

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4588



Introduced by
DINAGAT ISLANDS REPRESENTATIVE KAKA BAG-AO
and APEC PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE SERGIO C. DAGOOC

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LEVEL 1 GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, TO
BE KNOWN AS THE DINAGAT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Dinagat Islands, composed of seven municipalities situated off the northeastern coast of Mindanao, faces unique challenges in delivering healthcare services to its residents. Its island geography creates natural barriers to accessing quality and timely medical care, with many constituents from remote municipalities enduring long travel to reach hospital facilities.

At present, the Province of Dinagat Islands has three (3) district hospitals serving more than 120,000 constituents of the island.¹ However, these are all considered as infirmaries in terms of status. Based on DOH report, the leading cause of death in the island is maternal death, which refers to the death from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth that occur during or within a specific timeframe after the pregnancy ends. Citing the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report in 2024, within the Caraga Region, Dinagat Islands had the highest maternal mortality rate, which translates to ninety-seven (97) deaths for every one hundred thousand (100,000) live births. Also, the island province posted the lowest proportion of birth delivered in a health facility within the region.²

Moreover, in 2021, the National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment (NDPBA) conducted by Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) reveals the dire situation of our people in Dinagat Islands when it comes to the fulfillment of their right to health. The study shows that the province is ranked as the 4th highest in terms of vulnerable health status. It further tells us that Dinagat has 951 persons with a disabilities (PWDs) per 100,000 population, which is the highest in the country. Maternal mortality rate is also elevated (201 deaths per 100,000 live births). Also, their findings alarmingly disclose that the health care capacity in Dinagat Islands is ranked 72nd out of the 84 territories in the Philippines. Thus, major investments and improvements are surely needed in the island province in order to meet the current health care needs of the population.³

¹ "2024 Census of Population and Housing – Region XIII" (PSA, 2024), psa.gov.ph/statistics/population-and-housing/stat-tables
² "Women & Men in Caraga – Statistical Handbook (Sixth Edition)" (Philippine Statistics Authority – Regional Statistics Services Office XIII, 2024), rssocaraga.psa.gov.ph/system/files/publication/2024WAM_Caraga.pdf
³ "The Philippines: Dinagat Islands – NDPBA Province Profile" (Pacific Disaster Center, 2021), dev.pdc.org/wp-content/uploads/Dinagat-Islands.pdf

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a Level 1 general hospital in the Province of Dinagat Islands under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). The proposed hospital, with a capacity of one hundred (100) beds, will complement and help decongest the existing district hospitals, while expanding access to essential medical, surgical, pediatric, and obstetric-gynecologic services. It will also be equipped with emergency, laboratory, imaging, pharmacy, and isolation facilities, in accordance with the requirements of Republic Act No. 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act, as well as Administrative Order No. 2012-0012 of the DOH.

This facility will ultimately strengthen the local health system, provide easier access to quality health services, and reduce the number of patients forced to seek care outside the province. This measure is in consonance with Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution, which declares that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” as well as Article XIII, Sections 11, which mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, ensure access to essential goods and health services, and prioritize the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children, while endeavoring to guarantee free medical care.

The funding for the Dinagat Islands Provincial Hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, ensuring sustainable operations and the appointment of competent medical and administrative personnel.

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


REP. KAKA J. BAG-AO
Lone District of Dinagat Islands


REP. SERGIO C. DAGOOC
APEC Pary-List

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4583

Introduced by
DINAGAT ISLANDS REPRESENTATIVE KAKA BAG-AO
and APEC PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE SERGIO C. DAGOOC

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LEVEL 1 GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, TO
BE KNOWN AS THE DINAGAT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Dinagat Islands Provincial Hospital Act."
2

3 **SEC. 2. *Establishment of the Dinagat Islands Provincial Hospital.*** – There shall be established in
4 the Province of Dinagat Islands a Level 1 general hospital, with a capacity of one hundred (100)
5 beds, to be known as the Dinagat Islands Provincial Hospital, which shall be under the direct
6 control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). Any future increase in bed capacity
7 shall be consistent with the hospital development plan.
8

9 **Sec. 3. *Funding.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program
10 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriations Act (GAA).
12

13 **Sec. 4. *Personnel and Operational Assurance.*** – Before the construction of the hospital, the
14 Secretary of Health shall issue a written assurance that personnel of the hospital will be appointed
15 and that funds for its maintenance and operation have been duly appropriated.
16

17 **Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Health and/or their duly
18 authorized representative shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively
19 carry out the provisions of this Act.
20

21 **Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other
22 parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.
23

24 **Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof
25 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
26

27 **Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation. For purposes of

1 transparency and wider accessibility and in accordance with the constitutionally guaranteed right
2 of the people to information on matters of public concern, this Act may also be published
3 electronically on the official websites of the DOH, its regional office, and the local government
4 units of Dinagat Islands.

Approved.