



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6085**



Introduced by: REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has long held a prominent role in the global seaweed industry, serving as a major supplier of raw materials for food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic applications. In 2023 alone, the country produced approximately 1.63 *million metric tons of seaweed*, reinforcing its status as a leading exporter of semi-refined carrageenan and a vital contributor to coastal economies.

Despite this, the nation's share in the global seaweed market has been gradually shrinking. Local seaweed farmers continue to grapple with persistent challenges such as *environmental degradation, disease outbreaks like "ice-ice", volatile market prices, and insufficient post-harvest infrastructure*. These issues threaten not only the industry's competitiveness but also the livelihoods of over 1.2 *million Filipinos* who depend on seaweed farming for income.

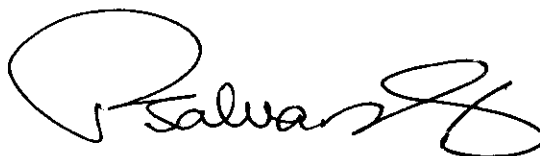
This bill seeks to address these concerns by promoting a comprehensive and sustainable development framework for the seaweed sector. It aims to:

- **Strengthen research and innovation** to improve seaweed quality and resilience against environmental stressors.
- **Enhance global competitiveness** by modernizing production and post-harvest practices.
- **Position the Philippine seaweed industry as world-class**, capable of meeting international standards and expanding its market reach.
- **Support coastal communities** through inclusive policies that ensure economic benefits and environmental stewardship.

By institutionalizing strategic support and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, this legislation aspires to secure the long-term viability of the seaweed

industry and elevate the Philippines as a global leader in seaweed production and innovation.

Given the importance of this measure, passage is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie Salvame', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

Representative, 1st District of Palawan



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AN ACT
TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SEAWEED
INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, ENHANCING RESEARCH, SUPPORT, AND GLOBAL
COMPETITIVENESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Seaweed Industry
Development and Sustainability Act of 2025.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to revitalize
and promote the sustainable development of the seaweed industry, recognizing its
importance to the national economy and the livelihood of coastal communities, and
to reassert the Philippines' status as a global leader in seaweed production and export.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly seaweed farming practices;
- b) Support research and development initiatives for the advancement of the seaweed industry;
- c) Provide comprehensive support and assistance to seaweed farmers and producers;
- d) Provide comprehensive support and assistance to seaweed farmers and producers;

SEC. 4. *Sustainable Seaweed Farming Practices.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall develop and promote sustainable seaweed farming practices, ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

SEC. 5. *Research and Development.* – The DA, through BFAR and in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall initiate and support research and development projects aimed at improving seaweed production technologies, disease management, and product innovation.

SEC. 6. *Support and Assistance for Seaweed Farmers.* – The government shall provide comprehensive support to seaweed farmers, including access to quality seedlings, technical training, post-harvest facilities, market promotion and financial assistance. Special emphasis shall be placed on small-scale farmers and community-based initiatives.

SEC. 7. *Market Competitiveness and Export Promotion.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in collaboration with the DA and BFAR, shall implement strategies to enhance the market competitiveness of Philippine seaweed, including branding, marketing, and establishing trade partnerships to expand export opportunities.

SEC. 8. *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.* – Recognizing the vulnerability of seaweed farming to climate change, the government shall develop and implement strategies to increase the resilience of the seaweed industry to environmental challenges, including rising sea levels and increasing ocean temperatures.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DA. Thereafter, such as may be necessary for the continuous implementation, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and may also be sourced from BFAR or other applicable funds.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA, in consultation with BFAR, DTI, DOST, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its enactment.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,