



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2363

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
3rd Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines' unique geographical position blesses it with diverse ecological systems, yielding abundant and distinct products, among which the Pili nut stands out. Indigenous to the country and predominantly found in the Bicol Region, Pili is a versatile and beloved Filipino delicacy, transformable into numerous food products and snacks. In an evolving global market that increasingly favors healthier alternatives, the demand for the Pili nut and its by-products is experiencing continuous growth.

Notably, the Philippines holds a unique and significant advantage as the sole commercial producer of Pili globally, with the Bicol Region supplying a remarkable 80% of the country's total output. Despite environmental challenges, Pili trees thrive in Bicol's rich volcanic soil and abundant rainfall, famously blooming better after storms ("stress trees"). It's also a low-maintenance crop, bearing fruit in as little as three years. This unique global supply, coupled with its resilience and ease of cultivation, ensures Pili production continues to boom, creating significant trade and income opportunities for Bicolanos.

While the Pili Regional Research and Technology Development Center in Legazpi City has played a commendable role in localized research and development since its creation in 2019, its regional scope and limited institutional capacity are insufficient to fully harness the national and global potential of the Pili industry. The absence of a dedicated, national-level institution with a comprehensive mandate, sustained funding, and the authority to serve as a lead

agency has constrained the widespread adoption of best practices, the consolidation of research, and aggressive national and international promotion.

Recognizing this immense and largely untapped potential, strategic investment in the Pili industry through a dedicated national body will yield substantial benefits for the Philippine economy, its farmers, and the country as a whole. For the economy, a robust Pili industry will boost export revenues, improve trade balances, and attract foreign investment into agribusiness. For farmers, particularly in the Bicol Region, it guarantees a stable and growing income, empowering local communities due to the crop's low-maintenance nature. For the country, strengthening the Pili industry reinforces its unique global market position, showcases its biodiversity and agricultural innovation, and contributes significantly to job creation across the entire value chain—from cultivation and processing to marketing and distribution—further establishing the Philippines as a key player in the global health food market.

Therefore, this bill seeks to institutionalize the establishment of the Pili Research Institute (PilRI). By creating PilRI as an attached agency to the Department of Agriculture, with a clear national mandate and dedicated funding, the government can provide the necessary leadership, resources, and coordination to elevate the Pili industry to its rightful place. This crucial step will fully harness the Pili nut's economic and social impact, ensuring sustained prosperity for the Bicol Region and significant contributions to national development.

The immediate passage of this beneficial measure is earnestly sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, 3rd District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PILI RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PILRI)
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Pili Research and Promotion Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give paramount priority to research and development, as well as to science and technology education, training, and services, particularly in support of the agricultural sector. Recognizing the significant economic potential of cultivating the Pili Nut, the State shall foster its sustainable growth and development through dedicated research, technological innovation, and comprehensive promotion. While existing regional initiatives, such as the Pili Regional Research and Technology Development Center, have contributed to localized efforts, the vast national and global potential of the Pili industry necessitates a dedicated national institution with a comprehensive mandate, consolidated resources, and the capacity to serve as the lead agency. This institutionalization aims to enhance the livelihoods of Pili farmers, contribute to national food security, and ensure economic prosperity.

SECTION 3. *Creation of Pili Research Institute (PilRI).* The Pili Research Institute (PilRI) is hereby created and established as an attached agency to the

Department of Agriculture (DA). PilRI shall serve as the lead agency responsible for conducting comprehensive research, leading the all-out promotion of both small-scale and commercial cultivation of Pili Nut in suitable areas of the country, harnessing technology in cultivating Pili Nut, and ensuring the efficient processing, marketing, and distribution of Pili Nut products.

SECTION 4. *Functions.* PilRI shall have the following functions:

- (a) To conduct agricultural, industrial and economic research for the development of the Pili Industry;
- (b) To acquire, develop and propagate improved plant materials and technology;
- (c) To train professionals, students and Pili farmers on necessary disciplines related to Pili production, utilization and marketing;
- (d) To design and implement, in coordination with institutions of higher learning, local and foreign scholarships and fellowship programs on academic fields that will enhance Pili industry development;
- (e) To organize local regional and international conferences, gathering, for seminars on the current trends and developments of the Pili industry;
- (f) To consolidate all researches from other institutions, as well as to establish, maintain and operate an information and library center;
- (g) To design and implement a farm extension program to effectively transfer modern farm technology to Pili farmers; and
- (h) To publish and disseminate research findings and make appropriate recommendations to interested parties.

SECTION 5. Organizational Structure. The PilRI shall be headed by a Director General, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture. The organizational structure and staffing pattern of PilRI shall be determined by the Director General, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* The initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos

(₱100,000,000.00) necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act immediately following its enactment. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, and expansion of the PilRI shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), are hereby tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *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,