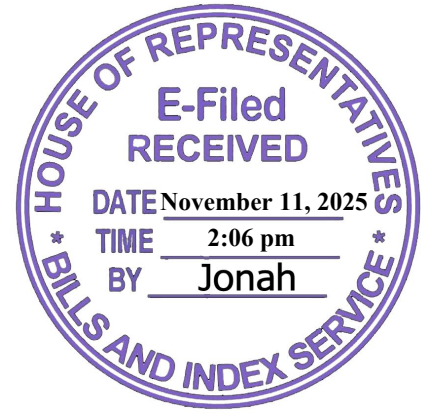


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5835



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bamboo is proof that greatness can grow from humility. It bends but does not break. It thrives where others wither. It is, in every sense, the living metaphor of Filipino resilience and endurance. For all its strength and abundance, however, the Philippine bamboo industry remains a neglected pillar of national development.

Fast-growing, resilient, and remarkably versatile, bamboo is quietly becoming a global industrial staple. The international trade in bamboo and rattan commodities reached US \$4.12 billion in 2022.¹ The broader global bamboo market, valued at US \$67.13 billion in 2024, is projected to soar to US \$88.44 billion by 2030, growing at nearly five percent annually.²

Here in the Philippines, the potential is also abundant. The Philippine Statistics Authority reported nearly 80% surge in net sales in the wood, bamboo, cane, and rattan manufacturing segment in March 2021.³ The country is home to more than 60 bamboo species⁴, and about 20 of them are endemic.⁵

But growth does not simply sprout by planting poles and hoping for yield. The local bamboo value chain remains stunted by fragmented institutional mandates, weak research and development linkages, inconsistent incentive frameworks, and the absence of a unified national strategy, leaving the industry to grow in wild clusters, rather than in a coherent, cultivated direction.

The proposed *Kawayan Para sa Bayan* Act seeks to address these gaps and to tap the underrealized potentials of the bamboo industry through three strategic pillars.

¹ INBAR, *Trade Overview 2022: Bamboo and Rattan Commodities in the International Market*, INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN ORGANIZATION, 2023, available at <https://www.inbar.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Trade-Overview-2022-Bamboo-and-Rattan-Commodities-in-the-International-Market-EN.pdf>

² *Bamboos Market (2025-2030)*, GRAND VIEW RESEARCH, 2023, available at <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/bamboos-market>

³ PSA, *Production Index and Net Sales Index (Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries) March 2021 (2018=100)*, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, 2021, (Reference number: 2021-186).

⁴ DA, *Bamboo Technoguide*, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – REGIONAL OFFICE 5, 2021, available at <https://bicol.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Bamboo-technoguide-2021.pdf>

⁵ *Bamboo in the Philippines: Indigenous Abundance*, BAMBU BATU, 2021/2024, available at <https://bambubatu.com/bamboo-in-the-philippines/>

First, it institutionalizes the Kawayan Para sa Bayan Initiative (KABAYANI), a five-year national blueprint that provides clear and continuing policy direction for bamboo propagation, processing, innovation, and market expansion.

Second, it empowers the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) as a genuine governance and coordination authority capable of harmonizing national and local initiatives, ensuring private sector participation, and driving data-informed decision-making.

Third, it establishes the Bamboo Research and Innovation Center (BRIC) to anchor technical excellence, accelerate science-based innovation, and ensure that research and policy take firm root in the bamboo sector as a foundation for sustainable growth.

The measure also provides rational and targeted incentives for investors, promotes the use of bamboo in environmental rehabilitation programs, and integrates bamboo utilization into government facilities.

Bamboo is not merely a humble grass; it is a strategic national resource that bridges rural livelihood, environmental stewardship, and industrial modernization. Through this legislative proposal, we bend our policies toward resilience, self-reliance, and sustainability to ensure that the growth of this humble woody grass mirrors the growth of the country itself.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly sought so that, together, we may plant not only shoots, but the very roots of a *Kawayan Para sa Bayan* future: a Philippines that grows strong, stands tall, and never breaks.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5835

Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” A. CRUZ**

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION, AND
GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY
THROUGH THE KAWAYAN PARA SA BAYAN INITIATIVE, STRENGTHENING
THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
ESTABLISHING THE BAMBOO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER,
PROVIDING SUPPORT MECHANISMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Kawayan Para sa Bayan*
2 *Act.*”
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote the sustainable and inclusive development of the bamboo industry as a driver of
6 rural employment, poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and climate change
7 mitigation. Consistent with Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall
8 pursue industrialization based on sound agricultural development, comprehensive rural
9 advancement, and ecological balance.
10

