

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2317



Introduced by Representative **BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following measure seeks to establish an inland multi-species freshwater hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, in the Province of Sultan Kudarat. The topographical characteristics of the Municipality of Kalamansig, which sits at the Celebes Sea coastline in Southwestern Mindanao, render the municipality ripe for income generation opportunities in all practices of agriculture and fisheries, particularly aquaculture.

The establishment of a local multi-species freshwater hatchery under the supervision and management of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR) and the pursuit of research and experimentation in modern and locally adaptive breeding and production techniques for freshwater species will help the Municipality of Kalamansig in catalyzing the development of aquaculture as an alternative source of municipal income. The establishment of a local multi-species freshwater hatchery in the area will also provide and diversify livelihood opportunities to local workers, while aiding long-term efforts to assure food security not only in the municipality, but in the Province of Sultan Kudarat as a whole.

The following bill was filed by Hon. Horacio P. Suansing, Jr. in the 19th Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives on Third and Final Reading (House Bill No. 9705). The same bill was transmitted to the Senate for approval.

In view of Rule X, Section 48 (3) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and in view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bsuansing', written in a cursive style.

BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING
Second District of Sultan Kudarat

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 freshwater fish hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat.

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

Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a Memorandum of Agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Kalamansig. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

SECTION 3. The DA-BFAR shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of freshwater fish species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery in the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat, 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.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring and

the eventual transfer of the management of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat.

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

Approved,