



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 24

Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is the only country in the world devoted to large-scale commercial production of *pili* and the country's largest *pili* producer is the province of Sorsogon.

Sorsogon accounts for more than half of the country's total *pili* production at 4,052 metric tons in 2015. Value Chain Analysis (VCA) conducted by the local and national level planning (I-PLAN) shows that most of the big *pili* kernel processors in Bicol region get their supply of *pili* from Sorsogon.¹

Next to the coconut tree, the *pili* tree is fast gaining recognition as the "tree of life".² its kernel and pulp are excellent sources of oil, used for baking and cooking;³ its sap and oil are also used in cosmetic and pharmaceutical products including soaps and perfumes;⁴ its wood is carved as furniture or home décor and its shell widely used in making fashion accessories. As such there is great potential for *pili*'s global commercial marketability.

Wherefore, this bill seeks to protect, promote and support the *pili* industry in the country through the creation of Pili Subsidy Fund and Pili Research and Development Center, as well as the recognition of Sorsogon as the Pili Capital of the Philippines, which will garner additional

¹ Baleza, AnnieLyn. DA-PRDP RPCO V-http://bicol.da.gov.ph/index.php/news/3284-sorsogon-sees-pili-industry-growth-with-da-advisory-board-s-approval-of-pili-enterprise


² Department of Environment and Natural Resources - <http://denr.gov.ph/news-and-features/latest-news/582-pili-the-next-tree-of-life.html>

³ The Pili Nut of Bicol, Philippines. "In a nutshell, it's Perfect!, <https://tradewindsbicol.wordpress.com/2012/05/10/pili-nut-is-launched-in-the-united-states-in-memphis-in-may/>

⁴ Bstad, D., Cracking Product Lines from Pili, <https://www.bar.gov.ph/index.php/digest-home/digest-archives/769-2015-4th-quarter/5948-cracking-product-lines-from-pili>

government support and budget allocation to ensure the industry's commercial viability and sustainability for the benefit of the farmers and various stakeholders.

The early recognition and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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**AN ACT DEVELOPING THE PILI INDUSTRY,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PILI SUBSIDY FUND
SEC. AND THE PILI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
AND DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AS THE
PILI CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the “Pili Industry Development Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the viable *Pili* industry in the country, particularly its largest producer, the Province of Sorsogon. Towards this end, the country shall maintain and protect the *Pili* industry to ensure its sustainability for the benefits of the farmers and other stakeholders. Hence, secure a source of livelihood and industry, as well as to provide an avenue for employment generation.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Pili Research and Development Center - Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created the *Pili* Research and Development Center in Sorsogon which shall be attached to the Sorsogon State College in Sorsogon City.

SEC. 4. Functions of the Pili Research and Development Center - The *Pili* Research and Development Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the development, production, management, and marketing of *pili* nuts and its by-products;
- b. Provide technical assistance and support to *pili* farmers and other stakeholders in the Bicol Region;
- c. Develop appropriate technologies beneficial to the *pili* industry;
- d. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on *pili*;
- e. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to *pili* on a regular basis with the end goal of benefitting *pili* farmers and other stakeholders nationwide
- f. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects on *pili* research and development.
- g. Such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the *pili* industry.

SEC. 5. *Pili Subsidy Fund* - There is hereby created a *Pili Subsidy Fund*, which shall be used to financially support the *Pili* industry. The fund shall be directly and exclusively used for the following:

- a) *Pili* tree planting and cultivation, and
- b) Skills training and capital development for the *pili* industry.

SEC. 6. *Pili Capital of the Philippines* - The province of Sorsogon is hereby declared, or granted the official designation as the *Pili Capital* of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DA and DENR in collaboration with DTI, DOST, and the Sorsogon State College, shall issue and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Approved

SEC. 8. Appropriations - For the effective implementation of this Act, the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (PhP250,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the current and annual budgetary allocations of the DA and DENR Fifty percent of which shall serve as the initial amount for the *Pili* Subsidy Fund under Section 6 of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the DA and DENR under the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause - All laws and parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,