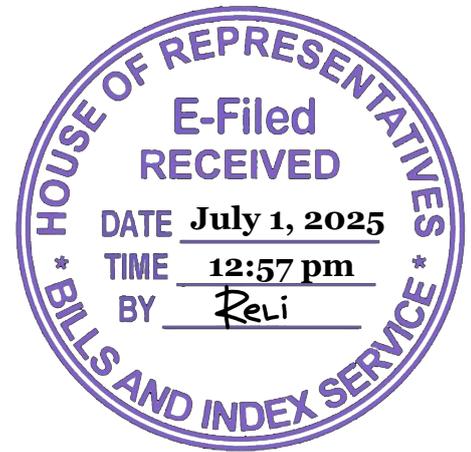


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE BILL NO. 791**

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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish a central multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Cauayan, Province of Negros Occidental.

For many years, marine resources have been steadily declining due to illegal fishing practices. To address this issue, it is crucial to restore these resources by establishing multi-species hatcheries in various areas.

Hatcheries play a vital role in food production. The planned multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Cauayan will serve as a central facility for fish seed production and the stabilization of aquaculture activities.

Most importantly, it will contribute to enhancing marine biodiversity and promoting environmental conservation.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mercedes K. Alvarez".

**ATTY. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 791**

---

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

---

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN**  
**THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS**  
**OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           Section 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of  
2 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (“DA-BFAR”), a  
3 central multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Cauayan, Province of  
4 Negros Occidental.

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6           Sec. 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-  
7 BFAR shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction to  
8 comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

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10           Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine  
11 hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its  
12 management to the local government of the Municipality of Cauayan. It shall  
13 implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel of the  
14 Municipality of Cauayan in collaboration with the Central Philippines State University  
15 (“CPSU”) on the management and operation of the hatchery.

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Sec. 3. The DA-BFAR, the local government of the Municipality of Cauayan, and the CPSU, 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 technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (“DA”) shall include in the program of the department, the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the central multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Cauayan, Province of Negros Occidental, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DA and the local government of the Municipality of Cauayan shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the central multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Cauayan, Province of Negros Occidental.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*