Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10384

Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE NURSERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOPEZ, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10938, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOPEZ, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998" provides as a matter of policy the achievement of food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization, management, development, conservation and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population."

Consistent with this policy, Republic Act No. 10938 was enacted into law on August 23, 2017 to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in Lopez, Quezon. It is one of the ten (10) multi-species marine hatchery legislations in the 4th District of Quezon.

According to the Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), these multi-species marine hatcheries are either under construction or were already constructed to meet local requirements for aquaculture seed stocks, reduce dependence from imported fry, and ultimately augment the production of the aquaculture sector.

Officials from BFAR and the local government unit, however, decided to defer the construction of a multi-species marine hatchery in Lopez as they found that the establishment of a multi-species marine nursery is more practical and suitable.

In order to efficiently utilize the available funding under RA 10938 for the immediate construction of a multi-species marine nursery in Lopez, Quezon, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. The title of Republic Act No. 10938 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "An Act Establishing a Multi-Species Marine NURSERY [Hatchery] in the Municipality of Lopez, Province of Quezon and Appropriating Funds Therefor."

SEC. 2. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 10938 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "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 NURSERY [hatchery] in the Municipality of Lopez, Province of Quezon."

SEC. 3. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10938 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "Section 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine NURSERY [hatchery], transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the NURSERY [hatchery]."

SEC. 4. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10938 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine NURSERY [hatchery] in the Municipality of Lopez, Province of Quezon, 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 local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the NURSERY [hatchery]."

SEC. 5. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10938 is hereby amended to read as

follows:

"Section 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, transfer, or withdrawal by the BFAR of the multi- species marine NURSERY [hatchery]."

SEC. 6. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,