

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2137



Introduced by HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that shall ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation, and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. In line with this, the government has prioritized inclusive and accessible education and technical-vocational training as pathways to national development and social mobility.

The Province of Southern Leyte, particularly its Second District, remains largely agricultural and coastal in character, with its municipalities—Hinunangan, Saint Bernard, San Juan, Sogod, Bontoc, Libagon, and San Ricardo—still facing structural challenges in terms of employment, access to technical training, and economic diversification. Despite the strong potential and raw talent of the local labor force, opportunities for formal skills development and TESDA-accredited certification remain limited and physically inaccessible to many.

As it stands, the nearest government-run TESDA Provincial Training Center is located in Maasin City, in the First District, requiring long travel hours and additional cost burdens for constituents from the Second District. This geographical barrier often discourages many out-of-school youth, unemployed adults, and low-income families from pursuing technical-vocational training, especially those in remote barangays.

This bill seeks to address that longstanding gap by establishing a TESDA Training and Assessment Center in the Municipality of Hinunangan, to be known as the *Hinunangan TESDA Training and Assessment Center*. Hinunangan is geographically strategic—it is the largest and most centrally located municipality in the Second District, making it reasonably accessible to all surrounding municipalities.

The Center shall serve as a dedicated institution for technical-vocational education and skills development, offering TESDA-certified courses responsive to local and global labor demands. It shall serve as a gateway for residents to acquire National Certificates (NCs), enabling them to become job-ready, entrepreneurial, and globally competitive. The Center will likewise function as an assessment hub for existing and future TESDA qualifications, offering mobility and career recognition to previously unaccredited skilled workers.

The Center's potential benefits are multi-fold: it will empower communities through skills development; support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); provide employment alternatives to migration; and help local industries thrive with a steady pool of qualified and certified workers. It will also allow TESDA, in collaboration with DepEd, DOLE, DTI, and other agencies, to implement integrated training programs and livelihood interventions directly at the grassroots level.

Moreover, the measure strengthens the government's commitment to the Philippine Development Plan's thrusts on human capital development, decent job creation, and regional equality. It also aligns with the principles of the "Balik-Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa" Program by encouraging investments in countryside education, training and workforce development.

In sum, the establishment of the Hinunangan TESDA Training and Assessment Center is not merely an infrastructure project—it is a long-overdue investment in people, equity, and inclusive progress. It is a practical and policy-sound initiative that answers both the immediate needs and the long-term aspirations of the people of Southern Leyte's Second District.

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


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE "HINUNANGAN TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER"
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Hinunangan Training and Assessment Center. - There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and assessment center in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte, to be known as the "Hinunangan Training and Assessment Center," herein referred to as Center under the control and supervision of the TESDA.

SEC. 2. General Mandate. - The Center shall primarily provide technical-vocational training and skills development programs to students from low-income families and out-of-school youths in the Municipality of Hinunangan, as well as the entire Province of Southern Leyte. It shall develop the students to become productive, self-reliant and globally-competitive skilled labor workers, in order to boost the social and economic development of the Municipality of Hinunangan and the Province of Southern Leyte, as well as to meet the demand of local and international labor markets.

The Center shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired competencies in TVET programs in the Municipality of Hinunangan and the Province of Southern Leyte. The Center shall, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), render teachers' capability building programs and curriculum design to the secondary schools in the Municipality of Hinunangan and the Province of Southern Leyte offering technical-vocational and livelihood track under the K to 12 Program of the DepEd.

SEC. 3. Curricular Offerings. - The Center shall address the skills development priorities of the Municipality of Hinunangan and the Province of

Southern Leyte. It shall offer short-term courses in referred market-driven and relevant technical-vocational courses within its areas of specialization, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment, the industries and other relevant agencies, both local and international.

The Center may likewise establish research and development centers, technology development farms, and mobile training programs throughout the Province of Southern Leyte to strengthen linkages between the industry, academe, and the technology programs.

SEC. 4. Site. - The Center shall be established on a site in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte, which is highly accessible pursuant to the purposes of this Act, and upon the mutual agreement between the TESDA and the Local Government of Hinunangan.

SEC. 5. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. - The Center shall adopt the organizational structure and staffing pattern of a TESDA regional training center in accordance with the existing guidelines of the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission.

The Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational Administrator under the supervision of the TESDA who shall be appointed by the TESDA Director-General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification requirements of the TESDA for such office.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall render full-time services and shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Center.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriation of the TESDA. The Director-General of the TESDA shall include in the Authority's program the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The Municipality of Hinunangan, in consultation with the TESDA, shall likewise set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed to be appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of the Center.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Director General of TESDA shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor and Employment, Secretary of Trade and Industry, Secretary of Science and Technology, the Mayor of Hinunangan, and such other relevant government agencies, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in force.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portions thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,