

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 1562

Introduced by **HONORABLE ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA**

**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**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The waves of Baler, Aurora have been known to the local and foreign surfers for the last decade. However, unknown to many, surfing was introduced in Baler in the early 70's, even before the crew of the 1979 film "Apocalypse Now" arrived in town with their surfboards for the shooting of the said film and even before any surfing spots in the country started the sport. According, to some locals, two peace corps volunteers were reportedly the first to search waves in Baler for surfing.

In a 1977 documentary entitled, "Explore the Amazing Land of the Philippines-True Adventure Documentary," two foreigners from Surfer Magazine specifically went to Baler, Aurora in their search for a beach that could hold a surfing competition. While riding the waves of Baler, the two foreigners taught a local named "Rey" to surf.

Further, after the shooting of the movie "Apocalypse Now", the locals used the surfboards abandoned by the actors not because they wanted to begin learning how to surf but to continue riding the waves of Baler, a skill they mastered long before the foreign surfers arrived.

Thus, this bill proposes to declare Baler, Aurora as the Birthplace of Philippine Surfing and thereby encourage not only more local but also foreign surfers to ride the waves of Baler and conduct more national and international surfing competitions.

This measures also aims to help the local government to develop Baler not only as a surfing destination but more so as the Birthplace of Philippine surfing.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Baler, Aurora, Birthplace of Philippine Surfing Act.”

SECTION 2. The Municipality of Baler, Aurora is hereby declared as a tourist destination and the “Birthplace of Philippine Surfing.” As such, the development therein shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned government agencies and shall be subject to existing rules and regulations concerning the development of a tourist destination.

SECTION 3. The Department of Tourism in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall develop and promote the beaches and surfing activities in Baler, Aurora and ensuring the accessibility and security of tourists thereat, within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 4. The DOT and other concerned government agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the said develop plan and incorporate the same in its annual tourism development programs.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of the DOT shall include this Act in their programs, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government of Baler, Aurora and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the proper execution of this Act.

SECTION 7. This law shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,