

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 8344

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture and inland fisheries remain vital sources of food and livelihood for upland communities in Iligan City. In Barangay Rogongon, where many families rely on small-scale farming and aquaculture, access to quality fingerlings and reliable production inputs remains limited due to distance and logistical constraints.

Following a pre-feasibility site assessment conducted on 28 November 2025, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region X identified Sitio Hanginan in Barangay Rogongon as a technically viable site for the establishment of a multi-species freshwater fish hatchery. The area has firm and generally plain soil conditions, is surrounded by upland vegetation, and is situated away from industrial and other pollution sources. It also possesses a sufficient and good-quality freshwater supply from a spring located within the proposed site area, which is advantageous for hatchery operations.

While the site presents accessibility and infrastructure challenges due to its distance from major roads and service centers, these conditions likewise underscore the need for government investment in localized production facilities. At present, fish growers in the area depend on distant sources of spawners and fingerlings, increasing costs and limiting productivity. Establishing a hatchery within the community will improve access to quality inputs and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for small-scale producers.

The local community has expressed support for the proposed project, recognizing its anticipated socio-economic benefits. With appropriate infrastructure development and institutional coordination, the proposed hatchery can contribute meaningfully to agricultural productivity and rural development in Iligan's hinterland barangays.

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

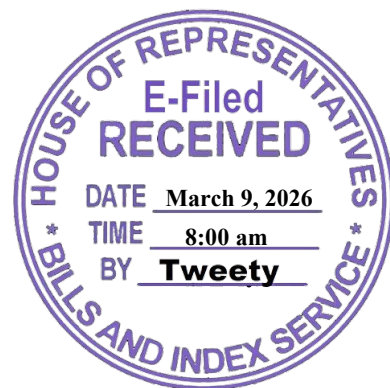


CELSO GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY
IN SITIO HANGINAN, BARANGAY ROGONGON, ILIGAN CITY,
TO STRENGTHEN INLAND AQUACULTURE AND RURAL LIVELIHOOD,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of a Multi-Species Freshwater Fish Hatchery.*
— There shall be established, under the supervision and control of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), a multi-species freshwater fish hatchery in Sitio Hanginan, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City, to support inland aquaculture development and enhance local fish production.

SECTION 2. *Establishment and Operationalization.* — The BFAR shall be responsible for the planning, construction, establishment, and initial operation of the hatchery.

BFAR shall ensure that the facility is equipped with the necessary infrastructure, equipment, and technical support for the production and distribution of quality freshwater fish fingerlings to local growers and beneficiaries.

In the implementation of this Act, BFAR may coordinate with the local government of Iligan City and other concerned agencies for technical and logistical support.

SECTION 3.*Feasibility Study and Management Transfer.* — Consistent with the site assessment conducted by the BFAR, the agency shall undertake a full feasibility study and prepare the necessary technical and financial requirements for the establishment of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery, in accordance with applicable rules of BFAR, the Department of Budget and Management, and other relevant agencies.

Within two (2) years from the completion of construction, BFAR may, through a Memorandum of Agreement, transfer the management and operation of the hatchery to the local government of Iligan City. Prior to such transfer, BFAR shall implement a capacity-building and phased transition program to ensure that local personnel are adequately trained in hatchery management and operations.

SECTION 4.*Research and Technical Support.* — BFAR shall undertake continuing technical support, performance monitoring, and, where necessary, adaptive research to enhance breeding practices, improve survival rates, and ensure the sustainable production of freshwater fish fingerlings suited to local conditions.

SECTION 5.*Funding Support.* — The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the funding requirements for the establishment and initial operation of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery in Sitio Hanginan, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City, subject to the usual budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

The local government of Iligan City may allocate funds from any available local revenue to support the operationalization and sustainability of the hatchery.

SECTION 6.*Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in coordination with the BFAR and the local government of Iligan City, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,