

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11476



INTRODUCED BY **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a country rich in marine resources. With 1,065 seaweed species found in our waters, so far, only four are farmed. These are Eucheuma, Kappaphycus, Gracilaria, and Caulerpa¹.

The seaweed industry is one of the major contributors of our economy. In 2024², seaweed aquaculture accounted for an impressive 66% of overall fishery production and remains as one of the agriculture sector's top export commodities. It sustains thousands of families in coastal communities and contributes significantly to national employment and aquaculture output.

Beyond food, seaweed has diverse applications such as animal feed, fertilizer, cosmetic ingredient, and most recently, as raw material for bio-plastics³ among others.

However, the industry continues to face mounting challenges such as global warming, degradation, disease outbreaks like "ice-ice", volatile market prices, and insufficient post-harvest infrastructure that significantly affect this industry. These challenges are no longer theoretical. Recently, the Philippine Statistics Authority logged a 3.3% production decline in seaweed for the second quarter of 2026.⁴

This bill seeks to strengthen and future-proof our seaweed industry by providing support in promoting sustainable farming practices to protect marine ecosystems and ensure long-term productivity, advancing research and technology to improve yield, disease resistance, and product development, expanding support for seaweed farmers, and strengthening market competitiveness to secure the sector's position in both domestic and international trade.

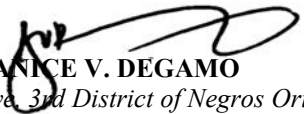
¹ Philippine Seaweeds and Fishery By-Products are Raw Materials for Locally Made Bioplastics, National Academy of Science and Technology, 17 August 2026, <https://nast.dost.gov.ph/index.php/13-news-press-releases/971-philippine-seaweeds-and-fishery-by-products-are-raw-materials-for-locally-made-bioplastics> (17 August 2026)

² Seaweed, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, https://www.fao.org/hand-in-hand/previous-editions/hih-investment-forum-2025/The_Philippines/en 17 August 2026 (last accessed 17 August 2026)

³ Experts Urge More R&D in Bioplastics From Seaweed To Help Reduce Plastic Pollution, Department of Science and Technology, 14 July 2026, <https://dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/87-2026-news/4447-experts-urge-more-r-d-in-bioplastics-from-seaweed-to-help-reduce-plastic-pollution.html> (last accessed 17 August 2026)

⁴ Fisheries output grows 2 percent in Q2, A. Halili, The Philippine Star, 10 August 2026, <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/08/10/2548144/fisheries-output-grows-2-percent-q2> (Last accessed 17 August 2026)

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


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

**AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SEAWEED INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES,
ENHANCING RESEARCH, SUPPORT, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Seaweed Industry Development and Sustainability Act of 2026”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to revitalize and promote the sustainable development of the seaweed industry, recognizing its importance to the national economy and the livelihood of coastal communities, and to reassert the Philippines’ status as a global leader in seaweed production and export.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The Objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Promote sustainable, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible seaweed farming practices;
- b) Support research and development initiatives for the advancement of the seaweed industry;
- c) Build a resilient seaweed sector by providing comprehensive support and assistance to seaweed farmers and producers;
- d) Enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine seaweed industry in the global market.

SEC. 4. *Sustainable Seaweed Farming Practices.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall develop and promote sustainable seaweed farming practices, ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

SEC. 5. *Research and Development.* – The DA, through the BFAR and in collaboration with Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall initiate and support research and development projects aimed at improving seaweed production technologies, disease management, and product innovation.

SEC. 6. *Support and Assistance for Seaweed Farmers.* – The government shall provide comprehensive support to seaweed farmers, including access to quality seedlings, farm implements, and post-harvesting equipment, technical training, and financial assistance. Special emphasis shall be placed on small-scale farmers and community-based initiatives.

SEC. 7. *Market Competitiveness and Export Promotion.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in collaboration with the DA and BFAR, shall implement strategies to enhance the market competitiveness of Philippine seaweed, including branding, marketing, and establishing trade partnerships to expand export opportunities.

SEC. 8. *Climate Change Adaption and Resilience.* – Recognizing the vulnerability of seaweed farming to climate change, the government shall develop and implement strategies to increase the resilience of the seaweed industry to environmental challenges, including rising sea levels and increasing ocean temperatures.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA, in consultation with BFAR, DTI, Department of Interior and Local Government, academe, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this act within ninety (90) days after its enactment.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,