

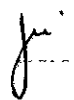
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'14 JUL 21 AIO :45

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 780

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE NAUTILUS SEASHELL
IS ALMOST EXTINCT IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The state shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;"

WHEREAS, *the Philippine Star*, in its 26 June 2014 issue, reported that an Australian paleontologist, Professor Peter Ward said in an interview with Science Daily that the Nautilus seashell situation in the Philippines was mind-boggling and is now almost extinct in the Bohol Strait and completely gone from the three other classic fishing locations;

WHEREAS, Ward reportedly described the Nautilus as the canary in the coalmine of the deep reef environment; its existence is considered an indicator of the health of deeper reefs where little ecological study is done;

WHEREAS, Ward who is reportedly known for his work and theories on mass extinction in earth's history describes the nautilus as having survived every single mass extinction event for over half a billion years but are now on the verge of extinction by humans who prefer to display them on a bathroom shelf or turn them into pretty buttons on a shirt;

WHEREAS, Ward who has studied nautilus populations at the Great Barrier Reef, Fiji, American Samoa, and Central Philippines claimed that the nautilus can be found at rates of 10 to 15 per square kilometer in the Great Barrier Reef, but in the Philippines the Nautilus is 100 to 200 times more rare;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to strengthen the implementation of laws concerning seashell harvesting in the Philippines;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the report that the nautilus seashell is almost extinct in the Philippines.

Adopted,

act.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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