

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 970

Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

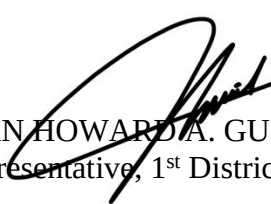
Section 7, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of local marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services.”

Aquaculture and fisheries is one of the main industries in the province of Capiz. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, it is observed that the volume of production of Marine Municipal Fisheries in the Province of Capiz has decreased to 5,877 metric tons in 2024, from 9,464 metric tons in 2023. Furthermore, the volume of production of Inland Municipal Fisheries decreased to 711 metric tons from 1,395 metric tons in 2023. In order to diversify the production of the fishing industry in the Province of Capiz, there is a need for the establishment of a freshwater multi-species hatchery.

This bill seeks to establish a freshwater multi-species hatchery in the Municipality of Pontevedra, Province of Capiz. It shall be under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA). The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the hatchery facilities to the local government unit within two years and it shall also implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

The establishment of a freshwater multi-species hatchery will bolster the productivity of the aquaculture and fisheries industry in Capiz and provide more opportunities to local fisherfolks and coastal communities.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is sought.


IVAN HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, 1st District of Capiz

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRESHWATER MULTI-SPECIES HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTEVEDRA, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries
2 and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a freshwater multi-species
3 hatchery in the Municipality of Pontevedra, Province of Capiz.
4

5 **SEC. 2.** The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the establishment of the freshwater
6 multi-species hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government concerned
7 through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in
8 program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.
9

10 **SEC. 3.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the
11 establishment of the freshwater multi-species hatchery in the Municipality of Pontevedra, Province
12 of Capiz, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
13 local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an
14 amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.
15

16 **SEC. 4.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
17 shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual
18 transfer of the management of the freshwater multi-species hatchery to the local government of
19 Pontevedra.
20

21 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official
22 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,