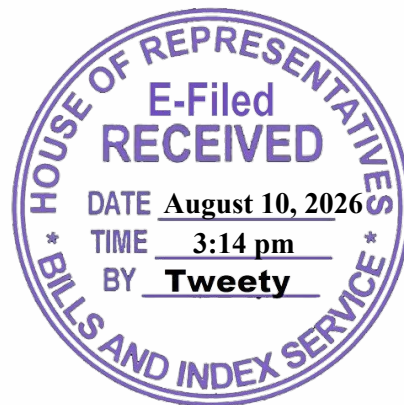


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10687

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE WALING-WALING (*VANDA SANDERIANA*) AS THE
NATIONAL ORCHID OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is home to one of the most diverse collections of flora in the world, with the Orchidaceae family being one of the largest monocotyledonous families in the country. There are approximately 1,200 orchid species recorded in the Philippines, of which around 85% are endemic. Among these botanical treasures is *Vanda sanderiana*, commonly known as the Waling-waling. The genus *Vanda* consists of 17 species in the country, 10 of which are endemic to the Philippine archipelago¹.

Vanda sanderiana is a strap-leaved orchid species that is deeply intertwined with our natural heritage. It is celebrated globally for its stunning blooms and is highly valued in the international orchid cut flower trade, where it serves as an important parent species in numerous hybridization programs.

Despite its global fame and ecological significance—as orchids often serve as vital bioindicators of environmental health—the Waling-waling faces an existential threat in its natural habitat. Unregulated commercial collection and habitat destruction have severely decimated its wild populations. Under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2017-11, *Vanda sanderiana* is officially classified as critically endangered².

¹ <https://pfsyst.botany.pl/pdf-166616-92777?filename=In-silico-analysis-of-pot.pdf>

² <https://elibrary.bmb.gov.ph/elibrary/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/dac2017-11.pdf>

This measure seeks to address these critical conservation issues by officially declaring the Waling-waling as the National Orchid of the Philippines. This declaration is distinct from and without prejudice to the Sampaguita (*Jasminum sambac*), which remains our National Flower by virtue of Proclamation No. 652, dated February 1, 1943. By institutionalizing this recognition, the bill establishes a clear mandate for the DENR to lead in the protection, conservation, and propagation of the Waling-waling. Biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of orchid plant species rely heavily on structured conservation efforts and accurate species identification. This legislation is a vital ecological mechanism to ensure that future generations inherit a thriving and distinctly Filipino natural environment.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE WALING-WALING (VANDA SANDERIANA) AS THE
NATIONAL ORCHID OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Waling-waling as the National Orchid.** For its endemicity, rarity,
2 beauty, popularity, and its increasing cultural importance, the orchid "Waling-waling" known
3 scientifically as *Vanda sanderiana* (Rchb.f) Rchb.f is hereby declared as the National Orchid
4 of the Philippines.

5 This declaration is distinct from and without prejudice to the "Sampaguita" (*Jasminum*
6 *sambac*), which, for its popularity, ornamental value, fragrance, and role in legends and
7 traditions, was declared the National Flower of the Philippines by virtue of Proclamation No.
8 652, dated February 1, 1943.

9 **Sec. 2. Lead Agencies.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
10 (DENR) shall lead in protecting, conserving, and facilitating the propagation of the Waling-
11 waling orchid. The DENR shall promulgate rules and regulations for this purpose within ninety
12 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

13 The National Museum of the Philippines shall preserve, study, and promote the Waling-
14 waling orchid and its significance to the natural and cultural heritage of the Philippines and the
15 Filipino people.

16 **Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of
17 instruction, proclamations, administrative orders, rules, or regulations that are inconsistent with
18 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1 **Sec. 4. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
2 the remainder hereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

3 **Sec. 5. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
4 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

5
6 *Approved,*