



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
2859

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines' geographic location allows for unique and diverse ecological systems that yield abundant products and delicacies that cannot be found elsewhere in the world. Pili, which is indigenous to the country and especially found in the Bicol Region, is one of them. Pili could be transformed into various food products and can be used in numerous dishes, which makes it a favorite Filipino snack. In a world that is now shifting to healthier snacking alternatives, the demand for the pili nut and its by-products in the global market continues to grow.

The Philippines is the only country to produce pili in commercial quantities therefore giving it a huge advantage over other foreign markets. The Bicol Region supplies 80% of the whole country's output volume. Although the region is a know pathway of typhoons and is home to at least five active volcanoes, growing pili trees does not pose a problem to farmers. In fact, the rich volcanic soil and the generous amount of rainfall the region receives make the land conducive for growing the sturdy trees, which came to be known as "stress trees" - the more it is shaken and beaten by storms, the more it blooms and bears better fruit. Added to that, pili is a low-maintenance crop. Farmers say that growing the trees require minimal fertilizer and pruning and could start bearing fruit in just three years. Therefore, pili production in the region continues to boom; and this has opened up a lot of opportunities for trade and income for Bicolanos.

Despite the country and the region currently enjoying a strong advantage in pili production in the global market, further innovations in the industry is needed to ensure that opportunities are maximized and the competitive edge is kept. During the Seventeenth Congress, Rep. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. and I proposed the creation of a research center focusing on the pili production industry to serve as the catalyst of advancement and development. I am hereby refiling the bill with the purpose of ensuring the flourishing success of the pili industry in the region and in the country.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR

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House Bill No. 2859

Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING
AND DISTRIBUTION OF PILI NUT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the **Pili Research and Promotion**
2 **Act of 2019.**

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to give priority to
4 research and development, as well as to science and technology education, training
5 and services.

6 **Sec. 3. Creation of Pili Research Institute (PiIRI).** The Pili Research Institute is
7 hereby created, as an attached office to the Department of Agriculture. PiIRI shall
8 conduct researches in an all-out promotion of both the small-scale and commercial
9 cultivation of Pili nut in suitable areas of the country and shall provide the lead in
10 harnessing the technology in cultivating Pili, and the efficient processing, marketing and
11 distribution of Pili nut products.

12 **Sec. 4. Objectives.** PiIRI shall have the following objectives:

- 13 a) Conduct agricultural, industrial and economic research for the
14 development of the Pili industry;
- 15 b) Acquire, develop and propagate improved plant materials and
16 technology;
- 17 c) Train professionals, students and Pili farmers on necessary disciplines
18 related to Pili production , utilization and marketing;

- 19 d) Design and implement, in coordination with institutions of higher learning
20 local and foreign scholarships and fellowship programs on academic
21 fields that will enhance Pili industry development;
- 22 e) Organize local regional and international conferences, gatherings, for a
23 and seminars on the current trends and developments of the Pili
24 industry;
- 25 f) Consolidate all researches bt the other institutions, as well as to
26 establish, maintain and operate an information and library center;
- 27 g) Design and implement a farm extension program to effectively transfer
28 modern farm technology to Pili farmers; and
- 29 h) Publish and disseminate research findings and make appropriate
30 recommendations to interested parties.

31 **Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The department of Agriculture
32 (DA), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of
33 Science and Technology (DOTC) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), is herein
34 tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations.

35 **Sec. 6. Funding.** An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos
36 (P100,000,000.00) necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
37 Annual General Appropriations Act.

38 **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** Any provision held invalid or unconstitutional, the
39 remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and
40 subsisting.

41 **Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
42 and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
43 repealed or modified accordingly.

44 **Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect after 15 days from complete
45 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,