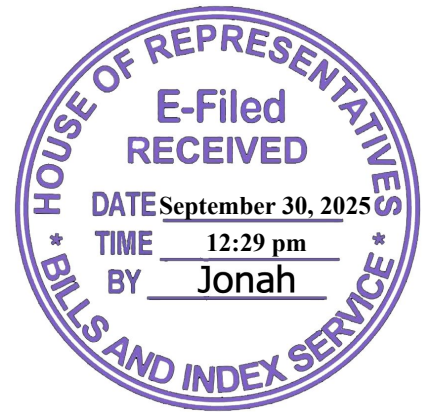


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4991



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Libagon, Province of Southern Leyte, is a coastal community with a population of over fifteen thousand (15,000) residents, according to the latest census by the Philippine Statistics Authority. The majority of its inhabitants rely on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihood.

In December 2021, Typhoon Odette (Rai) struck Libagon and its neighboring municipalities, causing widespread devastation to lives, property, and sources of income. The effects of this calamity continue to be felt, with many families still struggling to recover and restore their means of subsistence.

This bill seeks to accelerate the economic recovery of Libagon and the surrounding towns of Sogod and Liloan by establishing a satellite multi-species marine hatchery under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR). The primary objectives are to revitalize the local fisheries sector, enhance food security, and contribute to poverty alleviation in the Second District of Southern Leyte.

Fish hatchery technology has been globally recognized for its vital role in ensuring food security and supporting economic development. However, its adoption in the Philippines has been limited, primarily due to the high cost of establishment and operation. Recent legislative measures, such as RA 12107 (2024), RA 12109 (2024), and RA 12111 (2024), have underscored the importance of government investment in hatchery infrastructure, particularly in areas recovering from natural disasters and facing persistent challenges in fisheries production.

The establishment of a satellite hatchery in Libagon is intended not only to serve its residents but also to benefit the adjacent municipalities of Sogod and Liloan, which were similarly affected by Typhoon Odette. By expanding government support for hatchery development in these areas, this measure aims to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities, increase fish production, and promote long-term food sustainability in Southern Leyte.

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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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 4991

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LIBAGON, 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 "Libagon Satellite Multi-Species Marine Hatchery Act."

SECTION 2. Establishment of the Hatchery. — There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), a satellite multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Libagon, Province of Southern Leyte.

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

SECTION 4. Transfer of Management and Capacity Building. — Within three (3) years from the commencement of operations, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer the management of the satellite multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Libagon. In preparation for the transfer, the DA-BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery, commencing as early as the start of operations.

SECTION 5. Funding and Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the establishment and initial operation of the satellite multi-species marine hatchery shall be sourced from the savings of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the hatchery shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government of the Municipality of Libagon shall allocate funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operation of the hatchery.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the establishment, management, operation, supervision, monitoring, and transfer of the hatchery, including the exit of DA-BFAR personnel from the facility.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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,