

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

20th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10731**



Introduced by: **REP. MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Sections 15 and 16, mandates the State to conserve, promote, and protect the nation's historical and cultural heritage.

The Bahay na Pula, located in Barangay Anyatam, in the municipality of San Ildefonso, Bulacan, is a structure of immense historical and cultural significance. Built in 1929 by Don Ramon Ilusorio, its striking red-painted façade earned it the name Bahay na Pula. During World War II, it became infamous as a site where Filipino women were subjected to atrocities by occupying forces. This tragic chapter has made the house a solemn reminder of wartime suffering and resilience.

Yet, Bahay na Pula's importance extends beyond its association with wartime trauma. Over the decades, it has evolved into a landmark deeply woven into the identity of San Ildefonso residents. Its imposing architecture and distinct red walls made it a familiar sight for generations, serving as a reference point for local travel, community gatherings, and oral histories. Residents recall stories of the house not only as a place of sorrow but also as a marker of their town's heritage, a silent witness to the growth of the municipality of San Ildefonso from a rural community into a thriving municipality.

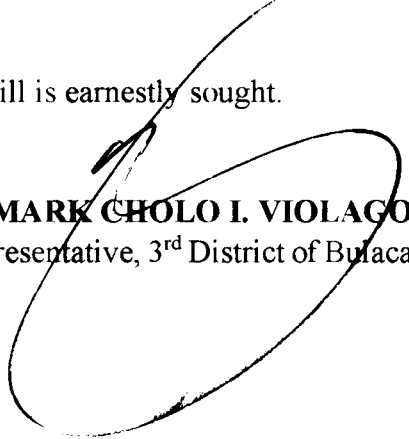
The Bahay na Pula has thus become a dual symbol: of the painful sacrifices endured during war, and of the enduring cultural memory of Bulakeños who regard it as part of their shared identity. Its presence in local folklore, its role in shaping community narratives, and its recognition by advocacy groups such as the Malaya Lolas underscore its irreplaceable value.

Today, this critical piece of our national history is in a state of advanced ruin. Due to decades of exposure to the elements, neglect, and complex private ownership disputes, the mansion has been reduced to a fragile, decaying skeletal structure. Without immediate legislative and financial intervention from the national government, this physical touchstone of wartime history risks permanent erasure. Declaring the Bahay na Pula a National Heritage Site ensures its formal protection, restoration, and conversion into a place of education and remembrance.

Further, the property remains privately owned and vulnerable to demolition or disposal without account to its historical value. To safeguard its existence, it is imperative that Congress declare it a National Heritage Site, ensuring its preservation, conservation, and maintenance under the protection of the **National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)** and the **National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)**.

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of San Ildefonso has expressed willingness to acquire the portion of the lot where the Bahay na Pula stands, thereby securing its future as a restored heritage site. This measure will allow the house to be renovated, maintained, and transformed into a memorial and educational center, while also serving as a cultural landmark integrated into heritage tourism programs in Bulacan.

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



MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO
Representative, 3rd District of Bulacan

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AN ACT DECLARING THE BAHAY NA PULA LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, AND MAINTENANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title.

This Act shall be known as the *“Bahay na Pula Heritage and Preservation Act of 2026.”*

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to conserve, promote, and protect historical and cultural heritage. The Bahay na Pula shall be preserved as part of the cultural patrimony of the nation.

It is the policy of the State to preserve, protect, and promote the nation's historical and cultural heritage. The State recognizes that the Bahay na Pula (Red House) in San Ildefonso, Bulacan stands as a profound historical symbol of the sacrifices, struggles, and historical injustices experienced by Filipinos during World War II. Its preservation is vital to honoring national memory and educating future generations.

Section 3. Coverage.

The Bahay na Pula, located in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, including the lot on which it stands, is hereby declared a National Heritage Site under the jurisdiction of the NHCP and NCCA.

Section 4. Implementation, Preservation, and Restoration.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Municipal Government of San Ildefonso, Bulacan, shall immediately take charge of the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the site. The NHCP shall formulate a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CMP) within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 5. Safeguards Against Alteration or Transfer.

The Bahay na Pula shall not be demolished, altered, or transferred without prior consultation and clearance from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Any proposed action affecting the property must be consistent with heritage conservation standards and shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009).

Section 6. Funding and Appropriations.

The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the NHCP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued preservation, operation, and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Section 7. Implementing Agencies.

The NHCP shall be the primary implementing agency, with support from NCCA, DOT, DPWH, and the LGU of San Ildefonso.

Section 8. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity

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

Approved,