

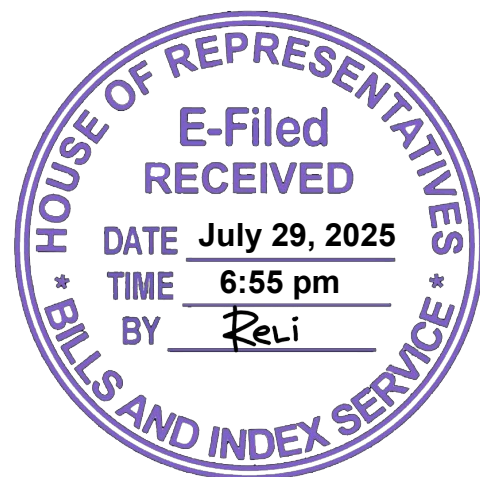
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2577



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ, REP. BRIAN DANIEL POE
LLAMANZARES, REP. RYAN S. RECTO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, situated within the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt, faces one of the most complex and overlapping hazard profiles in the world. On average, the country experiences more than twenty typhoons annually, five of which are destructive, in addition to frequent earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, droughts, and slow-onset climate change effects such as sea level rise and biodiversity loss. According to the World Risk Index 2023, the Philippines ranks as the most at-risk country globally due to the convergence of exposure, vulnerability, and insufficient adaptive capacities.¹

Despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 10121 in 2010, which created the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and advanced the disaster risk reduction paradigm, major institutional gaps persist. Fragmented mandates, weak vertical coordination, limited scientific integration, and persistent underperformance by many local government units (LGUs) continue to undermine national resilience efforts.²

The University of the Philippines Resilience Institute ("UP RI") was created to advance evidence-based strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. However, as a regular unit under the UP System, it lacks direct fiscal support from the national budget and plantilla staffing. This bill seeks to elevate UP RI into a National Institute, similar to the National Institute of Geological Sciences created by Executive Order No. 889 (s. 1983). As a National Institute, it will receive direct appropriations under the General Appropriations Act, establish permanent research positions, and scale its national mandate

¹ Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft & Ruhr University Bochum – Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV). (2023). World Risk Report 2023.

² Asian Development Bank (ADB). (2021). Philippines: Assessment of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Institutional Capacity. ADB Technical Assistance Report.

Establishing the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute ("UP NCRI") addresses institutional gaps by creating a publicly funded, permanent scientific hub to support national and local risk planning.

UP NCRI will be able to function at par with national institutes of strategic importance. Studies have shown that institutionalized, government-supported research centers significantly improve disaster policy outcomes and long-term climate adaptation planning.³

Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize strong coordination mechanisms, enforceable compliance standards, and sustainable funding streams to ensure that disaster risk governance is robust and adaptive to future challenges.

In view of the escalating climate and disaster risks confronting the country, the transformation of UP RI into the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute is both timely and necessary.

Accordingly, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ



HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA



HON. RYAN S. RECTO

³ Altan, O. et al. (March 12, 2015). Disaster Risks Research and assessment to promote risk reduction and management, Archium Ateneo. <https://archium.ateneo.edu/sa-faculty-pubs/51/> (Date last accessed: July 22, 2025).

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE INSTITUTE, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “University of
the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to:

- (a) Uphold the right of all persons to life, safety, and human dignity by ensuring the protection of lives, livelihoods, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and ecosystems before, during, and after disasters;
- (b) Recognize climate resilience as an integral component of national development, environmental sustainability, and human security, and mainstream it into all levels of governance and sectors of society;
- (c) Promote a proactive, anticipatory, and risk-informed approach to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), grounded in scientific evidence, multi-hazard assessments, and inclusive stakeholder engagement;
- (d) Ensure the establishment of a strong institutional foundation through the creation of a permanent national institute with the

requisite authority, capacity, and mandate to oversee, and coordinate resilience programs and policies;

- (e) Institutionalize integrated national and local systems for early warning, emergency operations, recovery planning, data management, and public communication, including the use of digital governance, predictive analytics, and innovative technologies;
- (f) Facilitate sustained investment in resilience-building measures, including but not limited to public budgeting, private sector participation, risk financing instruments, and climate-related investment mechanisms;
- (g) Encourage innovation, localization, and community empowerment through research and development, resilience education, participatory governance, and indigenous and local knowledge systems; *and*
- (h) Monitor and evaluate disaster risk governance outcomes through evidence-based performance metrics, transparency mechanisms, and a robust system of policy feedback, public accountability, and continuous improvement.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute.* – The University of the Philippines Research Institute (“UP RI”) is hereby converted into a national institute to be known as the UP National Climate Resilience Institute (“UP NCRI”).

SEC. 4. *Mandate of the UP NCRI.* – The UP NCRI shall continue the mandate of the UP RI as a proactive hub of benchmark innovative information vital to the nation’s efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It shall empower local communities through multidisciplinary actions toward resilience.

Among others, it shall:

- i. Undertake policy research, action research, and interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research or creative work;
- ii. Disseminate research findings, creative works, and innovations;
- iii. Establish non-degree educational programs and support degree programs;

- iv. Establish and institutionalize a national system for resilience- oriented research, foresight, and knowledge integration to advance science-based, anticipatory, and adaptive resilience governance;
- v. Facilitate collaborative projects with universities, local government units (“LGU”), scientific institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector partners, and shall support the translation of research into actionable policies and local solutions;
- vi. Develop and maintain a centralized and interoperable Resilience Knowledge Platform to serve as a public repository of resilience data, research findings, learning modules, analytics tools, and best practices;
- vii. ensure that resilience-related research outputs, innovations, and knowledge products are converted into practical guidance materials, toolkits, planning aids, and operational templates for use by LGUs, local communities, and institutions; *and*
- viii. Improve the capability of relevant national agencies and offices as an agent of change for climate resilience in the Philippines and the Pacific Rim region.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s available appropriations of UP RI whose functions are herein absorbed, transferred, or realigned to the UP NCRI.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the University of the Philippines, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be developed through a consultative process involving local government units, civil society organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and other stakeholders, as may be applicable.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 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.



HON. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ



HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA



HON. RYAN S. RECTO