



HOUSE BILL NO. 4633

Introduced by

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

This bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte. It will not only address the decreasing supply of fish and other marine products but will also contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation.

Historically known for its rich marine resources, the Municipality of Hinunangan has always been self-sufficient in its fish requirements. In the last decade, however, its marine food supply is seriously being threatened by the impacts of climate change that seasonally destroy fishing equipment and mangrove ecosystems that serve as a source of food and a nursery ground for a number of fish species that are important to local fisheries, changing economic structures that open job opportunities for local folks outside the province, and increasing access to higher education even for the children of poor families. The present reality is disturbing since it is vital to the integrity of a local economy and to the livelihood of its residents that a sustainable supply of fisheries is maintained. Moreover, other municipalities will also put pressure on the supply of fisheries if no alternative livelihood sources are made available or if no measures to increase the supply of fisheries are undertaken.

Fish hatchery technology is already proven globally but has been slow in being introduced in the country due to the prohibitive cost of establishing the same. Thus, it is necessary that government funds are invested to promote it to give the present fisherfolk a chance to increase their catch or for fish operators to increase their yield. Even the country's fishery agency has called for the necessity of putting a fish hatchery in every province.

The Hinunangan Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery that will be created under this measure will reduce the reliance on imported fish in the Second District of Southern Leyte as it will be tasked to produce good quality eggs of different marketable marine species that will be sold to the satellites for hatching and larva rearing.

Corollarial, this measure would spur economic activity, provide livelihood, and ensure food security to a district still recovering from the damage of Typhoon Odette.

In view of the foregoing, ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY, approval of the bill is earnestly sought.



CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the
2 Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR) a multi-species marine hatchery in the
3 Municipality of Hinunangan, Province of Southern Leyte to be known as the “Hinungan
4 Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery”.
- 5 **SEC. 2.** Within three (3) years after the start of operations, the DA-BFAR shall transfer the
6 management of the multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the
7 Municipality of Hinunangan. In preparation for the said transfer, a training and phasing-
8 in program shall be implemented by BFAR-DA in collaboration with the Southern Leyte
9 State University (SLSU) for the local government personnel as early as the start of
10 operations.
- 11 **SEC. 3.** Notwithstanding the transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery,
12 the BFAR-DA, together with SLSU, shall continue to collaborate with and provide
13 technical assistance to the LGU personnel in undertaking research and experimentation
14 on the breeding and production of marine species as they apply to local conditions, the
15 establishment of satellite hatcheries, and to introduce innovative simple techniques that
16 can support the needs of the small-scale farmers and hatchery operators to ensure the
17 sustainable growth of the fishing industry in Southern Leyte.
- 18 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department’s programs the establishment
19 and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Hinunangan,
20 Southern Leyte, the funding of which shall be included in the allocation of the Department

21 from the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government of the Municipality
22 of Hinunangan shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed
23 appropriate for the operation of the hatchery.

24 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
25 issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, management, operation, supervision,
26 monitoring, and transfer of the multi-species marine hatchery and the exit of DA-BFAR
27 personnel from the facility.

28 **SEC 6.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are
29 contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
30 accordingly.

31 **SEC. 7.** Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions
32 which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

35 *Approved,*