

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3376



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**Introduced by Representatives Jose C. Alvarez and Gil  
"Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta**

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**AN ACT**  
**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER TO BE  
KNOWN AS THE WESTERN PHILIPPINES MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Province of Palawan.

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Complementing this, Section 11, Article XIII declares that "*The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.*"

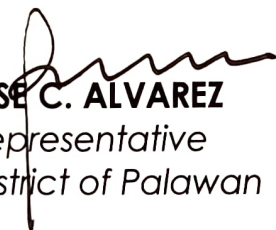
In recent years, Palawan has witnessed a rising prevalence of serious non-communicable and infectious diseases. Data from the 2021 Philippine Statistics Authority highlight that acute myocardial infarction, stroke, pneumonia, respiratory tuberculosis, hypertensive heart disease, intracerebral hemorrhage, diabetes mellitus, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are among the leading causes of mortality in the province.

Currently, the Ospital ng Palawan lacks the capacity to provide specialized care for these complex illnesses. Patients in need of cardiac, pulmonary, renal, or related specialty services must travel to Metro Manila, incurring significant expenses for transportation, lodging, and medical care — an economic and emotional burden that disproportionately affects underprivileged families.


With the enactment of Republic Act 11959 or the Regional Specialty Centers Act which mandates the Department of Health to establish specialty centers in every region, especially in island provinces, it is therefore imperative to establish a Multi-Specialty Medical Center in Palawan to provide timely, affordable, and specialized healthcare for those suffering from heart, lung, kidney, and allied diseases. The proposed Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center will serve as a regional referral hub and will significantly improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

Its establishment will bring to life the constitutional mandate of a responsive and inclusive healthcare system — one that is locally accessible, nationally relevant, and anchored on equity and compassion.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is fervently sought.



**JOSE C. ALVAREZ**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Palawan



**GIL "KABARANGAY JR." A. ACOSTA**  
Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of Palawan

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Western  
2 *Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center Act.*"

3           *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to  
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill  
5 health consciousness among them by making health services  
6 available, accessible, and affordable for all.

7           Towards this end, the State shall adopt an integrated and  
8 comprehensive approach to health development by providing  
9 specialized health services to the general public through the  
10 establishment and institutionalization of a multi-specialty  
11 healthcare center in Palawan.

12           *Sec. 3. Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center.* —  
13 Subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11959, there is hereby  
14 established a Multi-Specialty Medical Center in Palawan to be  
15 known as the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center,  
16 provided that the following specialties shall be prioritized: cancer  
17 care, cardiovascular care, lung care, renal care and kidney  
18 transplant, brain and spine care, trauma care, burn care,  
19 orthopedic care, physical rehabilitation medicine, infectious

1 disease and tropical medicine, toxicology, mental health, geriatric  
2 care, neonatal care, dermatology, eye care, and ear, nose, and  
3 throat care.

4 The DOH shall provide appropriate specialist equipment and  
5 prioritize funding for capital outlay investment through the Health  
6 Facilities Enhancement Program and other fund sources.

7 The establishment of additional Specialty Centers in the  
8 Province of Palawan in separate premises shall not require a  
9 separate license.

10 The DOH, the Professional Regulation Commission, the  
11 Department of Budget and Management, the Civil Service  
12 Commission, the concerned accredited professional organization  
13 and specialty and subspecialty associations, and other relevant  
14 government agencies and stakeholders, shall ensure the  
15 sustainability of the staffing of the Western Philippines Multi-  
16 Specialty Medical Center, subject to evaluation and approval of  
17 the DBM and in accordance with the civil service laws, rules, and  
18 regulations.

19 *Sec. 4. Medical Specialist and Experts.* — The Western  
20 Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center is hereby authorized to  
21 contract the services of medical specialists or experts to provide  
22 specialty training and technical assistance.

23 *Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60)  
24 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with  
25 other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing  
26 rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

27 *Sec. 6. Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial  
28 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current  
29 year's appropriation of the DOH. Thereafter, the DOH shall include  
30 in the Department's program the establishment and  
31 operationalization of the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty  
32 Medical Center, the funding of which shall be included in the  
33 budget of the DOH under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

34 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is  
35 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not  
36 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1           Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees,  
2 executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or  
3 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act, are hereby  
4 repealed or modified accordingly.

5           Sec. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen  
6 (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper  
7 of general circulation.

8           *Approved,*