

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4547**



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*Introduced by Representatives* **FLORENCIO “JOEBEN” T. MIRAFLORES**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital (DRSTMH), located in the Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan, is the premier government referral hospital in Northern Panay. As the only Level II hospital in the province with a licensed bed capacity of three hundred (300) but an actual implementing bed capacity of four hundred twenty (420), it has long been operating beyond its authorized limits. This chronic congestion severely affects patient outcomes, particularly as the hospital serves not only Aklan but also nearby provinces and the tourist influx from Boracay Island.

Recent health system reviews underscore the urgent need to upgrade DRSTMH. The 2025 Program Implementation Review and the Local Investment Plan for Health (LIPH) 2026–2028 both highlighted critical gaps in Aklan’s hospital services. Hypertensive cardiovascular disease, pneumonia, and cancer remain the top causes of mortality, while hypertension, respiratory infections, and diabetes dominate morbidity cases. The management of these conditions requires tertiary-level capacity such as advanced cardiology, oncology, and intensive care services, currently inadequate at Level II.

Equally urgent are maternal and child health concerns. Maternal mortality rose to 63.09 per 100,000 live births in 2024, while infant mortality climbed to 8.20 per 1,000 live births, with pneumonia as the leading cause. These indicators underscore the need for a Level III facility with comprehensive obstetric, neonatal, and pediatric intensive care units.

The burden on facilities and health personnel also persists. The bed-to-population ratio in Aklan stands at 1.4 per 1,000, meeting only the minimum World Health Organization

(WHO) standard. With a growing population of 629,786 by 2025, coupled with the tourist-driven demand for emergency and specialty services, DRSTMH faces critical pressure. The LIPH further cites shortages in doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, particularly in specialized fields.

As the designated provincial hospital and the anchor of the Universal Health Care Health Care Provider Network (HCPN) in Aklan, DRSTMH plays a pivotal role in consolidating referral services across District Health Systems. Its current capacity, however, hampers its ability to fulfill this role effectively.

In view of these realities, this measure seeks to upgrade the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital into a Level III Medical Center under the direct supervision of the Department of Health, with an increased bed capacity from three hundred (300) to six hundred (600) beds. This upgrade shall also entail corresponding improvements in professional health care services, facilities, and workforce complement to align with the requirements of a tertiary referral hospital.

The proposed upgrading is consistent with the Department of Health's 8-Point Action Agenda, the Universal Health Care Law (RA 11223), and the province's LIPH priorities. It will not only decongest DRSTMH but also ensure that Aklanons and residents of neighboring areas have access to specialized, comprehensive, and quality medical care without having to travel to Iloilo or Manila.

Approval of this bill will affirm the State's constitutional mandate to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos, and will significantly strengthen the resilience and responsiveness of Aklan's health system.

  
**HON. FLORENCIO “Joeben” T. MIRAFLORES**  
*Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Aklan*

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**AN ACT**

**UPGRADING THE DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBOKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, INTO A LEVEL III HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. RAFAEL S. TUMBOKON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** The Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital (DRSTMH) in  
2 the Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan, is hereby upgraded into a Level III  
3 hospital to be known as the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Regional Medical Center  
4 (DRSTRMC), where its operation, management, maintenance, and administrative  
5 control shall be transferred from the Provincial Government of Aklan to the  
6 Department of Health (DOH).

7       **SEC 2.** The authorized bed capacity of the DRSTRMC shall be increased from  
8 three hundred (300) to six hundred (600) beds.

9       **SEC 3.** The existing professional healthcare services and facilities of the  
10 DRSTRMC shall also be upgraded to conform with and be commensurate with its  
11 upgrade to a Level III hospital and the increase in bed capacity as provided for in  
12 Sections 1 and 2 hereof.

13       **SEC 4.** The existing workforce of the DRSTRMC, comprising doctors, nurses,  
14 and support personnel, shall be absorbed by the DOH, subject to civil service laws,  
15 rules, and regulations, and the number shall be increased accordingly.

16           The Secretary of Health shall, after consultation with the Medical Center Chief  
17 of the DRSTRMC, and in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management  
18 and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional new  
19 positions to be created.

20           **SEC 5.** The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's  
21 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the  
22 annual General Appropriations Act.

23           **SEC 6.** If any provisions or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the  
24 remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

25           **SEC 7.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations  
26 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

27           **SEC 8.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion  
28 of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*