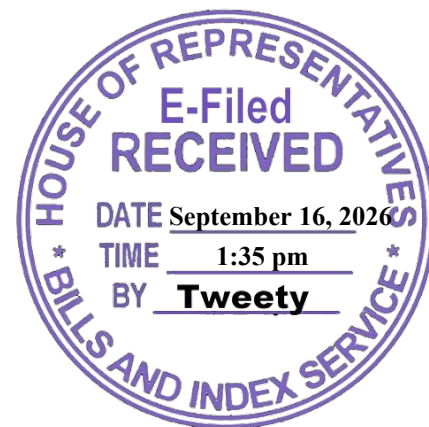


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11360



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
THROUGH INSTITUTIONALIZED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, with over 36,000 kilometers of coastline, relies on healthy marine ecosystems for food security, livelihoods, tourism, and coastal protection. Yet these resources face growing threats from marine litter, particularly plastic waste. The World Bank estimates that the country generates about 1.7 million metric tons of post-consumer plastic waste annually, with roughly 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic entering the ocean each year.¹

Existing laws—such as R.A. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act), R.A. 9275 (Clean Water Act), R.A. 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act), and R.A. 11898 (Extended Producer Responsibility Act)—provide a policy framework for waste management and environmental protection. However, marine litter persists due to gaps in implementation, inconsistent data collection, and limited coordination among agencies, local government units (LGUs), and stakeholders.

The proposed bill institutionalizes a National Coastal Cleanup Program under the DENR, in coordination with DILG, DepEd, CHED, CSC, PNP, AFP, LGUs, and other partners. It mandates quarterly nationwide cleanup activities covering coastal areas, marine environments, inland waterways, esteros, and

¹ “World Bank. 2024. Guidance on the Development of a Roadmap for Managing Plastic Waste and Reduction of Non-Recyclable Single-use Plastics in the Philippines

creeks, and establishes standardized reporting of trash data and cleanup reports. Collected data will support evidence-based waste management, pollution prevention, and enforcement.

Recent cleanup efforts demonstrate both the scale of the problem and public willingness to act. In 2024, over 74,000 volunteers collected approximately 352,479 kilograms of waste from 250 coastal sites nationwide.²

By transforming cleanup activities into a coordinated, data-driven national program, this measure advances the constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology and ensures that coastal and marine ecosystems remain productive for present and future generations.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

Fifth District of Quezon City

² [Filipino sustainability champions lead the way - Malaya Business Insight](#). September 25, 2024.

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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 “*National Coastal Cleanup Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature by encouraging people to actively participate in coastal cleanups for the preservation and conservation of the coastal and marine environment.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Coastal* – refers to the land near a shore, relating to or near a coast;
- b. *Cleanup Report* – refers to the final report of any cleanup activity which contains trash data, cleanup location and its technical description, number of participants, and such other data that may be required by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

- c. *Marine litter* – means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in coastal and marine environment;
- d. *Marine environment* – refers to the oceans, seas, bays, estuaries, and other major water bodies, including their surface interface and interaction with the atmosphere and with the land seaward of the mean high-water mark;
- e. *Trash data* – a record of trash or items collected during cleanup activities based on the classification to be determined by the DENR; and
- f. *Waste map* – provides information on the location of waste for cleanup;

SECTION 4. *National Coastal Cleanup Program.* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other relevant government agencies, shall establish and implement a National Coastal Cleanup Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, which shall mobilize all sectors of society to participate in nationwide cleanup activities to promote cleanliness in coastal, marine environment, inland waterways, esteros and creeks.

SECTION 5. *Components of the National Coastal Cleanup Program.* – The National Cleanup Program shall be consistent with existing environmental protection and enforcement laws and shall include the following:

- a. Volunteerism and participation of both public and private sectors;
- b. Strategic initiatives to identify marine litter sources;
- c. Operationalization of online, real-time Waste Map;
- d. Generate data for waste mapping;
- e. Prompt submission of Trash Data Report and Cleanup Reports;
- f. Proper waste management training and activities;
- g. Holding of post-activity summit to report on the number of volunteers, local government unit participation, and volumes of waste collected for proper disposal and/or recycling;
- h. Strengthening cleanup information drive; and

- i. Periodic evaluation of the Program to effectively manage, address, and reduce the threats of degradation of coastal and marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

SECTION 6. *Cleanup period.* – National cleanup activities shall be held once every quarter without prejudice to local cleanup activities and the International Cleanup Day held every third Saturday of September.

SECTION 7. *Selection of Cleanup Sites.* – The DENR, in coordination with the DILG and all concerned local government units, shall select the sites for the cleanup activities.

SECTION 8. *Role of the Local Government Units.* – All local government units (LGUs) shall monitor the conduct of cleanup activities on coastal areas, marine environment, inland waterways, esteros and creeks and ensure active participation of their constituents. The LGUs shall likewise submit to the DILG and DENR Trash Data and Cleanup Reports.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DENR under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any 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 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,