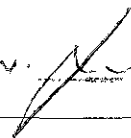


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SENATE

S.B. No. 1431

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

During World War II, hundreds of Filipino women were made victims of military abuse in the form of sexual coercion. These women were more commonly known to the world as the 'comfort women' of the Japanese Imperial Forces. The 'comfort women' system of forced military prostitution included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death or eventual suicide. Many historians conclude that Japan compelled up to 200,000 Chinese, Korean and Filipino women to become sex slaves.

At present, elementary, secondary and college history books provide very limited information, if at all, about the offenses and human rights violation committed by the Japanese Imperial Forces upon Filipino women. The Filipino comfort women, the unsung victims of gross human rights violations and different crimes against humanity, should be given proper recognition for the dreadful ordeal they underwent and for the courage they have shown in continuously fighting for their rights amid strong resistance by the Japanese government to formally apologize and provide them reparation.

It is incumbent upon our educational institutions to drive awareness among our people about the heroism of the Filipino comfort women. The Department of Education shall therefore conduct a complete, objective and historical documentation of the facts and events about Filipino victims of sexual coercion during World War II. Every Filipino needs to be educated about the lives and heroism of the Filipino comfort women to better understand their concerns and support them in their campaign for justice and dignity. This bill seeks to give due recognition to the Filipino comfort women by including such topic in Philippine history books.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY BOOKS  
THE LIVES AND HEROISM OF FILIPINO COMFORT WOMEN  
DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1.** The lives and heroism of Filipino comfort women during the Japanese occupation shall be written and included in Philippine history books used in elementary, secondary and collegiate curricula throughout the country.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 3.** The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,