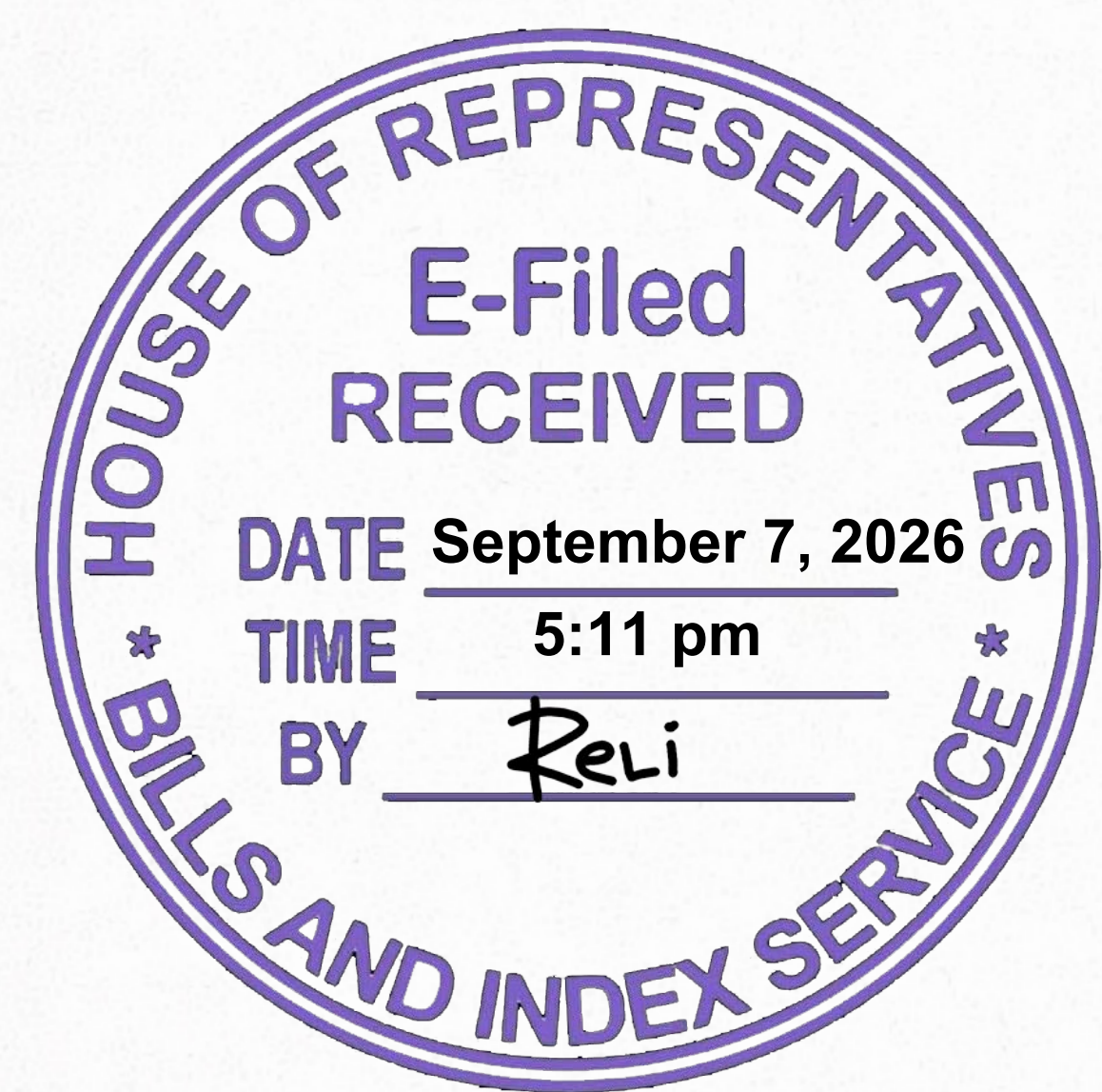




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 11182

Introduced by Representative **KARL FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is one of the fundamental instruments for national and local development. However, access to quality and affordable higher education remains a challenge for many students, particularly those residing in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and underserved communities. Many students are required to travel to other municipalities or cities to pursue higher education. This situation imposes additional financial burdens, especially on indigent families, and may prevent qualified students from continuing their studies.

This challenge is particularly felt in the Municipality of Santa Catalina and neighboring areas in southern Negros Oriental, where students who wish to pursue engineering, technology, and related programs have limited options within or near their communities. While Negros Oriental State University has campuses serving Bayawan City and Santa Catalina, students who wish to pursue engineering, technology, and related programs still have limited options within the area. Given its established focus on technical and technological education, TUP, through its Visayas Campus, is well-positioned to expand access to these programs for students in Santa Catalina and neighboring communities.

