

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4292



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA N. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitutional mandate on national economy and patrimony stated that: *"The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged"* (Section 1, Article XII).

The town of Naic in the Province of Cavite lies in the shorelines that connect to Manila Bay. The people of Naic, including nearby towns, can be given the opportunity to further increase their incomes with the establishment of an aquaculture center in their town. As such, this representation seeks for the passing of a legislation that will create the Naic Aquaculture Center (NAC).

When passed into law, NAC is envisioned to conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of saltwater and freshwater species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the freshwater and saltwater aquaculture industry, including the protection of the environment.

The creation of NAC will definitely improve the fishing industry, not just in Naic but also in other nearby towns in Cavite. NAC will serve as a catalyst in bringing better lives for Filipinos in Cavite. The Philippines was gifted with natural resources and we should take steps in maximizing this blessing but at the same time ensure that there will be mechanisms to ensure its proper management for sustainability. The creation of NAC envisions a balance in the economic benefits from aquaculture and the need for a system that will ensure sustainability and environment protection.

For the Filipino people, the approval of the bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a few strokes.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 4292

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NAIC AQUACULTURE CENTER,
FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER MULTI-SPECIES HATCHERY
AND RESEARCH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAIC, PROVINCE OF
CAVITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippine Congress Assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This act shall be known as the "*Naic Aquaculture Center (NAC) Act.*"

SECTION 2. Establishment of NAC. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a freshwater and saltwater multispecies hatchery and research center, to be known as the Naic Aquaculture Center (NAC) in the Municipality of Naic, Province of Cavite.

SECTION 3. Goals and Objectives of NAC. The Naic Aquaculture Center and the BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of saltwater and freshwater species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the freshwater and saltwater aquaculture industry, including the protection of the environment.

SECTION 4. NAC Advisory Council. There shall be established a Local Advisory Council that shall provide policy direction for NAC and facilitate the exchange of information among the Center and the stakeholders. The Council shall be composed of the BFAR Director for Region IV-A as Chairperson, the Governor of the Province of Cavite as Co-chairperson, the President of the Municipal Mayors League of Cavite, the Mayor of the Municipality of Naic, and three (3) representatives from the local fisheries sector to be appointed by the Governor as members.

SECTION 5. Promotion of Aquaculture Industry. NAC shall disperse fry and fingerlings in public bodies of water in such intervals as may be recommended by the Local Advisory Council. It may also sell such fry and fingerlings to individual or organized fish farmers at prevailing market prices.

SECTION 6. Transfer of Management. The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of NAC to the local government of the Municipality of Naic within five (5) years after its establishment through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of NAC.

SECTION 7. Funding. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of NAC in the Municipality of Naic, Province of Cavite, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. For the first five (5) years of operation, the Department of Agriculture shall move to appropriate the amount of Two Hundred Million (P200,000,000.00) annually to NAC. The local government of the Municipality of Naic shall also set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of NAC.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the local governments of the Province of Cavite and the Municipality of Naic, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act. Such rules and regulations shall include the breeding, propagation, and distribution of fries and fingerlings, the supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of NAC to the local government of the Municipality of Naic.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect

SECTION 11. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,