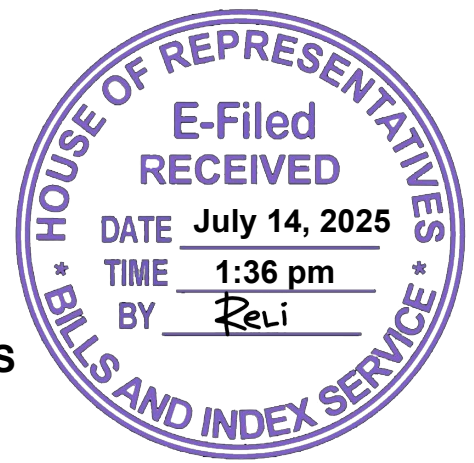


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1855

Introduced by **Representative Binky April M. Tupas**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE TAMBALIZA ISLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism is one of the major drivers of economic growth in the Philippines, supporting employment, attracting investments, and enhancing diversified growth opportunities. This bill proposes to strengthen the government goals toward sustainable tourism development and natural heritage protection by declaring Tambaliza Island, also called Pan de Azucar, in the Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Iloilo as an ecotourism zone.

Tambaliza is the largest of Concepcion's 16 outlying islands, comprising almost 19% of the municipality's total land area. The island has three barangays, Macatunao, Talotu-an, and Tambaliza, and is famous for Mt. Pan de Azucar (also called Mt. Manaphag), a natural wonder that towers above the coastline. At 574 meters (1,883 ft), the steep-sided Mt. Pan de Azucar is the most prominent feature and distinguishable landmark of the island. The lofty cone is one of the inactive volcanoes in the country.

Around the island are pristine beaches, like Lumpatan Beach in Sitio Bagotao, with sand ranging from golden yellow to white. These areas have huge potential for nature-based tourism and eco-friendly activities that can benefit the locals, as long as development is done responsibly.

By declaring Tambaliza Island as an ecotourism zone, this measure will attract sustainable investments, improve tourism infrastructure, and create opportunities for community-based enterprises. It also supports the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) which promotes regional tourism growth and competitiveness of emerging destinations.

This bill was already approved on Third Reading in the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress, reflecting strong legislative support for its passage.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this measure is respectfully urged.


BINKY APRIL M. TUPAS

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

SECTION. 1. The Tambaliza Island, consisting of three (3) barangays, namely Macatunao, Talotu-an and Tambaliza, all located in the Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Iloilo, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone, to be known as the “Tambaliza Island Eco Tourism Zone.” Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 2. Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Concepcion shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the flora and fauna and perpetuate the historical significance of the identified tourism attractions: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Concepcion.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Concepcion in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Tambaliza Island in its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Concepcion. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectiveness of this Act, the municipal government of Concepcion shall, in consultation with the DOT, DENR, and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,