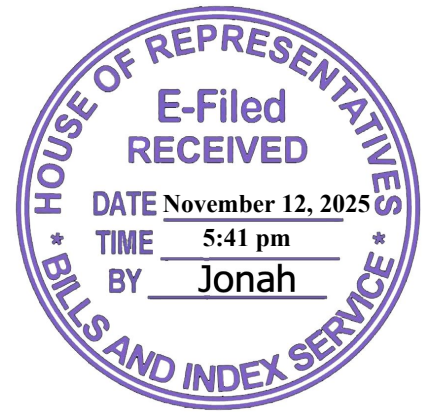


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5938



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

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

The Philippines is home to a diverse tapestry of indigenous textile traditions; each deeply rooted in local histories and communities. Among these, piña weaving in Aklan stands as a globally recognized cultural treasure. In 2023, Aklan Piña Handloom Weaving was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity¹, affirming its significance not only as a traditional craft but also as a living heritage that embodies Filipino ingenuity and artistry.

The artistry of piña weaving requires great skill and patience, as the fibers are carefully extracted and processed to create durable and high-quality fabrics. This heritage is passed down through generations, often with families and through Schools of Living Traditions, ensuring continuity and community ownership of the craft.

Despite its prestige, the piña weaving industry faces challenges: declining interest among younger generations, fragmented support systems, and limited market access. Economic pressures and modernization threaten the sustainability of traditional weaving practices, even in communities with strong cultural ties to the craft.

The proposed Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation Center seeks to address these challenges by institutionalizing support for piña weaving through research, education, innovation, and market development. It will serve as a hub for inter-agency collaboration, community engagement, and cultural safeguarding.

¹ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/aklan-pina-handloom-weaving-01564>

This initiative is not without precedent. In Bukidnon, weaving traditions such as ikam mat weaving among Tagoloanen, Higaonon, and Talaandig tribes have been successfully revitalized through community-led efforts and partnerships with government agencies. The Tagolwanen Women Weavers Association (TWWA), for example, transformed a fading tradition into a thriving social enterprise, preserving cultural identity while generating livelihood opportunities.² Similarly, the Damugu Weavers Association in Talakag, Bukidnon, supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), has integrated traditional techniques with modern innovations to empower indigenous women and promote sustainable development.³

These examples underscore the transformative potential of weaving when supported by inclusive, culturally sensitive, and community-driven programs. The establishment of the Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation Center will not only safeguard a national treasure but also catalyze economic growth, cultural pride, and intergenerational learning.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

²<https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/news/bukidnons-ikam-weaving-from-a-vanishing-tradition-to-a-trademarked-legacy/>

³<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2038569/dost-revives-traditional-ip-weaving-in-bukidnon>

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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 “Aklan Piña Conservation
2 and Innovation Act.”

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

8
9 **SEC. 3. *Creation of the Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation Center (the***
10 ***“Center”).*** – There is hereby created the Aklan Piña Conservation and Innovation Center, an
11 institutional mechanism for the safeguarding, promotion, research, innovation, and
12 transmission of Aklan piña weaving. The Center shall be administratively based in the
13 Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan, and shall operate under the oversight of the
14 National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in close coordination with relevant
15 stakeholders, including the Provincial Government of Aklan, the Municipal Government of
16 Kalibo, academic institutions, and weaving communities. The establishment of the Center
17 shall not require the construction of a new building. It shall utilize and strengthen existing

1 facilities, resources, and networks provided by the local governments, regional line agencies,
2 academic institutions or weaving communities.

3
4 **SEC. 4. *Functions.*** - The Center shall perform the following functions:

- 5 a. Undertake cultural mapping, oral history collection, and digital archiving of
6 Aklan piña weaving traditions in partnership with the NCCA and local
7 governments;
 - 8 b. Support farmers in cultivating the Red Spanish pineapple, in collaboration with
9 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, including
12 Schools of Living Traditions and mentorship initiatives, and coordinate with
13 the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education
14 (CHED) to integrate piña weaving and textile heritage into appropriate
15 educational programs, modules, and research initiatives;
 - 16 d. Collaborate with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as well
17 as with universities and design institutions, to advance research on textile
18 fibers, promote sustainable technologies, support product standardization, and
19 expand piña product applications;
 - 20 e. Work with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to strengthen the
21 market positioning, branding, competitiveness, and value chain integration of
22 piña textiles, including support for product development and participation in
23 local and international trade platforms;
 - 24 f. Partner with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Local Government Units
25 (LGUs) to integrate piña weaving into cultural tourism programs, festivals, and
26 heritage routes;
 - 27 g. Coordinate with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL)
28 to assist weavers and cooperatives in securing appropriate intellectual property
29 protection, including designs, trademarks, and potential geographical
30 indications, with due regard to the rights of communities and culture-bearers;
31 and
 - 32 h. Perform other functions necessary for the achievement of the intent and
33 purposes of this Act.
- 34

1 **SEC. 5. *Governance and Administration.*** - The Center shall be governed by a
2 Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council,” composed of:

- 3 a) National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) – Chairperson;
- 4 b) National Museum of the Philippines;
- 5 c) Provincial Government of Aklan;
- 6 d) Municipal Government of Kalibo;
- 7 e) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- 8 f) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 9 g) Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute
10 (PTRI);
- 11 h) Department of Tourism (DOT);
- 12 i) Department of Education;
- 13 j) Commission on Higher Education;
- 14 k) Academe and research institutions, as designated; and
- 15 l) Representatives of recognized piña weavers’ associations or cooperatives, who
16 shall constitute at least two (2) seats in the Council.

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

19
20 **SEC. 6. *Funding.*** - The initial funding necessary to implement the provisions of this
21 Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the NCCA. Thereafter, such amounts
22 as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the
23 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

24
25 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
26 effectivity of this Act, the NCCA, in coordination with all the concerned agencies of the
27 government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
28 implementation of this Act.

29
30 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
31 or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

32

1 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
3 accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
6 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7
Approved,