

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 408

Submitted by the Committees on Tourism and Appropriations on **June 1, 2026**

Re : House Bill No. **9550**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3261

Sponsors: Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing,
and Josefina B. Tallado

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Tourism and Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 3261, introduced by Representative Josefina B. Tallado, entitled:

**“AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA IN THE
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE
AND APROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. **9550**,
entitled:

**“AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE
OF CAMARINES NORTE, AS A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA”**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 3261 with Representatives Josefina B. Tallado, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Junard “Ahong” Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, John Geesnell “Baba” Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela “Mica” M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

Chairperson

Committee on Appropriations



REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

Chairperson

Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9550
(In substitution of House Bill No. 3261)

Introduced by Representatives Josefina B. Tallado, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Junard “Ahong” Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, John Geesnell “Baba” Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela “Mica” M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE OF
CAMARINES NORTE, AS A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA

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

1 **SECTION 1. Municipality of Santa Elena as Tourism Development Area. –**

2 The Municipality of Santa Elena, Province of Camarines Norte, is hereby declared a
3 tourism development area. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and
4 supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations
5 governing the development of tourism development areas.

6 The tourism development area shall include the following sites within the
7 municipality that are endowed with scenic landscapes and natural attractions:

8 a) Imee-Irene Twin Falls or Busay Falls;

- b) Mt. Cadig Falls;
- c) Pabungbungan Falls;
- d) Mag-asawang Bato;
- e) Tinagong Dagat; and
- f) Pulongguit-guit.

SEC. 2. *Tourism Development Plan.* – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal Government of Santa Elena shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Office of the Representative of the First District of the Province of Camarines Norte, and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the Municipality of Santa Elena, particularly in identified sites for tourism development: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of Santa Elena.

SEC. 3. *Santa Elena Tourism Governing Board.* – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Santa Elena Tourism Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall be created. It shall be composed of the following members:

- a) Mayor of the Municipality of Santa Elena, as Chairperson;
- b) Secretary of the DOT, or a duly-authorized representative;
- c) Secretary of the DENR, or a duly-authorized representative;
- d) The Representative of the First District of the Province of Camarines Norte, or a duly-authorized representative

- e) One (1) representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation;
- f) One (1) representative from the academe; and
- g) One (1) representative from the business sector.

The Board shall prepare the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act and shall, when necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

The Municipal Government of Santa Elena shall provide a Secretariat for the Board, including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

SEC. 4. Role of the DOT. – The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Santa Elena in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Municipality of Santa Elena in its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of Santa Elena. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,