

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11397, August 22, 2019]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCT CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Province of Aklan, a provincial fisheries and aquatic resources training, development, and product center, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA).

The BFAR-DA shall collaborate with, and tap the expertise, resources, and facilities of the state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the province in the establishment, management and operation of the center.

SEC. 2. The provincial center shall, at a minimum, provide onsite and online access to the following:

- (a) Applied technology for innovative and sustainable fish breeding and hatchery of high-value marine species;
- (b) Training activities and technical assistance to provide sustainable development and production support and education of fisherfolk;
- (c) Technical assistance for sustainable production and environmentally sound post-harvest development services;
- (d) Technical assistance in the establishment, operation, enhancement, and maintenance of government-operated marine sanctuaries, seaweed nurseries, seaweed processing plants, and mariculture development park facilities;
- (e) Catalog, display, and promote local fisheries and aquatic products, and provide marketing and product distribution assistance to fisherfolk; and
- (f) Database of available insurance and credit assistance for fisherfolk, and local and international grants and scholarships for fisheries and aquatic resources studies and research.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the establishment of the provincial fisheries and aquatic resources training, development, and product center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government units concerned shall set