

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2136



Introduced by HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to accessible and quality education is a cornerstone of national development and social equity. Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997," mandates the state to ensure that education becomes accessible to all, especially in underserved and geographically isolated areas.

The Municipality of Liloan, located in the Second District of Southern Leyte, is one such community that has long aspired for equitable access to higher education. Despite being part of the mainland of Southern Leyte, Liloan is approximately 47 kilometers away from the nearest campus of the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) in Sogod — a distance that poses logistical and financial burdens for students, especially those from low-income families. For many, the cost and effort to travel daily or relocate has led to deferred dreams and unfulfilled potential.

At present, Liloan has no existing university or college within its jurisdiction. This lack of local tertiary education options limits not only the prospects of its youth but also the socioeconomic development of the municipality and surrounding areas such as San Francisco, San Ricardo, Pintuyan, and even parts of Panaon Island — all of which stand to benefit from closer access to quality tertiary public education.

This bill seeks to establish the *Southern Leyte State University – Liloan Campus*, a strategic move toward decentralizing higher education and bringing it closer to the people. The proposed campus shall offer undergraduate, graduate, and technical-vocational courses that are responsive to local industry needs, including but not limited to programs in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, maritime services, education, and information technology.

Moreover, the campus is envisioned to serve as a hub for research and extension work tailored to the realities of the Eastern Visayas region. Through institutional linkages and community partnerships, the SLSU–Liloan Campus will help build a stronger, more resilient, and more empowered local population.

Beyond educational access, the establishment of a campus in Liloan will stimulate economic activity, create employment opportunities, and encourage local investments in housing, food services, transportation, and infrastructure. It is a catalytic measure that supports both human capital development and regional growth.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SLSU - LILOAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "SLSU - Liloan Campus Act"

SEC. 2. Establishment of the Southern Leyte State University-Liloan Campus. --There is hereby established a regular campus of the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), to be located in the Municipality of Liloan, Province of Southern Leyte, which shall be known as the Southern Leyte State University- Liloan Campus. *Provided, that upon the effectivity of any law renaming the Southern Leyte State University, the Liloan Campus, as established by virtue of this Act, shall also be automatically renamed.*

SEC. 3. General Mandate. --The SLSU - Liloan Campus shall offer graduate, undergraduate and short-term technical-vocational courses within its area of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly to meet the needs of the province and the entire Eastern Visayas Region.

The SLSU-Liloan Campus is also mandated to undertake research and extension services, and to provide progressive leadership in these areas, including the offering of graduate degrees under the SLSU System.

SEC. 4. Supervision and Management of the SLSU-Liloan Campus. --The SLSU - Liloan Campus shall be headed by a Campus Administrator who shall render full-time service, and shall be appointed and designated by the Board of Regents (BOR), subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the BOR, and upon the recommendation of a Search Committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the Campus Administrator.

SEC. 5. *Compliance with the Requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).* – The SLSU shall ensure the compliance of the SLSU-Liloan Campus with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of the Campus, including those related to the offering of courses and introduction of new or revised courses and programs prior to its establishment.

SEC. 6. *Management of Personnel, Assets, and Record of the Campus.* – All assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the SLSU-Liloan Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled under or named after the SLSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the government that shall be occupied by the SLSU-Liloan Campus shall be the property of SLSU and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, that should the campus cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the SLSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit, provincial government, or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including those required to fund the Plantilla positions of teaching and non-teaching personnel of the SLSU-Liloan Campus, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997,” shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED and the Department of Budget and Management, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,