11 The State recognizes the strategic importance of bamboo as a sturdy, versatile, and
12 renewable resource that supports environmental sustainability, climate mitigation, and
13 economic productivity.
14

15 Accordingly, the State shall:

- 16 (a) Institutionalize the *Kawayan Para sa Bayan* Initiative (KABAYANI) as the
17 national framework for bamboo industry development, encompassing
18 plantation establishment, processing, innovation, and market promotion;
19 (b) Strengthen the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) to
20 provide policy direction, coordination, and oversight in the implementation of
21 bamboo industry programs;

- 1 (c) Promote research, innovation, and capacity building through the Bamboo
2 Research and Innovation Center (BRIC) to enhance productivity,
3 competitiveness, and technological advancement;
4 (d) Encourage the participation of local government units, indigenous peoples,
5 community-based organizations, and the private sector in sustainable bamboo
6 enterprise development;
7 (e) Facilitate access to credit, insurance, and investment incentives for bamboo
8 enterprises; and
9 (f) Ensure the integration of bamboo in environmental rehabilitation,
10 infrastructure, and public procurement programs to promote sustainable use
11 of local materials.
12

13 Through these measures, the State commits to build a globally competitive,
14 climate-resilient, and innovation-driven bamboo industry that contributes to rural
15 transformation and national economic growth.
16

17 **Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:
18

- 19 (a) *Bamboo* refers to any species within the subfamily *Bambusoideae* of the family
20 *Poaceae*, defined as a tropical, subtropical, or temperate fast-growing grass with
21 lignocellulosic matrix, usually having hollow culms, recognized by the relevant
22 government agencies as a suitable material for a bamboo structure or the built
23 environment;
24
25 (b) *Bamboo Industry* refers to the industry associated with the planting and
26 cultivation of bamboo for sustainable raw materials and bamboo-based
27 products, including, but not limited to handicrafts, bamboo shoots, bamboo
28 utilized for construction purposes, bamboo for industrial production involving
29 mechanized processing of larger volumes of culms, such as for flowing,
30 laminated furniture, chopsticks, mat boards, charcoal, paper and pulp,
31 biomass, pellets, textiles, and unprocessed bamboo culms utilized in
32 applications such as scaffolding and traditional construction;
33
34 (c) *Bamboo Processing* refers to the process of conversion of bamboo for various
35 products and applications; and
36
37 (d) *Bamboo Natural Stands* refer to sporadically distributed and existing clumps
38 with different bamboo species occurring in a given area.
39

40 **Section 4. *Kawayan Para sa Bayan Initiative (KABAYANI).*** – There shall be a
41 five-year *Kawayan Para sa Bayan Initiative (KABAYANI)*, which sets forth a comprehensive
42 national strategy for the development of the Philippine bamboo industry and provides
43 specific programs and projects, including the timeline for the propagation, development
44 and management, processing, utilization, business development, and commercialization

of the Philippine bamboo and bamboo products. KABAYANI shall supported by an annual work and financial plan, subject to regular review and updating by the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC).

KABAYANI shall aim to make the Philippine bamboo industry competitive in the local and global markets and provide opportunities for local employment and the establishment of bamboo-based community enterprises. It shall be guided by the following objectives:

- (a) To ensure a sufficient supply of quality raw materials for domestic and export industries through the establishment and management of bamboo nurseries and plantations;
- (b) To promote continuous research development of relevant technologies and new products;
- (c) To develop competitive bamboo enterprises and community-based industries, and support bamboo-based communities toward poverty alleviation and livelihood generation;
- (d) To integrate environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and reforestation efforts through bamboo utilization;
- (e) To establish a policy and investment environment conducive to industry growth;
- (f) To promote innovation and international competitiveness of Philippine bamboo products;
- (g) To provide pertinent and accurate industry data for business decision-making;
- (h) To encourage investment in the bamboo industry by granting incentives and facilitating bamboo plantation and processing operations;
- (i) To strengthen skilled labor and manpower through continuous training and capacity building in bamboo plantation operations, bamboo processing, and product development and design;
- (j) To facilitate the provision of locally manufactured machinery of improved capacity and quality at competitive costs;
- (k) To develop domestic and international markets for bamboo products; and
- (l) To ensure the sustainability of resources supporting the bamboo industry.

KABAYANI shall be undertaken through the cooperation of stakeholders, including producers of raw materials, processors, marketing and promotion service providers, and concerned national agencies and local government units (LGUs).

Section 5. *Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC).* – The PBIDC, created under Executive Order No. 879 (s. 2010), is hereby reconstituted to provide overall policy direction, planning, and coordination of various agencies and stakeholders to ensure the implementation of this Act.

