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

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## SENATI

## S. NO. 232

# Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

### **Explanatory** Note

Agroforestry system, which is widely adopted worldwide, can be advantageous over conventional agricultural and forest production methods through increased productivity, economic benefits, social outcomes and the ecological goods and services provided. Following this trend, the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, with the participation of various sectors, developed the institution of a one-year Diploma in Agroforestry. Moreover, through the concerted effort of various government agencies, academic institutions and non-government organizations, promising agroforestry systems and technologies for the uplands were developed in the country.

Thus, this bill seeks to expand the coverage of prior programs and activities as regards agroforestry through the establishment and execution of agroforestry programs in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) in the provincial level. The presence of such shall provide for educational programs, supports research, and promotes collaboration among organizations concerned with sustaining forested areas and enhancing the degraded ecological areas in the provinces.

Further, this bill seeks to tap the direct involvement of students, communities and other agencies in reforesting the uplands through agroforestry in selected provinces. Through this Act, the partnership of the SUCs/HEIs with community-based organization and local government units shall harmoniously promote agroforestry as means of forest restoration and increase the availability of timber in the market. With agroforestry, farmers gain a means of livelihood and environmental services are provided.

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

NIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator

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#### SENATE

# s. no. <u>232</u>

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### Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

### AN ACT

## MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EXECUTION OF AGROFORESTATION PROGRAMS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCES

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

## ARTICLE I TITLE AND POLICIES

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Ten-Year Higher Education
 Agroforestation Development Head Act of 2010".

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#### SEC. 2. Declaration of State Policies.-

The State in pursuance to the constitutional mandate of conserving the patrimony of the nation
 shall enhance the agroforestation of the degraded ecological setting (the uplands, lowlands, and
 coastal resources) by authorizing relevant State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and other
 Higher Education Institutions (HEls) in selected provinces in the Philippines to undertake a ten
 (10) - year Agroforestation Development Program starting first at their unutilized or idle land
 resources and expanding to adjacent communities.
 The State shall likewise ensure through this Act, the Operationalization of Section (8) (5) of

12 R.A. No. 7722 (The Higher Education Act of 1994) which gives power to the Commission on 13 Higher Education (CHED) to direct or redirect purposive research and development by 14 institutions of higher learning to meet the needs of agro-industrialization and development.

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## ARTICLE II THE TEN- YEAR HIGHER EDUCATION AGROFORESTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## SEC. 3. Purpose, Scope and Coverage of Development.-

For purposes of this Act, a ten (10)-year Higher Education Agroforestation Development
(HEAD) program in selected provinces in the Philippines shall be established with the assistance
of other government and non-government agencies or organizations that may be identified by the
HEI in the province subjected to the program, who shall act as the lead unit in planning,
implementing and evaluating the program in accordance with the following objectives:

a. To enhance the agroforestation of degraded ecosystem in selected provinces of the
 country particularly the idle/ unutilized land resources of HEI and their adjacent communities in
 collaboration with other government and non-government institutions:

b. To translate the HEls Agroforestry Research and Development into agroforestry
entrepreneurial technologies and promote agro-industrialization development, conservation of
the environment, poverty reduction and socioeconomic upliftment of the affected people and
communities;

c. To upgrade the HEls and improve the delivery of quality of higher education in their
respective service areas through a sustained agroforestry income generating projects.

20 2. All HEls particularly the SUCs who are members of the Philippine Agroforestry Education 21 and Research Network (PAFERN) having an existing agroforestry education and related 22 activities or have the potential to engage in agroforestry extension and development services 23 shall be the priority under this program. Other qualified HEIs which may apply and submit a 24 project proposal to undertake agroforestation in collaboration with organizations such as the non-25 government organizations and local government units, to adopt a community maybe covered and 26 supported under this Act.

## ARTICLE III MECHANISM OF IMPLEMENTATION

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#### SEC. 4. Organization and Management.-

1. The CHED, through the HEAD Taskforce, shall administer this program and be responsible in
the effective over-all implementation of this Act. It shall organize the necessary
instrumentalities, set policies of the program and submit progress and completion reports to the
Congress. The budgetary support for the operational expenses of the Task Force shall be drawn
from the Higher Education Development Fund administered by the CHED under Section 10 of
R.A. No. 7722 and its personnel services shall be from the regular appropriation of CHED.

12 2. Upon approval of this Act, the CHED and other identified HEIs shall mobilize itself to
13 organize the implementation of this Act and all other preparations, planning and other activities
14 concomitant to the implementation of the program shall be charge to their respective institutional
15 current operational expenditures.

16 3. All the HEIs approved for inclusion and funding in this program shall develop a ten (10)- year 17 detailed implementation rolling plan in agroforestation and submit reports to the CHED and their 18 accomplishments indicating the impact of the program on conservation, environment and socio-19 economic upliftment of the affected people and the communities.

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SEC. 5. *Funding Mechanisms*. - In support of this Act the following funding mechanism
 shall be allocated:

1. Effective on the calendar year 2011, all qualified and identified SUCs under the PAFERN
shall be allocated an amount of one million pesos (Php1,000,000) additional budgetary grants
annually for the next ten (10) years to implement the program which shall be treated as a
revolving trust fund for the organization, implementation and business operation of the
agroforestation program.

Other provincial HEls having agroforestry related activities approved to be part of this
 program shall also receive a grant of not more than one million pesos (Php 1,000,000) and yearly
 thereafter based on their proposed project to be treated as a revolving trust fund.

3. All income generated and interest earnings shall be used as follows: fifty (50) percent shall
accrue to the funds for the sustenance of the project and/or expansion activities and the
remaining fifty (50) percent of the support of the HEIs in improving its facilities/
equipment/operation in the delivery of quality education. The focus of which shall be determined
by its governing boards.

9 4. The appropriations of this fund shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for ten
(10) consecutive years effective fiscal year 20 0 until 2020 to be taken from any development
11 funds allocated for agriculture, natural resources and environment.

5. Other sources of fund may be tapped by HEls from the National Anti-Poverty Commission
(NAPC), Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. (Quendancor), local and foreign donors, the
internal revenue allotments of LGUs involved in this program and from the partnership with the
private industry.

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17 SEC. 6. *HEIs Governing Boards' Approval.* - The detailed strategic and operational 18 plans and its effective implementation as well as the hiring of staff, experts and consultants shall 19 upon the recommendation of the President of HEI, be approved or decided upon by the 20 respective governing boards of the HEIs in accordance to their corporate powers as defined in 21 Section 4 of R.A. No. 8292.

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SEC.7. *Repealing Clause*. Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which
 are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

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4 SEC. 9. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete 5 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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