EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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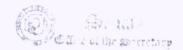
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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay 19 AUG -7 P5:24

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBLE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSFORMING THREE STRATEGIC ISLANDS IN NORTHERN PHILIPPINES INTO ECONOMIC AND TOURISM ZONES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination;

WHEREAS, an article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, dated August 5, 2019, reported on Chinese investors targeting three strategic islands in northern Philippines for transformation into economic and tourism zones;

WHEREAS, the islands targeted for investments are the Fuga Island in Cagayan Province and the Grande and Chiquita Islands in Subic Bay, Zambales Province;

11 WHEREAS, the 10,000-hectare Fuga Island is part of the country's second 12 northernmost island group and provides access to the Pacific Ocean and the South 13 China Sea;

WHEREAS, according to the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), the plan for Fuga Island was the establishment of a proposed \$2-billion "Smart City" which have an agricultural breeding center and soil improvement project, medical

school and a high-tech industrial park patterned after megainfrastructure projects in Fujian Province in China to be built by Xiamen-based Fong Zhi Enterprise Corp.;

WHEREAS, the Grande and Chiquita Islands in Subic Bay have both served as key defenses of Spain and the United States during their colonization of the Philippines and serves as important naval fortifications;

WHEREAS, according to the article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chinese investments in the aforementioned islands may possibly associate the Philippines to be an accessory to a possible China-Taiwan conflict by allowing China to have unrestricted access to both the Pacific Ocean and South China Sea;

WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry on the matter is necessary in order to conduct a comprehensive review of foreign investments in the country to determine economic costs and benefits as well as direct and indirect noneconomic impacts such as possible implications to national defense and security;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the possible national security implications of transforming three strategic islands in northern Philippines into economic and tourism zones.

Adopted,

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

Senator