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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 354**

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION**

**COMMENDING DR. RAUL DESTURA AND HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH THEIR INVENTION OF RELIABLE, FAST, AND AFFORDABLE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) TEST KITS**

1           **Whereas**, Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is described by the World Health  
2 Organization (WHO) as a new strain of Coronaviruses that "cause illness ranging  
3 from the common cold to more severe diseases";

4           **Whereas**, COVID-19 was first reported on 31 December 2019 in Wuhan,  
5 China as a pneumonia of unknown cause and has not been previously identified in  
6 humans;

7           **Whereas**, COVID-19 outbreak was declared by WHO as a Public Health  
8 Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020;

9           **Whereas**, with the significant spread and severity of COVID-19 cases  
10 coupled with "alarming levels of inaction", WHO characterized the outbreak as  
11 pandemic on 11 March 2020;

12           **Whereas**, in the 135 countries, areas or territories around the world,  
13 including the Philippines, that has been affected by COVID-19, there are 142,649  
14 confirmed cases of the disease and 5,393 deaths recorded by WHO as of 14 March  
15 2020;

16           **Whereas**, in the Philippines, the Department of Health (DOH) activated on  
17 13 March 2020 Code Red Level 2, the highest level of national response  
18 management because of the "growing threat of COVID-19 health emergency";

1           **Whereas**, the Laboratory Status of Patients of the Department of Health  
2 (DOH) as of 12:00nn of 15 March 2020 recorded 140 confirmed cases, while 638  
3 cases tested were negative and 72 cases are still awaiting test results;

4           **Whereas**, for persons who were exposed to the virus or who are  
5 experiencing its symptoms, early detection of the disease is very important not only  
6 to appropriately address the needs of the patient but also to protect the people  
7 around them, including the health care professionals who are attending to them;

8           **Whereas**, in general, such early detection will be very helpful in mitigating  
9 the spread of the virus among the populace, especially the vulnerable members of  
10 the community;

11           **Whereas**, the COVID-19 test kit is the only tool that can confirm if a person  
12 has acquired the disease;

13           **Whereas**, the test kits are manufactured in other countries, which, in a list of  
14 the World Health Organization as of 06 March 2020 included China, Germany, Hong  
15 Kong, Japan, Thailand, US, and France;

16           **Whereas**, apart from the fact that there is no local producer of COVID-19  
17 test kits in our country, the representative from the Research Institute for Tropical  
18 Medicine (RITM) stated in a public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on  
19 Economic Affairs that there are only 2,000 test kits available in the country that were  
20 from WHO and Japan;

21           **Whereas**, late detection leads not only to deaths of the patients but also lack  
22 of proper precaution and preparedness of the people, especially of those  
23 surrounding the patient, thus posing great threat to their health;

24           **Whereas**, the low capacity to conduct test is also a challenge as accounted  
25 by a news article that at that time, DOH estimates the demand for COVID-19 testing  
26 at 600 to 700 per day but RITM can conduct only 300 per day because a patient will  
27 have to undergo tests at least three (3) times and aside from the confirmatory test,  
28 a confirmed patient must be tested twice before being discharged from the hospital;

29           **Whereas**, the government declared that there are enough funds to purchase  
30 test kits but there is a global shortage in the supply of the same;

1 diseases in the Philippines and the generation of new knowledge to find sustainable  
2 and equitable solutions to disease of poverty”;

3 **Whereas**, amidst the disease that is now plaguing the entire globe, the test  
4 kit that Dr. Destura and his colleagues developed will effectively and efficiently help  
5 the government to appropriately address the pandemic that has seriously affected  
6 the various aspects of our society;

7 **Whereas**, their invention is indeed a valuable contribution to the public  
8 health of the country and the expertise, efforts, and hard work of Dr. Destura and  
9 his colleagues deserve all the respect, gratitude and commendation of the entire  
10 nation;

11 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT IS**  
12 **HEREBY RESOLVED**, To commend Dr. Raul Destura and his colleagues for their  
13 invaluable contribution to public health through their invention of reliable, fast, and  
14 affordable Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Test Kits.

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16 *Adopted,*

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**