



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4813



INTRODUCED BY: HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The island of Samar, nestled in the heart of the Philippines, is a treasure trove of cultural heritage that reflects the diverse history and traditions of its people. With a rich tapestry woven from pre-colonial customs, Spanish influences, and American-era developments, Samar stands as a testament to the resilience and creativity of its inhabitants. This vibrant cultural landscape not only showcases the island's historical significance but also offers a glimpse into the everyday lives and practices of the Samareños. From lively festivals that celebrate the island's history to intricate indigenous crafts that highlight the artistic prowess of local artisans, the cultural expressions in Samar are a vital part of its identity.¹

This legislative measure seeks to establish and integrate a Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Program in all public schools in Samar Island. Moreover, through this program, not only will it recognize and preserve Samar's history, culture and traditions but also foster a sense of pride and identity among the youth.

Foregoing considered; the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN
Representative, Second District of Samar

¹ The Cultural Heritage of Samar in the Philippines. MexicoHistorico.
<https://www.mexicohistorico.com/paginas/the-cultural-heritage-of-samar-in-the-philippines-dfc14cea.html> (Last Accessed September 8, 2025)



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING SAMAR CULTURAL AND HERITAGE PROGRAM, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Act.”

SECTION 2. Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Program. A Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Program shall be created and integrated across all public schools in Samar which aims to recognize local Samar history, culture, and traditions in the school curriculum to foster a sense of pride and identity among the youth.

SECTION 3. Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Working Group. A working group shall be formed to develop the Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Program, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary, or representatives assigned by the secretary;
- b. National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) Secretary, or representatives assigned by the secretary;
- c. Representatives from civil society organizations;
- d. Representatives from indigenous peoples’ organizations; and,
- e. Representatives from other relevant institutions.

SECTION 4. Objectives of the Samar Cultural and Heritage Education Working Group. The objectives of the working groups shall include the following:

- a. Conduct primary and other research and document Samar history, culture and traditions;
- b. Determine and establish the criteria and mechanics to identify and select subjects to be integrated into the school curriculum;
- c. Develop an implementation plan in launching the program in the schools;
- d. Identify and coordinate synergies among government, educational and private institutions for the promotion of the program; and

- e. Perform such other acts in connection with the foregoing objectives.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, DepEd, in consultation with the NCCA, shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, all other remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain effective.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended, accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,