

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE BILL NO. 4345**

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**INTRODUCED BY HON. ANNA YORK P. BONDOC, M.D.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Municipality of Sto. Tomas significantly contributes to making our district, the 4<sup>th</sup> District Pampanga, and our Province of Pampanga as the top aquaculture producer in the country. We are number one in tilapia production and a top producer of mud crabs and prawns.

This bill is in support of our thriving aquaculture industry as well as of our government's efforts for food self-sufficiency. This bill seeks to establish a multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Province of Pampanga which shall be under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA). The BFAR-DA shall, consequently, transfer the management of the hatchery facilities to the local government unit and shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

Aquatic hatcheries provide the seed for aquaculture and promote commercial fisheries. It allows the replenishment of fish in these man-made facilities at a rate much faster than nature would allow. It provides for an optimum environment for fish eggs to develop and hatch by maintaining proper water temperature and oxygen levels, as well as providing adequate food supplies and safety from predators.

As such, the establishment of multi-species freshwater hatchery is exponentially pivotal in addressing the deficiency in the supply of fish seedlings to aquaculture sectors. Moreover, the hatcheries would improve the country's fish fry supply and boost the local aquaculture sector.

In the view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**Rep. Anna York P. Bondoc, M.D.**  
4<sup>th</sup> District Pampanga

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER HATCHERY IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF STO. TOMAS, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Province of Pampanga.

**Section 2.** Prior to the establishment of the multi-species freshwater hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction to comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species freshwater hatchery, the BFAR-DA, through a Memorandum of Agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

**Section 3.** The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and productions of freshwater species, especially as these apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

**Section 4.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's Programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Province of Pampanga, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriation Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

**Section 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the multi-species freshwater hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas.

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

Approved.