

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4988



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte. This initiative aims to address the declining supply of fish and other marine products, while simultaneously promoting economic development and poverty alleviation in the region.

Hinunangan has long been recognized for its abundant marine resources, which have historically sustained the local population's food requirements. However, in recent years, the municipality's fisheries sector has faced significant challenges. The adverse effects of climate change—including the destruction of fishing equipment and the degradation of mangrove ecosystems, which serve as critical nursery grounds for commercially important fish species—have threatened the sustainability of local fisheries. Additionally, shifting economic structures, increased employment opportunities outside the province, and greater access to higher education have contributed to changes in the local labor force, further impacting the fisheries sector.

The maintenance of a sustainable and reliable supply of fisheries is essential to the integrity of the local economy and the livelihood of Hinunangan's residents. Without intervention, the pressure on local fish stocks will intensify, not only from within the municipality but also from neighboring areas, especially if alternative livelihood sources are not developed or measures to augment fish supply are not implemented.

Fish hatchery technology, which has been successfully adopted in various countries, remains underutilized in the Philippines due to the high cost of establishment. Government investment is therefore necessary to promote the adoption of this technology, enabling fisherfolk to increase their catch and fish operators to enhance

their yield. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has consistently advocated for the establishment of fish hatcheries in every province, recognizing their vital role in ensuring food security and supporting the fisheries sector.

The creation of the Hinunangan Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery under this measure will reduce dependence on imported fry in the Second District of Southern Leyte by producing high-quality eggs of various marketable marine species. These will be distributed to satellite hatcheries for further hatching and larval rearing. In turn, this will stimulate economic activity, provide sustainable livelihood opportunities, and contribute to food security in a district still recovering from the devastation wrought by Typhoon Odette.

In view of the foregoing, and in the spirit of SERBISYONG TINUORAY (genuine public service), the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Hinunangan Satellite Multi-Species Marine Hatchery Act."

SECTION 2. Establishment of a Multi-Species Marine Hatchery. — There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte, to be known as the "Hinunangan Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery."

SECTION 3. Feasibility Study. — Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction, in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

SECTION 4. Transfer of Management. — Within two (2) years after the completion of the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Hinunangan. The DA-BFAR shall implement a training and

phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery, in collaboration with the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), commencing as early as the start of operations.

SECTION 5. Continuing Technical Assistance and Research. — Notwithstanding the transfer of management, the DA-BFAR, together with SLSU, shall continue to provide technical assistance and collaborate with the local government in undertaking research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species as they apply to local conditions, the establishment of satellite hatcheries, and the introduction of innovative techniques to support small-scale fishers and hatchery operators, to ensure the sustainable growth of the fishing industry in Southern Leyte.

SECTION 6. Funding. — The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations 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 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations for the establishment, management, operation, supervision, monitoring, and transfer of the multi-species marine hatchery, including the exit of DA-BFAR personnel from the facility.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,