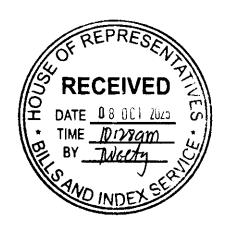


Republic of the Philippines **House of Representatives**Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5284



Introduced by HON. USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO of the Lone District of Basilan

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare Malamawi Island in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, an ecotourism zone.

Malamawi Island is a small island in the Province of Basilan, with a long stretch of white sandy beach on its northern coast. It is one kilometer away from the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan. The island has an exotic appeal, idyllic natural beauty and serenity, and is home to indigenous communities with unique and colorful cultural heritage. Because of its crystal blue waters, refined white sand, breathtaking sceneries, and wonderful people, Malamawi Island has drawn tourists and visitors making this part of Basilan a jewel of its tourism industry.

Cognizant of its importance to the overall development of Isabela City and Basilan Province as a whole, the local government unit has poured programs and projects to the island and its communities to bolster its capacity to accommodate visitors and improve the lives of its people, and enrich visitor and tourist experience.

Most importantly, beyond drawing more guests and visitors, the move to declare Malamawi Island an eco-tourism zone will elevate the promotion and implementation of a sustainable tourism industry, one that will benefit not only foster economic development, but also the development and protection of its cultural and environmental significance.

This bill was originally filed in the House of Representatives during the Nineteenth Congress and was subsequently approved on Third Reading on February 23, 2023.

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

**USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO** 

Representative Lone District of Basilan



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HOUSE BILL NO. <u>**5284**</u>

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## AN ACT

## DECLARING THE MALAMAWI ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

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

**SECTION 1.** The Malamawi Island in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing 4 the development of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of the City of Isabela, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: Provided, further, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the local government of the City of Isabela.

1	SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of Isabela in the
2	implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism
3	capacity building. It shall also include the Malamawi Island in its national and regional
4	promotion programs.
5	SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
6	budget of the local government of the City of Isabela. The DOT may augment such allocation
7	with internally-generated funds.
8	SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government of
9	the City of Isabela shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the
10	government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.
11	SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the
12	other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
13	SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances
14	inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended
15	accordingly.
16	SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official

Approved,

Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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