



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2114



Introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho and Rep. Antonio T. Kho

EXPLANATORY NOTE

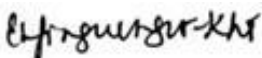
This bill proposes the establishment of a multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery in the Municipality of Balud, Province of Masbate. This crucial initiative is specifically designed to address the pressing nutritional and economic needs of the residents in Balud's coastal barangays, whose lives are intrinsically linked to fishing for both sustenance and livelihood.

The urgency of this measure is underscored by the current underutilization of vital marine resources. Officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Masbate have identified at least 2,000 hectares of coastal areas within the province that remain desolate and unproductive. These vast, untapped resources represent a significant opportunity for growth and development.

The establishment of this modern breeding farm and hatchery will significantly improve the economic lives of the people, not only within the municipality of Balud but also across the entire Province of Masbate by providing a stable and increased supply of high-value marine products, it will generate excellent employment opportunities for local fishermen and coastal communities. This direct economic injection will play a crucial role in alleviating poverty by creating sustainable livelihoods and enhancing household incomes.

This facility will act as a vital hub for replenishing the supply of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish. Through controlled breeding and hatching, it will contribute to the restoration of local fish stocks, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the marine ecosystem and bolstering food security for the local population.

In view of these profound and far-reaching benefits from boosting local economies and creating jobs to ensuring food security and promoting sustainable resource management the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D.,FPCCP


REP. ANTONIO T. KHO



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-PURPOSE FISHERY BREEDING FARM AND
HATCHERY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MULTIPLICATION OF CRABS,
SHRIMPS AND MILKFISH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALUD, PROVINCE OF
MASBATE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of a Multi-Purpose Fishery Breeding Farm and Hatchery. There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (hereinafter referred to as BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as DA), a multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery for the production and multiplication of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish in the Municipality of Balud, Province of Masbate. This establishment aims to directly meet the nutritional and economic needs of the residents, particularly those in the coastal barangays of the said municipality.

SECTION 2. Research and Experimentation. The BFAR shall be mandated to conduct continuing research and experimentation on crab, shrimp, and milkfish culture, specifically as they apply to local conditions. The objective of such research and experimentation shall be to discover new methods and technologies that will rejuvenate and enhance the fishing industry in the area and beyond.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Agriculture (DA) and its related agencies, including the BFAR, shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the initial establishment and subsequent operation of the multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery for the production and multiplication of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish in the

Municipality of Balud, Province of Masbate. The funding for this purpose shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules or regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. 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,