



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6428

Introduced by **ALFEL M. BASCUG**, Representative,
1ST Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

**“AN ACT ESTABLISHING FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALACOGON, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN
DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, “*The State shall promote a just and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that will promote full employment, opportunities and improved quality of life for all*”.— This measure is a fulfillment of this mandate.

A freshwater aquaculture is intended to be situated in the municipality of Talacogon in Agusan del Sur. The municipalities of Bunawan, Loreto, and Talacogon in Agusan del Sur is blessed with bodies of water. With these, the provincial government has capitalized in developing aquaculture industry in various municipalities of the province to intensify and develop an approach towards innovative propagation of its freshwater resources. In fact, under the Provincial Agriculture Office’s flagship program of Intensified and Sustainable Development of Aquaculture (ISDA), the provincial government aims to increase fresh water fish production by promoting fish cage and fish

pond technology. With the program, fish farmers benefit technical assistance and supply of quality fingerlings.

On the other hand, the municipality of Talacogon is seen as the proper location site of the proposed freshwater aquaculture center in the province. Being hailed as one of the early cradles of civilization of the entire province, Talacogon is one of the largest municipalities in the province channeling the flow of the Agusan River thereby creating lakes around the area.

Setting the goal, this initiative aims to improve the economic competitiveness of the province by maximizing capabilities of its potential stakeholders in the grassroots—the fish farmers. Under the existing program of the agriculture sector in the province, the establishment of new strategic municipal hatcheries has helped meet farmers' needs. Hence, it is important to come up with a mission to advance our agricultural ideals for research and breeding activities to further develop what has been started. Indeed, the need for the establishment of this Freshwater Aquaculture Center in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur is truly a necessity.

In view of the significance of this measure to the national development, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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*Be it 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 **“AGUSAN
DEL SUR FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER.”**

SECTION 2. Establishment and Supervision. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), a freshwater aquaculture center for a multi-species breeding farm and hatchery in the municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan del Sur. The DA-BFAR shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on freshwater aquaculture, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that will rejuvenate the freshwater fishing industry.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the said freshwater aquaculture center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government of Talacogon shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the center.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall issue rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,