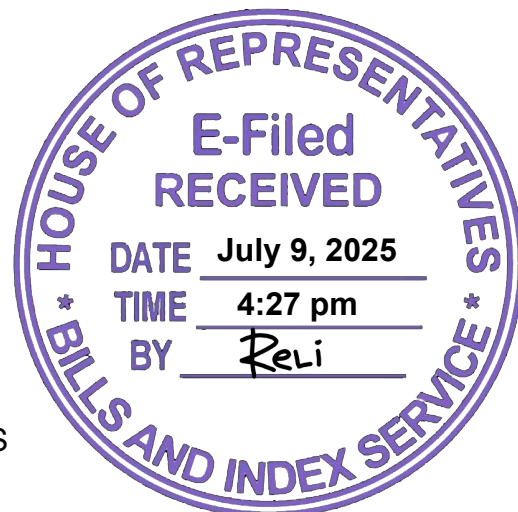




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1694**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Sto. Niño in the Province of Samar is endowed with natural beauty especially the islands therein. Particularly, the Municipality of Sto. Nino takes pride in the Islands of Cawayan and Camandag. These Islands offer pristine view of white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters, and an abundance of marine life, making them popular destinations for those seeking to experience nature at its finest.

The declaration of the above-mentioned sites as Tourism Destinations will surely promote an ecologically sustainable, economically viable, responsible and participative tourism in the Municipality of Sto Niño. As such, this bill seeks to declare the the Islands of Cawayan and Camandag both in the Municipality of Sto. Nino, Province of Samar as Tourism Destinations.

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


STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. **1694**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

**AN ACT DECLARING CAWAYAN ISLAND AND CAMANDAG ISLAND IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF STO. NIÑO, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS ECO-TOURISM
DESTINATIONS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short title.* - This act shall be known as the “*Cawayan Island and
Camandag Island Eco-tourism Act*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the
State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible,
participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local
communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms
and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop
certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having
potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

SECTION 3. *The Islands of Cawayan and Camandag Eco-Tourism*

Destination Sites. The Cawayan Island located in Barangays Ilo, Basud, Takut, Buenavista, Cabungaan, Ilijan and Baras and the Camandag Island located in Barangays Sevilla, Lobelobe, Corocawayan, Villahermosa, Balatguti, and Pinanangnan, in the Municipality of Sto. Niño, Province of Samar are hereby established as Eco-Tourism Destinations. Their development shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism's (DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) successor plan for 2023 – 2028 and be jointly implemented with the Municipality of Sto. Niño and Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Samar. The construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in the area shall be a shared responsibility of the DOT and the local government unit with emphasis on sustainable development and resource management.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances

contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

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

Approved,