



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6593**



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coconut industry remains one of the most important agricultural sectors in the Visayas, supporting thousands of small farmers whose livelihoods depend heavily on stable production, modern technologies, and reliable market access. Although the region contributes significantly to national coconut output, many coconut-growing communities still face low farm productivity, aging coconut stands, limited access to high-quality planting materials, and vulnerability to pests, diseases, and climate-related shocks. Existing research and extension systems in the Visayas operate with constrained resources, and the absence of a fully institutionalized regional research hub limits the development and dissemination of improved coconut technologies.

Studies from the Philippine Coconut Authority show that productivity in many Visayan provinces remains below national targets, with yields averaging far lower than those in regions with strong research-extension linkages. Farmers continue to rely on traditional production methods, and opportunities to develop high-value coconut products or adopt climate-smart practices are often hindered by the lack of sustained research programs and coordinated technical support. Without a dedicated and fully funded regional center, research outputs remain underutilized and the long-term competitiveness of the Visayas coconut industry is at risk.

This bill strengthens and institutionalizes the Visayas Coconut Research and Development Center (VCRDC) as the zonal research and development hub for coconuts in the Visayas under the supervision of the DA–Philippine Coconut Authority. The measure formalizes the

Center's vision, mission, and research thrusts; expands its objectives to include varietal improvement, climate-smart farming systems, product development, socio-economic studies, and technology dissemination; and mandates support for local development by prioritizing services for coconut-producing communities in Eastern Visayas. It further provides funding support from the DA-PCA, requires collaborative research arrangements, and directs the publication of an annual situation report for the coconut industry in the region. By institutionalizing the VCRDC and providing sustained resources, the bill aims to enhance farmer productivity, stimulate value-adding industries, improve research-extension integration, and strengthen the long-term growth and resilience of the coconut sector in the Visayas.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.



CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COCONUT RESEARCH
CENTER FOR THE VISAYAS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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 "Visayas Coconut Research and Development Center Act."

Section 2. *Establishment.* – The Visayas Coconut Research and Development Center (VCRDC) shall be recognized by the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA) as the Zonal Research and Development Center of coconut in the Visayas with the following Vision, Mission, and Research and Development Thrusts:

- A. *Vision:*** Center of relevant coconut technologies and development in the Visayas;
- B. *Mission:*** Generate and disseminate relevant coconut technologies towards a profitable and sustainable coconut industry in the Visayas and;
- C. *Research and Development Thrusts:*** Varietal Improvement, Coconut Production & Cultural Management. Pest Management, Climate-smart Coconut Farming System, Product Development and Commercialization, and Socio-economic Research and Extension.

Section 3. Objectives. – The VCRDC shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To develop innovative agricultural, industrial, and socio-economic research and development programs of the coconut industry for the benefit of the Filipino coconut farmers;
 - Improved and high-yielding coconut varieties
 - Novel products from coconut
 - Advanced techniques on coconut propagation
 - Production and processing machinery systems
 - Climate-smart Farming Systems
- (b) To develop and disseminate improved coconut planting materials;
- (c) To serve as a repository of coconut research done by institutions in the Visayas;
- (d) To engage collaboration and coordination with institutions of higher learning on local and foreign scholarships and fellowship programs that will enhance coconut development;
- (e) To organize and hold local, regional, or international conferences/fora, on the current trends and developments of the coconut industry;
- (f) To develop modern and effective farm extension programs for coconut farmers and other beneficiaries;
- (g) To publish and disseminate research findings and make appropriate recommendations to various stakeholders.

Section 4. Local Development Component. – Priority assistance shall be extended to coconut-producing communities in Eastern Visayas, including training, technology transfer, and capacity-building programs aimed at improving farmer income and productivity.

Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities. – The Center shall undertake coconut research, provide training, disseminate technologies, and promote industry development. It shall also publish an Annual Coconut Industry Situation Report for the Visayas.

Section 6. Funding Support – Strengthening of VCRDC through additional funding from the DA PCA. Through the DA-PCA, the Department of Agriculture shall provide annual financial support and allocation for VCRDC's Research & Development programs.

Section 7. Research and Development Collaboration. – Strengthening the Research & Development Collaboration between the DA- PCA and VCRDC. Through the DA-PCA, the Department of Agriculture shall detail at least one DA-PCA Research and Development personnel to jointly implement relevant research and development programs with researchers and staff of VCRDC.

Section 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 10. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,