

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



Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2098**

Introduced by HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare "Kweba ng Hapon" in Brgy. Manlocboc, Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan as an eco-tourism destination.

The historical "Kweba ng Hapon" is a tunnel/cave where Japanese soldiers hid during WWII. It could be reached using a foot trail. It has its main opening in Brgy. Manlocboc and is about seven (7) kilometers away from the Poblacion of Aguilar via Brgy. Laoag. Inside the tunnel are seven (7) swimming pools believed to have been developed by the Japanese army. There are lots of historical values inside the tunnel/cave. According to some folklore, it is where the Japanese kept their treasures.

With this bill, "Kweba ng Hapon" will be recognized as a tourist spot that will attract tourist from Japan and America because of its historical significance as well as local and other foreign visitors. With its development, it will enhance the eco-tourism in the Municipality of Aguilar and of the province. It will be developed and endowed with all the amenities and facilities complimenting its full potential as a first class eco-tourism destination.

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


JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

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AN ACT
DECLARING "KWEBANG HAPON" LOCATED IN BARANGAY
MANLOCBOC IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGUILAR, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN AS AN ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. "Kwebang Hapon" located in Brgy. Manlocboc in the Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan is hereby declared as an eco-tourism destination. As such, priority development of the "Kwebang Hapon" shall be made by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spot.

SECTION 2. - The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall

enhance tourism in the area: Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

SECTION 3. - The DOT, in coordination with the other convergence agencies of the government such as the DPWH, DENR and the concerned LGUs, shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the overall tourism development program of the Department for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 4. - The Secretary of Tourism shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. - The amount needed for the initial implementation of this act shall be appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter such sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation and maintenance of Mount San Isidro shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. - This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,