

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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 87

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SPREAD OF HOG CHOLERA VIRUS (HCV), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF), IN THE PROVINCES OF BULACAN AND NUEVA ECIJA, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD ADDRESS FUTURE PROBLEMS OF HOG CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is the primary duty of the State, as it is its mission to promote and protect the well being of its citizens;

WHEREAS, the provinces of Bulacan and Nueva Ecija are among the largest suppliers of pork products in Central Luzon and provide most of the meat demands of Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, based on the data provided by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region IV, there are about 2,823 hogs in Bulacan located in 43 barangays in 11 towns and one city in Bulacan which were infected with the CSF or hog cholera virus as of July 2007;

WHEREAS, the July 29, 2007 newspaper report of the Manila Times has indicated that about 3,150 hogs and piglets from 194 backyard farms in 55 villages in 18 towns and two cities in the province of Bulacan were infected with the hog cholera virus and that 160 of these hogs were reported to have died already;

WHEREAS, news reports as of August 20, 2007 indicated that there are about 6,000 hogs that are suffering from swine fever in the Municipality of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija and that other local government units in Nueva Ecija are inspecting their various hog farms to quantify the extent of the spread of the swine fever;

WHEREAS, health experts from the Department of Health have stated that the Hog Cholera Virus (HCV), otherwise known as Classical Swine Fever (CSF), is a contagious disease caused by a specific viral disease of pigs. Hog cholera is characterized by high fever, severe depression, reluctance to eat, multiple superficial and internal hemorrhages and can be acquired by a healthy pig through direct contact with the infected pig. The virus can also be acquired through its exposure from the droppings of the pig already afflicted with CSF;

WHEREAS, there is a need to implement urgent preventive measures to ensure that the reported hog cholera virus/classical swine fever in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija will not spread through the neighboring provinces in Central Luzon in order to protect the health of millions of pork consumers in Metro Manila and Central Luzon;

WHEREAS, there is much reason to worry because the hog cholera virus may spread through the neighboring provinces in Central Luzon thus endangering the public health of millions on Filipinos in the Metro Manila and Central Luzon;

WHEREAS, the incident of hog cholera virus in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija have caused the spread of misinformation among the pork consumers and pork retailers in Metro Manila which in turn has drastically affected the demand for pork in the Metro Manila area and has affected the livestock industry of Central Luzon;

WHEREAS, there is a need to study the bio-security measures and sanitary procedures being implemented by our various local government units in order to ensure that no untoward hog cholera epidemic will spread through livestock producing provinces in our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food and Health and Demography, and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the spread of Hog Cholera Virus (HCV), otherwise known as the Classical Swine Fever (CSF), in the provinces of Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, with the end in view of providing necessary legislative measures that would address future problems of hog cholera epidemic in the country.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator