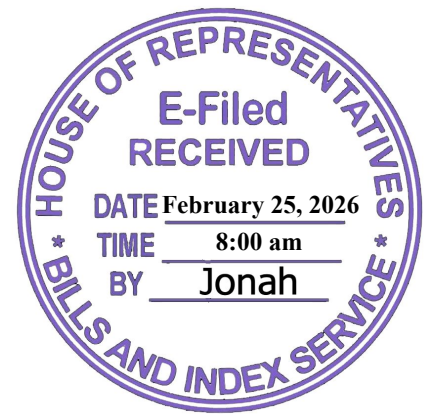


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8076

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
DEVELOPING THE PILI INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PILI
SUBSIDY FUND AND THE PILI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution states that "[t]he goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged".

The Pili tree (*Canarium ovatum*) is steadily emerging as a true "tree of life," next to the coconut in terms of its wide-ranging benefits and economic value. Its well-known kernel continues to be a prized product, while its pulp and sap contribute to the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. At the same time, its wood and shells are transformed into furniture and fashion accessories. In essence, the Pili tree represents food security, livelihood generation, and sustainable enterprise, making it a valuable asset for our communities and our economy.

As the only country in the world devoted to large-scale commercial Pili production, the Philippines holds a unique global competitive advantage that must be institutionalized through strategic branding and legislative support. At the heart of this industry lies the Province of Sorsogon, the nation's leading Pili producer. According to the Commodity Fact Sheet from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Sorsogon contributes approximately 55% of the total production in the Bicol Region. Since 2014, Sorsogon has consistently been the leading pili nut producer among all provinces in Region V, yielding 4,004.18 metric tons in 2014 and 2,804.61 metric tons in 2023. Although production has decreased slightly over the years, Sorsogon's annual output over the last decade continues to surpass that of other provinces.¹

¹ Recebido, B. (2025, October 20). Sorsogon sets Guinness record for world's largest pili nut brittle. Philippine Information Agency. <https://pia.gov.ph/news/sorsogon-sets-guinness-record-for-worlds-largest-pili-nut-brittle/>

Value Chain Analysis (VCA) further confirms that Sorsogon serves as the primary supplier for major kernel processors across the Bicol Region. Beyond these statistics, the province's commitment to the pili industry has garnered international recognition through a Guinness World Record title for producing the largest pili nut brittle, measuring 144.16 square meters. This agricultural excellence provides a sustainable livelihood for thousands of Bicolano farmers who depend on the cultivation and processing of this "green gold."

This bill was previously filed during the 18th Congress and underwent approval by the Committee on Agriculture and Food, signaling its long-standing merit and urgency. By institutionalizing the creation of a Pili Subsidy Fund and a Pili Research and Development Center, this bill will strengthen agricultural branding, fuel MSMEs, and honor the tireless dedication of Bicolano farmers.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Pili Industry
2 Development Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to foster the growth and development of a globally competitive and sustainable Pili
6 industry, recognizing its strategic importance to the national economy and the Province
7 of Sorsogon as its primary production hub. To this end, the State shall implement
8 integrated measures to protect the industry's viability, ensure the welfare of farmers
9 and stakeholders, and catalyze rural development through consistent employment
10 generation and livelihood security.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Creation of the Pili Research and Development Center.** – Within
13 a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created the Pili Research and
14 Development Center in Sorsogon which shall be attached to the Sorsogon State College
15 in Sorsogon City, and to the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture in Camarines
16 Sur.

17
18 **SEC. 4. Functions of the Pili Research and Development Center.** – The
19 Pili Research and Development Center shall perform the following functions and duties:
20 a. Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the
21 development, production, management, and marketing of pili nuts and its
22 by products;
23
24 b. Provide technical assistance and support to pili farmers and others
25 stakeholders in the Bicol Region;
26

- c. Develop appropriate technologies beneficial to the pili industry;
- d. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on pili;
- e. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writing relating to pili on a regular basis with the end goal of benefitting pili farmers and other stakeholders nationwide;
- f. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Tourism (DOT) to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects on pili research and development;
- g. Such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the pili industry.

SEC. 5. Pili Subsidy Fund –The Pili Subsidy Fund is hereby created, which shall be directly and exclusively used to support the sustainable development and competitiveness of the pili industry. The Fund shall cover the following:

- a. Pili Tree Planting and Cultivation- to support the propagation, establishment, and maintenance of pili trees, including the provision of quality seedlings, farm inputs, technical assistance, and adoption of climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable farming practices;
- b. Skills Training and Capital Development- to provide capacity-building programs, entrepreneurial and technical skills training, and financial or capital assistance to farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders engaged in the pili value chain, including processing, product development, marketing, and other value-adding activities;
- c. Research, Innovation, and Technology Support- to fund research initiatives, development of improved pili varieties, post-harvest technologies, and innovation that enhance productivity, product quality, and market competitiveness; and
- d. Promotion and Market Development- to support marketing, branding, trade fairs, and other activities that increase domestic and international demand for pili products. The Fund shall be sourced from appropriations in the General Appropriations Act, grants, donations, or other lawful sources, and shall be administered by the appropriate agency indicated herein. All expenditures shall be made in a transparent and accountable manner to ensure that resources are efficiently used for the sustainable growth of the pili industry, promotion of rural livelihoods, and inclusive economic development.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The DA in collaboration with DTI, DOST, DOT and the Sorsogon State University, shall issue and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

1 **Sec. 7. Appropriations** – For the effective implementation of this Act, the
2 amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (PhP 100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated
3 from the current and annual budgetary allocations of the DA for the Pili Subsidy Fund.
4 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be
5 included in the annual budget of the DA under the General Appropriations Act.
6

7 **Sec. 8. Repealing Clause** - All laws and parts thereof inconsistent with any
8 provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
9

10 **Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
11 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
12 general circulation.

13 Approved,
14

Approved,