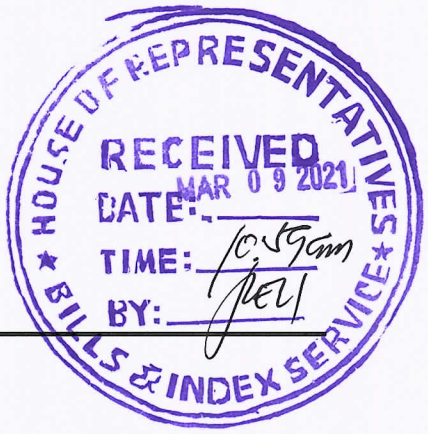
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 829

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on MAR 0 9 2021
Re : House Bill No. 8945
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1562
Sponsors : Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Rommel Rico T. Angara

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 1562, introduced by Representative Rommel Rico T. Angara, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER, PROVINCE OF AURORA, A TOURIST DESTINATION AND THE "BIRTHPLACE OF THE PHILIPPINE SURFING", PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8945, entitled:

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AS THE "BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING", DECLARING IT AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION AND PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 1562 with Representatives Rommel Rico T. Angara, Sol Aragones, Alfel M. Bascug, Juliette T. Uy, Micaela S. Violago, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Arnold "Noli" D. Celeste, and Irene Gay F. Saulog as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 8945
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 1562)

Introduced by Representatives Rommel Rico T. Angara, Sol Aragones, Alfel M. Bascug, Juliette T. Uy, Micaela S. Violago, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Arnold "Noli" D. Celeste, and Irene Gay F. Saulog

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AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AS THE "BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING", DECLARING IT AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION AND PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT

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

SEC. 1. The Municipality of Baler in the Province of Aurora is hereby declared an ecotourism destination and shall be recognized as the "Birthplace of Philippine Surfing". As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned government agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such facilities and infrastructure as may be necessary and appropriate to promote the beaches and surfing activities in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall

guarantee the accessibility and security of tourists thereat and ensure the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of available assets and resources in the area.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Municipality of Baler in all its national, regional and local promotions programs.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SEC. 5. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the DENR, the municipal government of Baler and other concerned government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,