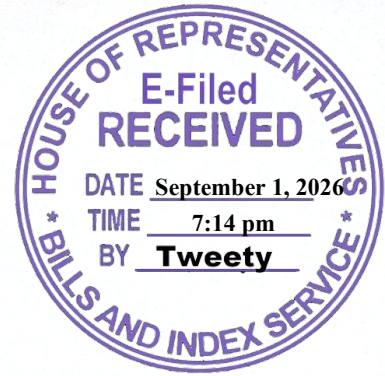




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11055



Introduced by
HON. NELSON R. DAYANGHIRANG, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

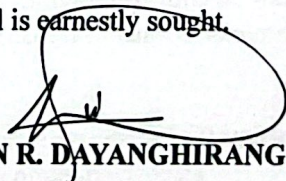
The Province of Davao Oriental is endowed with diverse natural tourist destinations and rich forest and coastal ecosystems that sustain biodiversity and support local livelihoods. However, these natural assets continue to face significant threats from deforestation, land conversion, illegal logging, and climate-related disasters. Data from Global Forest Watch, an initiative of the World Resources Institute, indicates that from 2002 to 2025, Davao Oriental lost approximately 11 kha of humid primary forest, reflecting ongoing forest degradation in the province.

From these data, it is evident that the protection and preservation of Davao Oriental's forests require stronger collaboration and coordination between the national government, local government units (LGUs), and local communities. As part of this effort, this representation proposes the establishment of communal forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the First District of Davao Oriental.

A communal forest refers to a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), upon the recommendation of the concerned LGU, for the use and stewardship of the residents of a city or municipality. The residents may cut, collect, and remove forest products for personal and subsistence use in accordance with existing laws and regulations, provided that the utilization of resources shall be consistent with the principles of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

The establishment of communal forests will empower residents and local communities in the First District of Davao Oriental to take a more active and participatory role in the responsible use, conservation, and management of their municipality's forest resources. Furthermore, the DENR shall provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to the concerned LGUs in all aspects of forest management planning, reforestation, monitoring, and enforcement. Through this partnership, both LGUs and local communities will be equipped with the necessary training, tools, and knowledge to ensure that communal forests are sustainably utilized, restored through replanting and agroforestry activities, and protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

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


NELSON R. DAYANGHIRANG, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 11055

Introduced by
HON. NELSON R. DAYANGHIRANG, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING COMMUNAL FORESTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
BAGANGA, BOSTON, CARAGA, CATEEL, MANAY, AND TARRAGONA IN THE
FIRST DISTRICT OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** — This Act shall be known as the "*Davao Oriental First District*
2 *Communal Forests Act.*"

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
4 sustainable forest management, strengthen local participation in environmental protection, and
5 ensure the conservation and responsible utilization of forest resources through community-
6 based approaches. Toward this end, communal forests shall be established to support ecological
7 balance, climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and the livelihood of local communities.

8 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Communal Forests*** — There shall be established, under the
9 supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), community
10 forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the
11 First District of the Province of Davao Oriental.

12 The DENR shall determine the size and specific limits of the community forest to be
13 established within each of the municipalities concerned. Each established community forest
14 shall be identified in accordance with a Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with the
15 municipality's land use plan, and all existing and related plans, programs and projects of the
16 province and national government.

17 **SEC. 4. *Transfer of Management to Local Government Units*** – The DENR shall, within two
18 (2) years after the determination and establishment of the community forests, transfer the
19 management thereof to the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) through a Memorandum of
20 Agreement.

21
22 The DENR shall implement a capacity-building and phasing-in program for LGU personnel on
23 the management, protection, utilization, and conservation of communal forests.

1 In coordination with the concerned LGUs, the DENR shall:

- 2 a) Conduct a forest resource inventory in the barangays covered by the communal forests;
- 3 b) Determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization; and
- 4 c) Provide technical assistance in all aspects of forest management planning.

5
6 To ensure sustainability, the management plan shall include reforestation and rehabilitation
7 activities to be undertaken jointly by the communities and LGUs.

8
9 **SEC. 5. Appropriations** – The Secretary of the DENR shall include in the Department's
10 programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
11 General Appropriations Act.

12
13 The concerned LGUs shall allocate funds from available local revenues in amounts deemed
14 necessary for the management, utilization, protection, and conservation of the communal
15 forests.

16
17 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
18 this Act, the DENR shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
19 implementation of this Act.

20
21 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
22 invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

23
24 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
25 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26
27 **SEC. 9. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
28 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,