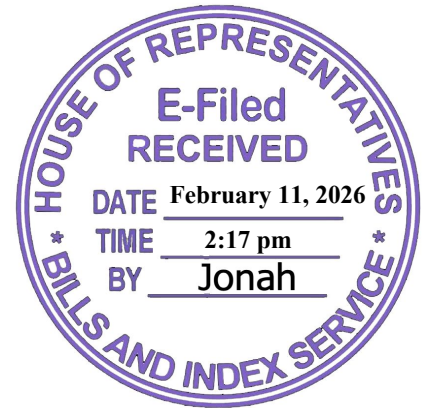




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7746



Introduced by Representative **LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA JAVIER**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Silawa Falls is located in Barangay Villa Conzoilo, 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. The falls is a hidden deeper circle with rare plants and fresh water direct from the mountain ranges. Uncommon animals roam the surrounding forest, making it a home for endangered species both flora and fauna including different types of birds, insects, wild boars, deer and monkeys from the mountain ranges.

The Silawa Falls is undoubtedly one of the hidden gems in Leyte. It offers a safe haven to a wide variety of natural attractions where visitors and tourists can enjoy several eco-tourism related activities such as camping, swimming, nature viewing, trekking and photography, among others.

Thus, the developments of the Silawa Falls into an eco-tourism site will not only enhance its aesthetic worth but will also bring forth economic benefits for the people of Leyte and the Philippines as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA JAVIER



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **7746**

Introduced by Representative **LOLITA KAREN TAÑALA JAVIER**

AN ACT
DECLARING SILAWA FALLS IN BARANGAY VILLA CONZOILO, MUNICIPALITY
OF JARO, LEYTE PROVINCE OF LEYTE AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE 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 “Silawa Falls Ecotourism Act.”

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. **Silawa Falls Ecotourism Site.** – Silawa Falls in Barangay Villa Conzoilo, Municipality of Jaro, Province of Leyte is hereby declared an ecotourism 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 Silawa Falls 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 local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Jaro, the PAMB and the TIEZA and other appropriate agencies of the government, shall identify well defined geographic areas within

Silawa Falls ecotourism 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, the PAMB, TIEZA and other tourism stakeholders, 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,