

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4999

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
CREATING THE AKLAN PIÑA CONSERVATION AND INNOVATION CENTER
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, AKLAN, DEFINING ITS PURPOSES,
AND PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMS,
AND FUNDING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Weaving has long been part of the cultural identity of Filipinos. For many communities, textiles are more than everyday materials — they are symbols of heritage, social standing, and even spiritual traditions, such as offerings for healing, good harvests, or protection.

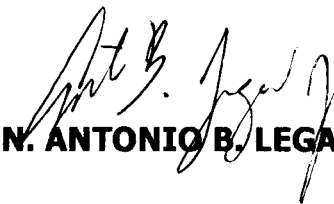
Among the country's weaving traditions, piña weaving holds a special place. Known as the "Mother of Philippine Textiles" and the "Queen of Philippine Handwoven Fabrics," piña is admired for its fine texture and natural luster. This craft uses fibers from the inner leaves of the Red Spanish pineapple, locally called *Pinya Bisaya*. Although the plant was introduced during the Spanish galleon trade in the 16th century, it was in Aklan, Western Visayas where communities first cultivated it for weaving, beginning as early as the 1570s.

On December 6, 2023, the piña handloom weaving tradition of Aklan was inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, a recognition that highlights both its cultural importance and the creativity of Filipino artisans.

Beyond culture and history, piña weaving also supports local livelihoods and contributes to the country's economy. The Philippine textile and garments industry exported around USD 186.9 million worth of products in 2021, with high-value items like piña fabrics seen as a growing part of this sector.

This bill proposes the establishment of the Aklan Piña Museum and Cultural Center in Kalibo, Aklan. The Center will preserve the history of this tradition, provide training and research opportunities, and promote product development and cultural appreciation. In doing so, it will help ensure that this centuries-old heritage continues to thrive while also strengthening its role in local and national development.

In view of these reasons, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought. This bill also serves as the counterpart measure to that filed in the Senate by Senator Loren Legarda.



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Aklan Piña Conservation
2 and Innovation Act.”

3 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and
5 resources, as well as artistic creations. Towards this end, measures that ensure the
6 achievement of this stated policy shall be pursued.

7 Section 3. *Creation of the Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation Center (the*
8 *"Center").* – There is hereby created the Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation
9 Center, an institutional mechanism for the safeguarding, promotion, research,
10 innovation, and transmission of Aklan piña weaving. The Center shall be
11 administratively based in the Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan, and shall
12 operate under the oversight of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts
13 (NCCA), in close coordination with relevant stakeholders, including the Provincial
14 Government of Aklan, the Municipal Government of Kalibo, academic institutions, and

1 weaving communities. The establishment of the Center shall not require the
2 construction of a new building. It shall utilize and strengthen existing facilities,
3 resources, and networks provided by the local governments, regional line agencies,
4 academic institutions or weaving communities.

5 Section 4. *Functions.* - The Center shall perform the following functions:

6 a. Undertake cultural mapping, oral history collection, and digital archiving of
7 Aklan piña weaving traditions in partnership with the NCCA and local governments;

8 b. Support farmers in cultivating the Red Spanish pineapple, in collaboration
9 with the Department of Agriculture (DA), including the distribution of planting
10 materials, tools, and training in sustainable agriculture;

11 c. Develop programs to ensure the transmission of weaving knowledge,
12 including Schools of Living Traditions and mentorship initiatives, and coordinate with
13 the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
14 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to integrate piña
15 weaving and textile heritage into appropriate educational programs, modules, and
16 research initiatives;

17 d. Collaborate with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as well
18 as with universities and design institutions, to advance research on textile fibers,
19 promote sustainable technologies, support product standardization, and expand piña
20 product applications;

21 e. Work with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to strengthen the
22 market positioning, branding, competitiveness, and value chain integration of piña
23 textiles, including support for product development and participation in local and
24 international trade platforms;

25 f. Partner with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Local Government Units
26 (LGUs) to integrate piña weaving into cultural tourism programs, festivals, and
27 heritage routes;

28 g. Coordinate with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL)
29 to assist weavers and cooperatives in securing appropriate intellectual property

1 protection, including designs, trademarks, and potential geographical indications, with
2 due regard to the rights of communities and culture-bearers; and

3 h. Perform other functions necessary for the achievement of the intent and
4 purposes of this Act.

5 Section 5. *Governance and Administration.* The Center shall be governed by a
6 Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," composed of:

7 a) National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) – Chairperson;

8 b) National Museum of the Philippines;

9 c) Provincial Government of Aklan;

10 d) Municipal Government of Kalibo;

11 e) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);

12 f) Department of Agriculture (DA);

13 g) Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research
14 Institute (PTRI);

15 h) Department of Tourism (DOT);

16 i) Department of Education (DepEd);

17 j) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

18 k) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);

19 l) Academe and research institutions, as designated; and

20 m) Representatives of recognized piña weavers' associations or cooperatives,
21 who shall constitute at least two (2) seats in the Council.

22 The Council shall formulate the policies, programs, and priorities of the Center,
23 ensuring inter-agency coordination, community participation, and cultural sensitivity.

24 Section 6. *Funding.* The initial funding necessary to implement the provisions
25 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the NCCA. Thereafter,

1 such amounts as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall
2 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

3 Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from
4 the effectivity of this Act, the NCCA, in coordination with all the concerned agencies
5 of the government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
6 effective implementation of this Act.

7 Section 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared
8 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force
9 and effect.

10 Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
11 rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
12 or modified accordingly.

13 Section 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,