

(d) To serve as the coordinating center of a national network of water resources stations and R&D centers located in the different regions of the country;

(e) To plan and carry out research and development activities, specifically in the areas of water resources for agriculture, domestic, water hazards, socio-economic and institutional studies training and technology transfer, and social science and policy research;

(f) To verify, package and transfer economically viable technologies, giving emphasis on stakeholder participation and consultations;

(g) To provide the data base or policy formulation that will promote and sustain water security;

(h) To organize and develop strong training programs for water scientists and engineers, research managers and extension workers;

(i) To publish and disseminate research findings and recommendations;

(j) To acquire or obtain from any governmental authority, whether national or local, foreign or domestic, or from any person, corporation, partnership, association or other entity, such charters, franchises, licenses, rights, privileges, assistance, financial or otherwise, and concessions as are conducive to and necessary or proper for the attainment of its purposes and objectives;

(k) To receive and acquire from any person and/or government and private entities, whether foreign or domestic, grants, donations and contributions consisting of such properties, real or personal, including funds and valuable effects or things, as may be useful, necessary or proper to carry out its purposes and objectives and administer the same in accordance with the terms of such grants, donations and contributions, consistent with its purposes and objectives.

SECTION 5. Academic Freedom. — The University shall enjoy academic freedom as provided for in Republic Act No. 8292, and paragraph 2, Section 5, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution.

SECTION 6. Academic Excellence. — The University has the responsibility to maintain and enhance its high academic standards in the performance of its functions of

instruction, research and extension, and public service.

SECTION 7. Commitment to National Development. — The University hereby reaffirms its commitment to advancing the nation's sustainable development goals. It shall actively collaborate with government agencies, industry partners, and local communities to align its research, education, and outreach efforts with the country's priorities for water resources management, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development. It shall prioritize research projects and educational programs that address pressing national challenges related to water scarcity, pollution, climate change adaptation, and equitable access to water resources. The University shall also actively support the development and implementation of policies, strategies, and innovative solutions that enhance the overall well-being and resilience of the Filipino people and the environment.

SECTION 8. Social Responsibility. — The University is committed to serve the Filipino nation and humanity. While it carries out the obligation to pursue universal principles, it shall uphold its social responsibility by actively engaging with local communities impacted by water resources management issues. The University will implement community outreach programs, educational initiatives, and capacity-building efforts, aiming to empower communities to address water-related challenges and promote responsible water use and conservation. Furthermore, the University shall consider the socio-economic impact of its research, educational programs, and projects, with a commitment to improving the livelihoods and quality of life of the Filipino people.

SECTION 9. Democratic Access. — The University shall promote democratic access to its educational resources and opportunities, ensuring that all qualified individuals, regardless of their socio-economic status or geographic location, have equal access to benefit from its programs and expertise in water resources management. This commitment includes maintaining transparency in admission processes, financial management, and decision-making, ensuring that policies and practices are accessible and comprehensible to all stakeholders. The University shall actively cultivate an inclusive environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and backgrounds, striving to eliminate barriers hindering participation in its academic and research activities. Additionally, it will engage with various stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community, in decision-making processes affecting its mission and activities, while establishing mechanisms for receiving feedback and input to consider their suggestions and concerns.

SECTION 10. Sports, Culture and the Arts. — The University shall promote and support activities related to sports, culture, and the arts, fostering an environment where students and the academic community can engage in these areas for personal growth and well-rounded development.

SECTION 11. Institutional Autonomy. — Isabela State University shall operate with a degree of institutional autonomy in accordance with existing laws and regulations. The University shall have the authority to manage its affairs, formulate academic policies, and make decisions pertaining to its programs and operations, provided that such actions are consistent with the broader goals of national development and water resources management.

SECTION 12. Administration. — The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the "Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University. There shall be a central administration headed by the University President, which will provide leadership and overall strategic direction of the University in the areas of academic, research, extension services, infrastructure development, linkages and partnerships, and resource management designed to achieve its vision and mission.

The administration of the constituent campuses is vested in the Chancellor, who shall be designated by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the President, subject only to certain limitations and insofar as delegated by the President of the University and authorized by the Board of Regents. The administration of extension campuses shall be headed by the Campus Executive Officers/ Administrators who shall be designated by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the President, subject only to certain limitations and insofar as delegated by the President of the University and authorized by the Board of Regents.

SECTION 13. Board of Trustees. —The corporate powers of the University shall be exercised, and all its business, activities and properties shall be controlled, by a Board of Regents. In addition to existing members, the Director of the Water Resources Management Office of DENR shall become a member.

SECTION 14. The President of the University. —The President of the University is the chief academic officer, head of the university faculty and the chief executive officer of the University. The President of the University shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by the Board, those which pertain to the office of the President of a university, and those which are related or necessary to its functions.

The President of the University who shall render full-time service shall be elected by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The President of the University shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term, upon recommendation of a duly constituted evaluation committee. In case

of vacancy by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his office, the Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge pending the appointment of a new president. In no case shall the search and appointment of the next President be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs. The newly appointed President shall serve a full term: Provided, That the designated Officer-in-Charge shall not be allowed to join as candidate in the search process. The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the president of a similar university, and those delegated by the Board.

SECTION 15. Appropriation of Funds. — The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the university and its other internal funds. Thereafter, the amounts necessary to strengthen its capacity as the National Water Resources University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 16. Development Plan, Organizational Structure. — Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

- a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED and DBM;
- b) Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including the designations of the key officials and other administrative personnel of the University;
- c) Secure additional plantilla positions from the DBM, including technical, support to technical, and key administrative positions for the existing constituent campuses and extension campuses, and augmentation of personnel services allocation, in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the administration and management of the University, and specifically, to ensure a strong administrative support for the attainment of its mandate as the National Water Resources University.

SECTION 17. Transitory Provision. — To provide strategic direction and leadership as the Isabela State University transitions to its pioneer status as the National Water Resources University, and to ensure the attainment of its distinctive and purposeful mandate as such, as declared and provided for in this Act, the incumbent President of the Isabela State University shall serve a new term as the first President of the National Water Resources University.

SECTION 18. Separability Clause. — Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 19. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,