

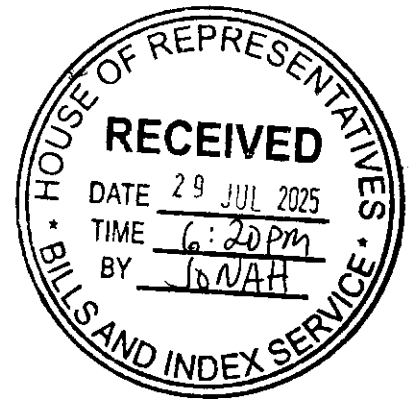


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2548



Introduced by

HON. REPRESENTATIVE LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Mount Anahawon located in Barangay Banlag, City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon as a responsible, community-based ecotourism zone with the goals of developing and promoting the areas into a community-based ecological tourist destination, generating investments, creating livelihood opportunities, and protecting the natural resources within the area.

Part of the city's mountainous eastern portion is the stunning Mt. Anahawon specifically located in Sitio Sumpung, Barangay Banlag. With an elevation of 900 meters above sea level, its landscapes offer breathtaking views that are a perfect site for amateur and experienced hikers. The ridge has an open camping area where one can enjoy a panoramic view of the lush agricultural fields and highlands of the city and unobstructed scene of its lovely evening lights and its adjacent municipalities. A sea of clouds will usually greet you in the early morning with the spectacular vista of the nearby ridges and the majestic mountain ranges of the province, Kitanglad and Kalatungan.


In anticipation of the influx of local and foreign tourists, this bill, when enacted into law, will help secure adequate national support for the local government units (LGUs) to realize its vast potential as an eco-tourism zone that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally

sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for the local community.

Furthermore, the enactment of this bill into law will effectively fast-track the construction and improvement of roads and bridges, and other infrastructure projects necessary to make the area accessible and convenient to all, especially the tourists.

This bill has been previously filed by this representation in the 19th Congress and was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence. However, due to lack of material time it was not enacted into law.

Given the above premises, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON



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AN ACT
DECLARING MOUNT ANAHAWON, LOCATED IN BARANGAY BANLAG,
CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, AN ECOTOURISM
ZONE

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

SECTION 1. Mount Anahawon located in Barangay Banlag, City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon, is hereby declared an ecotourism 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 one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of the City of Valencia 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 and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: Provided, further, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the local government of the City of Valencia. 1

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of Valencia in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Mount Anahawon 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 local government of the City of Valencia. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government of the City of Valencia shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.