

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6434



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Ilocos Norte holds a rich tradition in the production of *Inabel*, a handwoven fabric whose origins trace back centuries. Commonly referred to as *Abel*, from the Ilocano word meaning “weave,” *Inabel* is a living testament to the creativity, resilience, and cultural identity of the Ilokano people. Weavers from Ilocos Norte have long preserved the intricate and labor-intensive art of *Inabel*. Their skill, passed down through generations, and technical mastery, reflect the values, heritage, and way of life of the Ilokano community. Each piece of *Inabel* is a depiction of everyday life, wisdom, and harmony with nature. These textiles serve as cultural artifacts that embody the soul of the region.

The weaving tradition of Ilocos Norte is perhaps best embodied in the life and work of National Living Treasure awardee, Magdalena “Nana Daleng” Gamayo. A native of Pinili, Ilocos Norte, she has dedicated her life to the craft and made intricate designs like *binakol*, *inuritan*, *kusikos*, and *sinan-sabong*. These patterns require not only artistry, but mathematical precision and relentless patience. Despite her recognition as a Master Weaver, concurrent with the acknowledgment of *Inabel*’s historical and cultural significance, the industry remains vulnerable as of today. Many weavers face aging looms, limited capital, and diminishing incentives for younger generations to continue the craft.

To sustain and elevate the industry, this bill proposes a national investment in both its preservation and innovation. It seeks to establish an Inabel Research and Development Center, creating an Inabel Industry Subsidy Fund, and designating certain local government units as the official Inabel Center of the Philippines. This will provide weavers and producers with technical support, market access, and institutional backing through research and development, financial assistance, and heritage promotion. The Inabel Research and Development Center will serve as a hub for innovation, training, and heritage conservation. The Inabel Industry Subsidy Fund will provide financial assistance to weavers, cooperatives, and small-scale producers to scale their operations and pass on their craft to succeeding generations. By

designing specific municipalities as the Inabel Center of the Philippines, the measure formally recognizes the cultural and economic importance of these communities as stewards of this national treasure.

Ilocos Norte's *Inabel* is more than a regional product; it is a cultural emblem with global potential. This bill not only secures the livelihood of our weavers, but also preserves the enduring artistry that defines Ilocano identity. Supporting *Inabel* is a celebration of the Ilocano identity and a crucial step towards cultural entrepreneurship.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
DEVELOPING THE INABEL (ABEL) INDUSTRY IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF BANNA, PAOAY, PINILI, SARRAT, VINTAR,
AND LAOAG CITY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE AN INABEL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER, ESTABLISHING AN INABEL INDUSTRY
SUBSIDY FUND, DESIGNATING THESE PLACES AS INABEL
CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Inabel Industry Development Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to instill nationalism among the citizenry. In pursuit thereof, the State shall promote the preferential use of locally manufactured goods which utilize local resources and generate wide employment. It shall adopt measures that will make local industries competitive.

It is likewise the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development and growth of the Province of Ilocos Norte according to sound policies that seek to uplift the economic and social conditions of the people, as well as preserve local culture, heritage, and tradition.

SECTION 3. *Creation of Inabel Research and Development Center.* - Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the Inabel Research and Development Center shall be established in the Municipality of Pinili, Province of Ilocos Norte.

SECTION 4. Functions of the Inabel Research and Development Center. - The Inabel Research and Development Center shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (a) Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the development, protection, management, and marketing of *inabel* or *abel* products;
- (b) Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to *inabel* or *abel* weaving, with the end goal of benefitting farmers, weavers, traders, and other stakeholders;
- (c) Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research studies on *inabel* or *abel*-weaving traditions of the area in order to document and preserve them, and to create the body of knowledge necessary in the formulation of education and training programs designed to encourage the development of a creative mass of local artisans, and the pursuit of entrepreneurial activities that showcase locally-made products;
- (d) Formulate an *Inabel* or *abel* weaving Development Roadmap;
- (e) Develop innovations in *abel* propagation and production and development, as well as provide for the transfer and improvement of appropriate technologies and techniques;
- (f) Provide technical support and assistance for sustainable *abel* propagation production and development activities to promote and provide adequate training to farmers and individuals and other stakeholders engaged in *abel* propagation, production, processing, and distribution in the Province of Ilocos Norte;
- (g) Facilitate the sustainable development, sourcing, and provision of raw materials necessary for *abel* weaving, including, but not limited to, cotton, natural fibers, and indigenous dyes, through partnerships with farmers, suppliers, and relevant institutions, to ensure consistent quality and supply for local weavers and producers;
- (h) Develop and provide marketing and intellectual property protection, education, and training programs for *abel* farmers and product makers and entrepreneurs;
- (i) Establish standards in grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, packaging, preservation, conservation, and

transportation of *abel* products;

- (j) Coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other concerned government agencies for the participation of *abel* farmers, weavers, traders, and exporters in local and international conferences, trade fairs, expositions, and exhibits;
- (k) Coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) and other concerned government agencies in developing and including an *abel*-weaving course in the curriculum of select senior high schools in the Province of Ilocos Norte;
- (l) Coordinate with the local government units, as well as concerned government agencies and offices, to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects relating to *abel*-weaving research and development; and
- (m) Perform such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the *abel*-weaving industry and in the accomplishment of the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Abel Subsidy Fund.* - An *Abel*-weaving Subsidy Fund shall be established to financially support and provide capital development to *abel* production, weaving, trading, skills training, and other related activities.

SECTION 6. *Abel Center of the Philippines.* - To help promote the abovementioned public policy and further develop the local *abel*-weaving industry, the Municipalities of Banna, Paoay, Pinili, Sarrat, Vintar, and Laoag City in the Province of Ilocos Norte, are hereby declared as the *Abel Center* of the Philippines.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall, in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), formulate and prescribe the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,