The PBIDC shall be administratively attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the DTI, as Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
- (e) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (f) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- (g) Executive Director of the Bamboo Research and Innovation Center (BRIC), created under Section 7 of this Act;
- (h) Chairperson of the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- (i) Three representatives from the private sector and non-government organizations (NGOs) engaged in the bamboo industry, at least one (1) of whom shall come from a recognized bamboo farmers' association. They shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed once. The DTI Secretary shall appoint them from a list of at least six (6) nominees submitted by different organizations and associations.

The PBIDC shall meet quarterly and may hold special meetings whenever the need arises to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairperson or any of the Council members: *Provided*, That each Council member may designate a representative whose rank shall not be lower than an Assistant Secretary or its equivalent.

Section 6. Powers and Functions of the PBIDC. – The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate, publish, and periodically update the KABAYANI;
- (b) Coordinate the roles and contributions of concerned national agencies, LGUs, and private stakeholders;
- (c) Lead the creation and maintenance of a national bamboo information system covering plantations, production, labor, and market data;
- (d) Identify sources of financing and credit windows with government financial institutions;
- (e) Promote bamboo processing facilities, agri-tourism initiatives, and mechanization programs;
- (f) Institutionalize training, business mentoring, and entrepreneurship programs across agencies;
- (g) Facilitate insurance, marketing, and export support for the bamboo industry;
- (h) Coordinate with state universities and colleges (SUCs), research institutes, and NGOs for technical assistance;
- (i) Accept grants, donations, and other assistance consistent with government accounting rules;
- (j) Recommend budgetary requirements to the DBM under convergence budgeting principles; and

1 (k) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out this Act.

2
3 **Section 7. *Bamboo Research and Innovation Center (BRIC).*** – The BRIC is hereby
4 created to serve as the technical, scientific, and administrative arm of the PBIDC.

5
6 The BRIC shall be responsible for research, innovation, policy support, and
7 implementation coordination for the advancement of the Philippine bamboo industry. It
8 shall have divisions for research and development, technology innovation, trade
9 promotion, capacity building, and administration.

10
11 The BRIC shall:

- 12 (a) Conduct research and innovation in partnership with the DOST, SUCs, and the
13 private sector to advance sustainable bamboo industry practices;
14 (b) Support the implementation and monitoring of KABAYANI;
15 (c) Provide technical and policy support to LGUs and community enterprises
16 engaged in the bamboo industry;
17 (d) Promote the establishment, management, and operation of bamboo nurseries,
18 plantations, and processing facilities to accelerate production, utilization, and
19 commercialization;
20 (e) Promote the commercialization and market access of innovative and viable
21 bamboo-based technologies and products, both locally and internationally;
22 (f) Conduct and institutionalize capability-building programs for bamboo
23 farmers, processors, designers, and other industry stakeholders;
24 (g) Coordinate and partner with government agencies, the private sector, the
25 academe, and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of
26 bamboo industry programs and projects;
27 (h) Monitor and evaluate the performance of bamboo development programs,
28 projects, and investments, and recommend appropriate policy and operational
29 adjustments;
30 (i) Accept and manage grants, donations, and contributions from local and
31 international sources, subject to existing government budget, accounting, and
32 auditing rules and regulations;
33 (j) Manage and administer projects and activities identified and approved by the
34 PBIDC;
35 (k) Undertake a periodic review of KABAYANI in cooperation with appropriate
36 government agencies and submit policy recommendations to the PBIDC; and
37 (l) Submit regular reports to the PBIDC on the progress, outcomes, and
38 accomplishments of bamboo industry programs and projects.

39
40 The organizational structure, staffing pattern and compensation schedule of the
41 BRIC shall be prepared in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Other
42 member agencies of the PBIDC shall provide additional administrative and technical staff
43 support to the BRIC upon the determination by the PBIDC of the necessity for such
44 augmentation.

1
2 **Section 8. Executive Director.** – The BRIC shall be headed by an Executive Director
3 who shall be appointed by the PBIDC upon a vote of a simple majority of all its members
4 and shall have a fixed term of six (6) years and may be reappointed, subject to the approval
5 of the PBIDC. The appointee shall be a citizen and resident of the Philippines and must
6 possess at least five (5) years of executive and management experience, and demonstrated
7 competence in research, innovation, management, and industry development.
8

9 The Executive Director shall:

- 10 (a) Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center;
11 (b) Provide technical and administrative support to the PBIDC;
12 (c) Assist the PBIDC in the performance of its tasks; and
13 (d) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be necessary
14 to implement this Act.
15

16 **Section 9. Role of Local Government Units.** – LGUs shall support the bamboo
17 industry and participate in the implementation of the KABAYANI. LGUs that are
18 engaged in or have the potential to engage in bamboo-based industries shall establish
19 Local Bamboo Industry Development Councils and incorporate bamboo programs in
20 their development plans.
21

