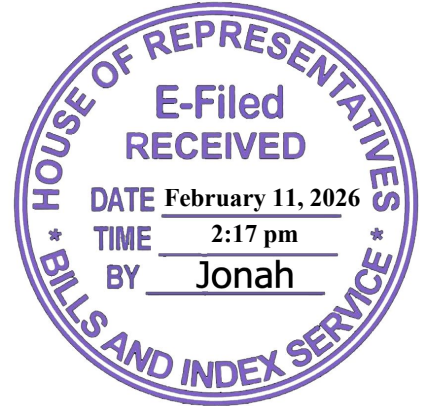




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7745**



Introduced by Representative **LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA JAVIER**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Barangay Rubas as an eco-tourism site in the Municipality of Jaro, Province of Leyte.

Barangay Rubas is located in the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte; a harbour town in the Northern coast of Southern Leyte with a large variety of nature's gift and a distinct area for serenity. Many various hot springs and rivers are found in Barangay Rubas, so tourists and locals alike can enjoy several tourism related activities such as picnics, camping, swimming, and nature viewing.

Barangay Rubas is undoubtedly one of the hidden gems in Leyte. While the tourism potential of the area is being encouraged by the local government, it is undeniable that with national help, through the Department of Tourism and other appropriate agencies will further improve the tourist promotion in the locality.

In view of the policy of the State to promote the tourism industry as an indispensable element to national economy and as declared in RA 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009", the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA-JAVIER



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7745**

Introduced by Representative **LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA JAVIER**

AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY RUBAS, MUNICIPALITY OF JARO, PROVINCE OF
LEYTE AS AN ECO-TOURISM SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Barangay Rubas located in Jaro, Leyte is hereby declared an eco-tourism site. As such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of eco-tourism sites.

SECTION 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local communities.

SECTION 3. **Barangay Rubas Eco-Tourism Site.** – Barangay Rubas, Municipality of Jaro, Province of Leyte is hereby declared an eco-tourism site. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for Barangay Rubas and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009”. The plan shall be implemented jointly with the Municipality of Jaro.

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Jaro and other appropriate agencies of the government, shall identify well defined geographic areas within Barangay Rubas tourism site and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing infrastructure and facilities; Provided, that the development shall ensure the preservation of the scenery and the historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of DOT, in consultation with the Municipality of Jaro, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. – The Secretary of DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,