



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8945

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANGARA, ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO, CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 829

**AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA
AS THE "BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING", DECLARING IT AN
ECOTOURISM DESTINATION AND PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT**

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

1 **SEC. 1.** The Municipality of Baler in the Province of Aurora is hereby declared an
2 ecotourism destination and shall be recognized as the "Birthplace of Philippine Surfing". As such,
3 its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned
4 government agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
5 ecotourism destinations.

6 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT in coordination with
7 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government
8 agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation
9 and maintenance of such facilities and infrastructure as may be necessary and appropriate to
10 promote the beaches and surfing activities in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall

1 guarantee the accessibility and security of tourists thereat and ensure the preservation, conservation
2 and optimum utilization of available assets and resources in the area.

3 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and
4 incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall
5 also include the Municipality of Baler in all its national, regional and local promotions programs.

6 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
7 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
8 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the
9 Department.

10 **SEC. 5.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation
11 with the DENR, the municipal government of Baler and other concerned government agencies,
12 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

13 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees
14 and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed
15 or amended accordingly.

16 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
17 *Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,