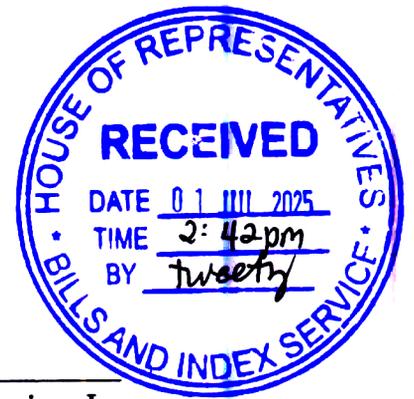


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 896



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

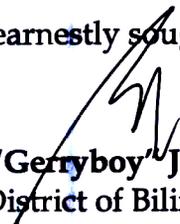
This bill was originally filed in the 18th and 19th Congresses. It was approved by the House and was transmitted and received by the Senate. After thorough deliberations, the Senate committee referred the bill for the 2nd reading. However, the Senate failed to act on the approval of the said measure during the last Congress. Hence, it is now being re-filed in the 20th Congress.

Biliran, aside from being a coastal municipality, one of the main sources and livelihoods of the people, is fishing for marine creatures like shrimp, crabs, shells, seaweeds, and squids. As the years went by, fish were in real short supply, and fisherfolks had to go far off the coast to find fish. Admittedly, our marine resources may not be sustainably available since the resource competition is intense. To mitigate the impact of resource depletion, technologies that enhance stocks of high-value marine commodities could be promoted by establishing a multi-species marine hatchery in areas where it is most likely to succeed and where resource end-users can benefit the most 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 Municipality and the whole province, which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people. The DA-BFAR's mandate includes the popularization of aquaculture and similar endeavors, the task of managing and sustaining a multi-species marine hatchery, particularly in Biliran, Biliran. While the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU), Biliran campus, where the location and human resources are readily available, can be tapped to benefit the local community and the whole province of Biliran as well.

The DA-BFAR in Region VIII has selected BiPSU, Biliran campus, as the only feasible location to start with a multi-species marine hatchery, which fortunately, the said university has a 1-hectare brackish fishpond, a multi-species hatchery, and a fish cage used for instruction, research, production, and extension services.

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


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

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 836

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

**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.

SEC. 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall conduct a full-scale Feasibility Study in the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU), Biliran Campus, Municipality of Biliran, Province of Biliran, in support of its construction to comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget Management

SEC. 3. Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall transfer the management to the BiPSU through a memorandum of agreement. It 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. Furthermore, they shall develop an extension program that shall cater to the marginal fisherfolk on the propagation of high-value marine species.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of a 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 shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

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

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.