

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1752**



Introduced by **Hon. Janice V. Degamo**

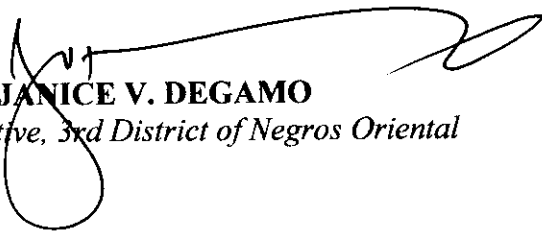
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is globally recognized as a premier diving destination, blessed with some of the richest marine biodiversity in the world. Among its many coastal gems, the Municipality of Dauin in Negros Oriental has emerged as a unique and exceptional site, particularly for night diving, offering underwater experiences that are both breathtaking and ecologically significant.

Located along the southeastern coastline of Negros Island, Dauin is home to a diverse array of marine life, including rare species of octopus, crustaceans, nudibranchs, and other nocturnal sea creatures that are best observed after sunset. Its black volcanic sand, coral gardens, and healthy reef ecosystems provide the perfect conditions for muck diving, macro photography, and marine life observation at night. Dive enthusiasts from around the world visit Dauin specifically for its guided night dives, which are considered among the best in Asia.

Declaring Dauin as the Night Diving Capital of the Philippines will not only give due recognition to its thriving eco-tourism sector but also further promote environmental awareness and economic growth in the region. It will also support the continuing conservation of its marine ecosystems, strengthen its tourism brand, and attract greater investment and scientific research into marine biodiversity.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JANICE V. DEGAMO

Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAUIN IN THE PROVINCE OF
NEGROS ORIENTAL AS THE NIGHT DIVING CAPITAL OF THE
PHILIPPINES

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 "Dauin Night Diving Capital of the Philippines Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize and promote local tourism sites and experiences that contribute to the country's cultural, ecological, and economic growth. The State shall support initiatives that highlight and protect the Philippines' unique marine biodiversity and promote sustainable tourism.

Section 3. *Declaration as the Night Diving Capital.* The Municipality of Dauin in the Province of Negros Oriental is hereby declared as the Night Diving Capital of the Philippines, in recognition of its rich marine biodiversity, thriving dive industry, and world-renowned night diving experiences.

Section 4. *Promotion and Development.* The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENT), the Local Government of Dauin, and other concerned agencies, shall:

- (a) Formulate and implement programs to promote Dauin as the Night Diving Capital of the Philippines;
- (b) Ensure the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of marine resources;
- (c) Provide technical and financial assistance to support the local dive industry and eco-tourism projects;
- (d) Encourage scientific research, environmental education, and responsible diving practices in the area.

Section 5. *Funding.* The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOT under the General Appropriations Act. Additional funding may be sourced from other government agencies, private sector partners, or foreign grants, subject to relevant laws, and regulations.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the DENR and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,