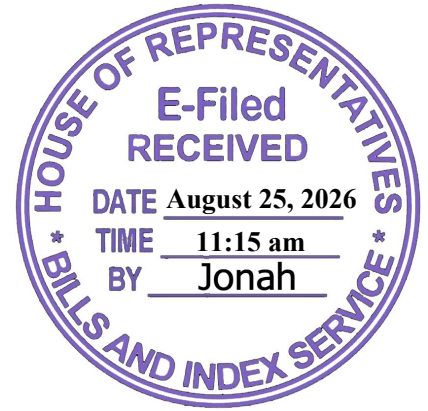


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10937



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SEEDLING BANK OF THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains the backbone of many communities in the Philippines, providing food on every Filipino table and livelihood to millions of families. Yet despite the hard work and dedication of our farmers, many continue to struggle with low productivity, limited access to quality seeds and planting materials, and the increasing challenges brought about by pests, diseases, and climate change. Without the proper support, farmers find it difficult to increase their harvests, improve their incomes, and meet the growing demand for food.

One of the biggest challenges faced by farmers, especially in rural areas, is the lack of affordable access to certified seeds, improved planting materials, and modern farming technologies. Many small farmers cannot afford expensive farm inputs or must travel long distances just to obtain quality seedlings and technical assistance. As a result, they often rely on low-quality planting materials that produce poor yields, limiting both their productivity and their opportunities to earn a better living.

This bill seeks to establish a Seedling Bank of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte. Strategically located to serve the municipalities of the province, particularly those along the Pacific area, the proposed facility will provide quality seeds and planting materials, technical assistance, farmer training, and modern crop production technologies. It will also

serve as a center for research, demonstration, and the promotion of climate-resilient and high-value crops, enabling farmers to produce more, earn more, and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

The establishment of a BPI Seedling Bank in Southern Leyte is more than an investment in agriculture, it is an investment in food security, rural development, and the future of Filipino farming families. By bringing government services closer to farmers, this measure will reduce production costs, improve crop quality, increase farm productivity, and create more livelihood opportunities in the countryside. It will also strengthen the province's capacity to supply quality planting materials that will benefit not only Southern Leyte but neighboring areas as well.

Through this measure, the State reaffirms its commitment to empowering Filipino farmers with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to succeed. A stronger agriculture sector means stronger rural communities, greater food security, and a more resilient economy. By helping our farmers grow more today, we secure a better future for generations to come.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. — There shall be established a seedling bank and field office of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the Municipality of Hinundayan, Province of Southern Leyte, to be known as the BPI-DA Southern Leyte Seedling Bank, which shall serve as a center for training and provision of technical advice and relevant services on crop culture and management and ensure the continuous supply, production, and distribution of quality seeds and planting materials of staple food crops and other high-value crops for food security and livelihood generation of the farmers in Southern Leyte.

SECTION 2. Coordination and Partnerships. — The BPI-DA may enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) and other institutions for the purpose of conducting research and extension programs geared towards the development of high-yielding crop varieties suitable for the area, food security, providing support to small farmers, and the promotion of the local plant industry.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the establishment and operations of the BPI-DA Southern Leyte Seedling Bank shall initially come from the savings of the DA. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the efficient operation and maintenance of such office shall be included in the allocation of the DA in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry and in consultation with the Southern Leyte State University, the Province of Southern Leyte, the Municipality of Hinunangan, concerned local government units, farmers' organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. — If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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,