22 The DILG, in coordination with the DTI, shall provide technical and financial
23 assistance to capacitate LGUs in bamboo enterprise promotion, nursery establishment,
24 and processing operations.
25

26 **Section 10. Use of Bamboo in Environmental Rehabilitation, Conservation, and**
27 **Protection Programs of the National Government.** – The DENR shall use bamboo as the
28 planting material for at least twenty-five percent (25%) of its annual reforestation and
29 rehabilitation programs in localities that are engaged in or have the potential to engage in
30 bamboo-based industries, or where trees are difficult to grow because of poor site quality,
31 susceptibility to erosion or adverse and steep gradients. The Mines and Geosciences
32 Bureau (MGB) shall likewise encourage mining contractors and permit holders to plant
33 bamboo outside the disturbed areas mining sites, subject to pertinent rules and conditions
34 as determined by relevant agencies.
35

36 **Section 11. Promotion of Bamboo Products in Domestic and International**
37 **Markets.** – The DTI, the DOT, and their attached agencies mandated to promote domestic
38 products, shall be directed to conduct marketing and trade campaigns of bamboo and
39 bamboo products through domestic and international expositions, fairs and exhibits.
40

41 The DTI shall likewise be mandated to scale up domestic investment promotion
42 by hosting business-marching activities through its existing micro, small and medium
43 enterprises program, to prioritize the access of its shared services facilities, and to provide
44 marketing assistance through its One Town One Product (OTOP) and other shows and

concept stores for the bamboo industry.

Section 11. *Research, Development and Innovation for the Bamboo Industry.* – The DOST, in coordination with other government and private research institutions shall conduct research and development on bamboo, innovate to develop more marketable bamboo-based products for both domestic and international consumers, and advance sustainable bamboo industry development practices.

Section 12. *Use of Bamboo in Government Facilities.* – Government agencies shall prioritize bamboo materials in the construction and furnishing of public facilities where feasible.

Section 13. *Incentives for Bamboo in Plantation Development.* – To promote sustainable bamboo industry growth and investment, the following fiscal and non-fiscal incentives shall be made available to qualified entities, subject to applicable laws and regulations:

- (a) *Inclusion under the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP).* The Board of Investments (BOI) shall classify bamboo plantation development, production, processing, and other value-adding activities as preferred areas of investment under its Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP), consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 11534, otherwise known as the CREATE Act, and its implementing rules and regulations.
- (b) *Tenurial Incentives on Public Lands.* Holders of valid tenurial instruments for bamboo plantations on public lands shall be exempt from the payment of rent for the use of such lands for a period of five (5) years from the date of first harvest, subject to existing tenurial agreements and the regulations of the DENR.
- (c) *Forest Charge Exemption.* Registered bamboo plantations in public lands shall be exempt from the payment of forest charges imposed by the national government pursuant to existing forestry laws, subject to certification by the DENR.
- (d) *Cutting Permit and Transport Permit Exemption.* Private plantations shall be exempt from the requirement to secure a cutting permit for the harvesting of bamboo and a transport permit: *Provided, That* the plantation is duly registered with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO): *Provided, further, That* it shall notify the CENRO prior to harvest, indicating the date and estimated volume. All CENROs shall approve and enter into a registry, the names of private bamboo plantation investors.
- (e) *Access to Credit and Financing.* Qualified bamboo plantation developers and

processors shall be granted priority access to development loans, credit assistance, and guarantee schemes provided by government-owned or -supported financial institutions.

(f) *Loan Collateral Recognition.* The produce and improvements of registered bamboo plantations may be accepted as collateral for loans in government banks, subject to their respective credit policies and valuation guidelines.

(g) *Insurance Coverage.* Bamboo plantations and related development equipment shall be eligible for insurance coverage under the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, pursuant to its charter and implementing regulations.

(h) *Compensation for Tenured Developers.* In cases of premature termination of tenurial agreements not due to the fault of the tenure-holder, all capital improvements, including roads, buildings, nurseries, planted and standing bamboo, and other intercrops introduced in the area shall be properly evaluated. The holder shall be entitled to fair and just compensation, to be mutually agreed upon by the DENR and the tenure-holder, and, in case of disagreement, submitted to arbitration by a mutually acceptable and impartial third-party adjudicator.

Section 14. Appropriations. – The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s budget of the DTI. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DTI and the PBIDC, in coordination with concerned government agencies, the academe, the private sector and NGOs, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Section 16. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 17. Repealing Clause. – Executive Order 879 (s. 2010), and all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,