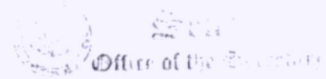


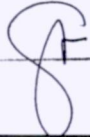
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



'19 JUL 16 P2:39

**SENATE**

S. No. 549

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SENATOR MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING THE ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT (R&D) OF COCONUT SUGAR IN THE COUNTRY,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coconut industry is a dominant stakeholder in Philippine agriculture, coconut being among the country's top ten export produce. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Philippines is the world's largest producer of coconuts. Three million five hundred sixty thousand (3,560,000) hectares of arable land is devoted to coconut production benefiting roughly 25,000,000 Filipinos. It is considered to be among the top 5 net foreign exchange earners, averaging an income of roughly US\$1.5B per year.

One of the recent products that can be manufactured from the coconut tree is "coco sugar". Coconut sugar is a by-product of coconut sap (tuba) and is obtained by boiling freshly harvested sap until it evaporates and thickens. It is then allowed to cool to become granular. Chemical analysis shows that coco sugar contains higher amounts of nutrients compared to brown and refined cane sugar. Coco sugar has higher levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, chlorine, magnesium, sulfur, and micronutrients.

Health experts indicate that coco sugar can help in the proper management and control of diabetes mellitus because it helps in lowering the total cholesterol level. Coconut sugar is good for people with diabetes since it has a relatively low glycemic index (GI) — coco sugar only has 35 GI compared to cane sugar with 50.

This proposed measure seeks to further boost the coconut industry in the country by providing the mechanisms to fund the research and development (R&D) of coco sugar to ensure this product's conformity with internationally accepted standards for food and safety. This measure intends to improve the lives of Filipino families who are directly and indirectly dependent on the coconut industry.

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



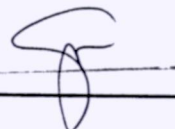
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*

SENATE

'19 JUL 16 P2:39

S. No. 549

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING THE ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**(R&D) OF COCONUT SUGAR IN THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Coconut Sugar  
2 Research and Development (R&D) Act".

3  
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 promote domestic materials and locally produced goods, and to adopt measures to  
6 make such locally produced good competitive in both the local and international  
7 market.

8  
9 Towards this end, the State shall provide the enabling mechanisms to  
10 promote the production of coconut sugar in order to help and boost the coconut  
11 industry in the country.

12  
13 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the terms "*coconut*  
14 *sugar*" and "*coco sugar*" shall refer to the product derived from coconut sap and  
15 obtained by boiling the same until it evaporates, thickens, and thereafter solidifies  
16 turning into honey syrup or granular sugar.



17            *Sec. 4. Promoting Research and Development (R&D) on Coconut Sugar.* -  
18 The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in coordination with the  
19 Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Food  
20 and Nutrition Institute (FNRI), shall conduct an extensive research and development  
21 (R&D) study on the health benefits and nutritional value of coconut sugar in order to  
22 develop the same and ensure its compliance with internationally accepted standards  
23 on food and safety.

24

25            The DOST, in coordination with the PCA, DA, and the FNRI, shall conduct a  
26 year-round information, education, education and communication (IEC) campaign to  
27 inform and educate the general public on the various health benefits of utilizing coco  
28 sugar. It shall also publish the latest research findings, studies and materials on the  
29 nutritional value of coco sugar.

30

31            *Sec. 5. Coconut Sugar Credit Facility and Loan Packages.* - The Land Bank of  
32 the Philippines (LBP) is hereby mandated to formulate a Coconut Sugar Credit  
33 Facility and Loan Package Window which shall extend low interest loans to small and  
34 medium enterprises (SMEs) seeking to venture into the business of promoting the  
35 consumption and utilization of coconut sugar.

36

37            Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the LBP is  
38 mandated to formulate the necessary guidelines, procedures, and requirements for  
39 the various stakeholders to avail of the Coconut Sugar Credit Facility and Loan  
40 Package, as provided under this section.

41

42            *Sec. 6. Annual Appropriations.* - The Department of Science and Technology  
43 (DOST) shall include in its annual programming and annual appropriation the  
44 amount necessary to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

45

46            *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the  
47 date of effectivity of this At, the DOST, in coordination with the PCA, DA, and the

48 FNRI, shall promulgate such implementing rules and regulations necessary to  
49 implement the provisions of this act.

50

51 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees executive orders, issuances, rules  
52 and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
53 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

54

55 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act shall be  
56 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected  
57 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

58

59 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
60 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
61 circulation.

62

63 *Approved,*

64

65

66