Article XIII Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, “The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fishworkers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources.”

This bill seeks to establish an inland freshwater hatchery in the municipalities of Carmen and Braulio E. Dujali, Province of Davao del Norte, to address the growing nutritional and economic needs, and ensure long-term food security of the people of Davao del Norte.

The establishment of these hatcheries shall improve the economy by providing employment opportunities and livelihood support to fisherfolks. It will also be useful to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in its research and experimentation on different freshwater species.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has completed the study and inspection of the proposed sites in both municipalities and found these sites qualified for the establishment of an inland freshwater hatchery.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INLAND FRESHWATER HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CARMEN AND BRAULIO E. DUJALI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), an inland freshwater hatchery in the municipalities of Carmen and Braulio E. Dujali, Province of Davao del Norte.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on freshwater species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that will improve the fishing industry.

SEC. 3. The Department of Agriculture and its related agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department’s program the establishment and operation of an inland freshwater hatchery in the municipalities of Carmen and Braulio E. Dujali, Province of Davao del Norte.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,