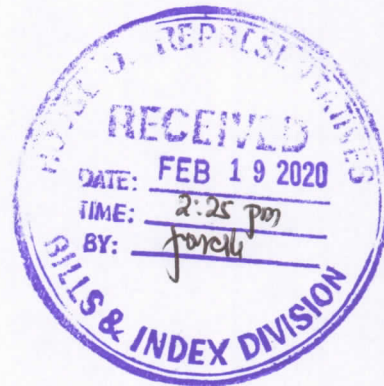


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 6342



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Introduced by Honorable Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina, Jr.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Biliran is a fifth-class municipality in the province of Biliran. According to 2015 census, it has a population of 16,882 people. The main livelihood of the people is to catch fish and other marine creatures like shrimp, crabs, shells, seaweeds, and squids. As the fish were in real short supply, fisherfolks had to go far off the coast to find fish and it was really expensive.

Aside from spending more resources on gas just to get enough catch, the fishermen also had to deal with harsh weather environments at the sea where, when the waves are high, they couldn't go far. But admittedly, our marine resources may not be sustainably available since the resource competition is intense.

To lighten the impact of resource depletion, the available technologies that improves stocks of high-value marine commodities could be propagated by establishing a multi-species marine hatchery in areas where it is most likely to succeed, and where resource end-users could best benefit from these facilities.

The bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Biliran to catalyze the development of aquaculture in the town which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people.

Furthermore, the municipality of Biliran in the province of Biliran hosts the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU) where, as an educational institution, champions the honing of skills of our youth in agriculture, fisheries, sustainable development and extension services. While the DA-BFAR's mandate includes the popularization of aquaculture and similar endeavors, the task to manage and sustain a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Biliran area could best be handled by the BiPSU where the location and human resources are readily available.

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

  
Hon Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina, Jr.  
Representative  
Lone District of Biliran

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BILIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Biliran, Province of Biliran.

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU) through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for BiPSU personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery

The BFAR-DA and the BiPSU shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the fisheries industry.

SECTION 3. An extension program that caters the marginal fisherfolks shall be developed by the BFAR-DA and/or by the Biliran Island Province State University (BiPSU) for the propagation of marine species of high economic value.



SECTION 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Biliran, Province of Biliran, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The BIPSU concerned shall set aside funds from any available source in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Department of Agriculture and the BIPSU shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery to BIPSU.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.