

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1439**



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Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to provide continuing education, whether in the nature of college, graduate studies or skills training to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), through the use of our embassies and consulates abroad.

The OFWs have been hailed by the Government as our country's modern-day heroes considering the economic impact of their total remittances that have kept our economy afloat throughout the years amidst all global financial turmoil and natural disasters.

Unknown to many, however, part of the challenges faced by the OFWs and their dependents who live with them abroad, is the need to develop new skills, learn new things, and pursue formal or further studies in order to remain competitive in the international labor market, and also to prepare them for their permanent return to our beloved motherland after their work stint abroad.

This brings forward the imperative for the Philippine Government to rightfully provide our unsung heroes, the OFWs, as well as their dependents living with them abroad, the necessary access to quality higher education or skills training, whether online or geographic based-learning made possible

through the Philippine embassies and consulate offices abroad which are the most logical venues for instruction of such nature.



**ATTY. SALVADOR B. BELARO JR.**

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR**  
**DEPENDENTS ABROAD ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND**  
**SKILLS TRAININGS**

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 “OFW Higher Education and Skills Training Act of 2016.”

SEC. 2. All Philippine embassies and consulate offices abroad are hereby mandated to work with Philippine-based academic degree-granting institutions, preferably with online class offerings, duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and/or technical vocational institutions (TVIs) duly recognized by the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) to make available courses and/or program offerings, whether degree or short courses, which can be made available to OFWs and/or their dependents abroad, within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Section 3. For such purpose, our existing embassies and consulates abroad shall be used as venues for the provision of higher education programs, whether for college or graduate studies, or for skills training. Also, the existing personnel of

said embassies and consulates may also be tapped as instructors for the said programs.

Section 4. Participating schools who send their faculty members from the Philippines to teach in the said embassies and consulates shall receive a reasonable subsidy from the government for said teachers' travel and lodging expenses, the amount of which shall be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Section 5. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), shall jointly formulate and plan the successful implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 6. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.