

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)**

SENIOR
Office of the Secretary

15 OCT -7 P1:09

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 1613

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO NOMINATE WHANG-OD
OGGAY AS A *GAWAD SA MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN* (GAMABA) OR NATIONAL
LIVING TREASURES AWARDEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT 7335
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN* ACT**

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies";

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) 7335 provides, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to preserve and promote its traditional folk arts whether visual, performing, or literary. For their cultural value, and to honor and support traditional folk artists for their contribution to the national heritage by ensuring that the artistic skills which they have painstakingly cultivated and preserved are encouraged and passed on to future generations of Filipinos";

WHEREAS, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) was tasked to administer and implement the *Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan* (GAMABA) or National Living Treasures Award under R.A. 7335;

WHEREAS, the GAMABA or National Living Treasures Award is an award given to a citizen or a group of citizens engaged in any traditional art uniquely Filipino, whose distinctive skills have reached such a high level of technical and artistic excellence and have been passed on to and widely practiced by the present generation in his/her community with the same degree of technical and artistic competence¹;

WHEREAS, the NCCA provides guidelines in awarding *Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan* or National Living Treasures Award²;

¹ Republic Act 7335 otherwise known as the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act.

² National Commission for Culture and the Arts Website, <http://ncca.gov.ph/about-culture-and-arts/culture-profile/gamaba/national-living-treasures-guidelines/>.

WHEREAS, through social media the last ancient Kalinga Tattoo Artist or mambabatuk Whang-Od Oggay read as “Fang-od” was brought to the awareness of the Filipino people³;

WHEREAS, at 97 years of age Whang-Od has contributed years of dedicated hard work to the craft of ancient tattooing which for indigenous people, among others, is considered not simply for aesthetic purposes but rather as having historical and cultural significance⁴;


WHEREAS, Whang-Od is the lone pillar that is keeping this unique heritage alive by continuing to practice her craft and to pass it on to her niece;

WHEREAS, Whang-Od’s contribution to her native craft as well as the rarity of her talent and skills should not go unrecognized and warrants nomination from no less than this august body; and

WHEREAS, awarding Whang-Od the GAMABA or the National Living Treasures award does not only recognize the beauty and grace of the ancient craft of tattooing but also ensures that such a treasure will survive and continue its existence.

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, expressing the sense of the Senate to nominate Whang-Od Oggay as a *Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan* (GAMABA) or National Living Treasures Awardee in accordance with Republic Act 7335 otherwise known as the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

³ Rappler Website, <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/107501-online-campaign-igorot-kalinga-tattooer-whang-od-national-artist>.

⁴ Ibid.