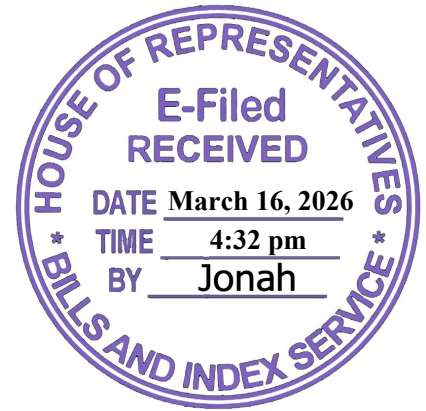


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8558



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Dipolog Airport serves as the primary aviation gateway of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, connecting the province to major domestic hubs such as Manila and Cebu and supporting the movement of passengers, goods, and services across the Zamboanga Peninsula. Located in Minaog, Dipolog City and operating under the IATA code DPL, the airport currently functions solely as a domestic facility despite the province's growing tourism, commerce, and regional mobility needs.

In recent years, passenger volumes have steadily grown and have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, reflecting rising demand for air transport services in the region. This growth underscores the limitations of the airport's existing facilities and highlights the need to expand its operational capacity to accommodate future aviation demand.

At present, international air connectivity in Mindanao remains concentrated in only a few locations, particularly Davao and General Santos. As a result, travelers from the northern and western parts of Mindanao must undertake long land journeys to reach international gateways. Converting Dipolog City Airport into an international airport will address this gap by providing a more accessible gateway for residents, tourists, overseas Filipino workers, and businesses in the region.

The conversion of Dipolog Airport into an international airport is expected to generate significant economic and social benefits, including increased tourism, improved trade and investment opportunities, enhanced regional connectivity, and new employment for local communities. It will also support the national government's objective of strengthening regional infrastructure and promoting balanced economic development in Mindanao.

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

ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE DIPOLOG AIRPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, INTO AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO BE
KNOWN AS THE DIPOLOG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 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 the “Dipolog International Airport Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to provide an efficient infrastructure system for transport and logistics to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. To support the achievement of the long-term development vision for the Philippines, the State shall establish strategic national transport networks, including international gateways, to facilitate mobility and connectivity.

SEC. 3. Conversion. — The existing Dipolog Airport located in the City of Dipolog, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, is hereby converted into an international airport to be known as the Dipolog International Airport.

SEC. 4. Scope of Development. — The conversion of the Dipolog Airport into an international airport shall include, but shall not be limited to, the expansion and modernization of airport facilities necessary to accommodate international flights, including runway extension and strengthening, construction of an international passenger terminal building, installation of immigration and customs facilities, security and safety infrastructure, air navigation systems, cargo handling facilities, and other essential airport support services consistent with international aviation standards.

SEC. 5. Implementing Agency. — The Department of Transportation (DOTr), in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), the Bureau of Immigration, the Bureau of Customs, the Department of Tourism, and other concerned government agencies, shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act and the development of the Dipolog International Airport.

SEC. 6. Development Plan. — Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTR, through the CAAP, shall formulate and implement a comprehensive development master plan for the Dipolog International Airport to ensure that its

facilities comply with international aviation standards and are capable of supporting both passenger and cargo international operations.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The DOTr and the CAAP may also explore public-private partnerships and other financing mechanisms for the development, operation, and maintenance of the Dipolog International Airport.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, in coordination with the CAAP and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,