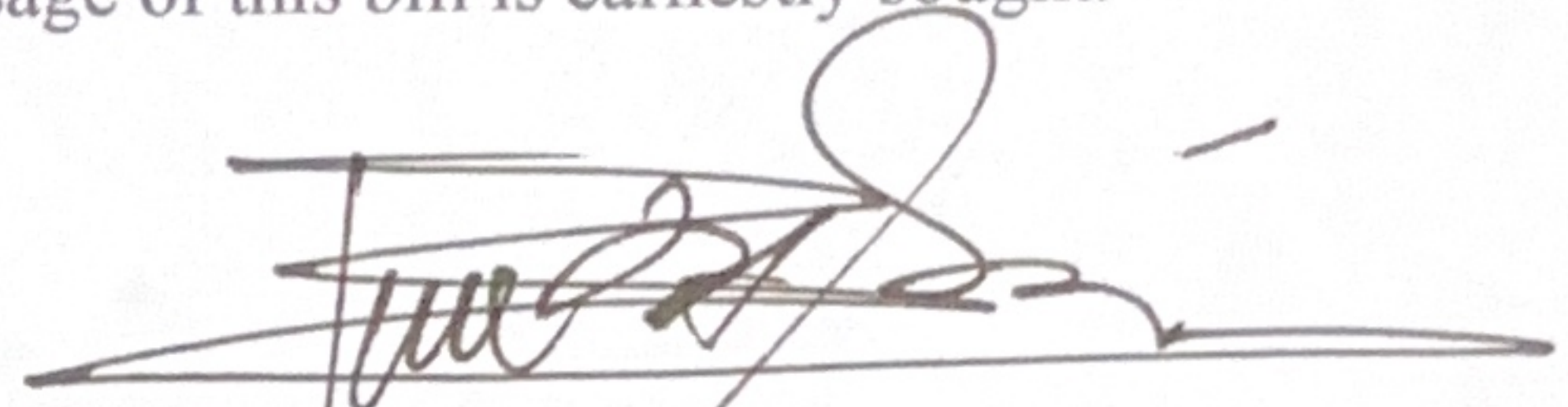
Expanding TUP's reach to southern Negros Oriental would provide students with greater access to programs that can equip them with the technical knowledge and skills needed in engineering, technology, industry, and other emerging fields. It would likewise help develop a pool of skilled graduates who can contribute to the workforce and respond to the development needs of the province and the wider Negros Island Region.

For this purpose, this bill seeks to establish the Technological University of the Philippines-Visayas (TUPV) Santa Catalina Extension Campus in the Municipality of Santa Catalina, Province of Negros Oriental. The proposed Extension Campus shall provide accessible and quality higher education to students from Santa Catalina and neighboring communities. It shall offer degree and non-degree programs as may be determined by the TUP Board of Regents, taking into consideration the University's mandate and capacity, local and regional development needs, and applicable policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Beyond expanding access to higher education, the establishment of the Extension Campus is envisioned to support human resource development, strengthen the local workforce, and contribute to employment opportunities and economic development in Santa Catalina and surrounding communities. By bringing relevant higher education programs closer to students, the

measure seeks to reduce geographic and financial barriers that may otherwise prevent them from pursuing further education and training.

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



KARL FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI
Pinoy Workers Party List

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 11182

Introduced by Representative KARL FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-
VISAYAS (TUPV) SANTA CATALINA EXTENSION CAMPUS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA CATALINA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS 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 “TUP Visayas-Santa Catalina
2 Extension Campus Act.”

3
4 **SECTION. 2. *Declaration of Policy*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote accessible, affordable, relevant, and quality higher education and to provide greater
6 educational opportunities to students, particularly those in underserved communities.

7
8 **SECTION. 3. *Establishment*** – There is hereby established in the Municipality of Santa
9 Catalina, Province of Negros Oriental, an extension campus of the Technological University of
10 the Philippines (TUP), through its Visayas Campus, to be known as the TUPV Santa Catalina
11 Extension Campus. The Extension Campus shall form part of the TUP System and shall be under
12 the administration and supervision of the University, subject to applicable laws and the policies,
13 standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

14
15 **SECTION. 4. *Purpose and Objectives*** - The TUPV Santa Catalina Extension Campus
16 shall:

- 17
18 (a) Provide accessible higher education to qualified residents of the municipality and
19 neighboring areas;
20 (b) Offer degree and non-degree programs responsive to local and regional
21 development needs;
22 (c) Develop competent and skilled human resources, especially in the fields of
23 engineering and technology;
24 (d) Promote research, innovation, community extension, and public service; and
25 (e) Support the educational and socio-economic development of the municipality and
26 its neighboring areas.

27
28 **SECTION. 5. *Academic Programs*** - The academic programs to be offered by the TUP
29 Visayas-Santa Catalina Extension Campus shall be determined by the TUP Board of Regents,

1 taking into consideration the University's mandate and institutional capacity, local and regional
2 development needs, and applicable policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on
3 Higher Education (CHED).

4
5 **SECTION. 6. *Administration and Governance*** – The administration and governance
6 of the TUPV Santa Catalina Extension Campus shall be vested in the TUP Board of Regents and
7 the appropriate officials of the University, in accordance with the TUP Charter and other
8 applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The University may coordinate with the Local Government
9 Unit of Santa Catalina in matters relating to the establishment and operation of the Extension
10 campus.

11
12 **SECTION. 7. *Land and Facilities*** - The Municipality of Santa Catalina may provide
13 government-owned properties, an appropriate site, buildings, facilities, and other necessary
14 resources for the establishment and operation of the TUPV Santa Catalina Extension Campus,
15 subject to existing laws and government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

16
17 **SECTION. 8. *Appropriations*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
18 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Technological University of the
19 Philippines. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and
20 maintenance of the TUPV Santa Catalina Extension Campus shall be included in the annual
21 General Appropriations Act.

22
23 **SECTION. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - The TUP Board of Regents, in
24 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Budget and
25 Management (DBM), and the Local Government Unit of Santa Catalina, shall promulgate the rules
26 and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

27
28 **SECTION. 10. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
29 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions shall not be affected and shall remain valid
30 and subsisting.

31
32 **SECTION. 11. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules,
33 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
34 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

35
36 **SECTION. 12. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
37 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

38
39 *Approved,*