



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
City of Puerto Princesa

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 7853 OR “AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 18 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FISHERIES CODE OF 1998”**

Authored by **HON. JUAN ANTONIO E ALVAREZ**

WHEREAS, Sec. 18 of the Fisheries Code of 1998 provides that all fishery related activities in municipal waters shall be utilized by municipal fisherfolk and their cooperatives/organizations who are listed as such in the registry of municipal fisherfolk;

WHEREAS, the same Section likewise allows the municipal or city government, through an appropriate ordinance, to authorize or permit small and medium commercial fishing vessels to operate within 10.1 to 15 kilometer area from the shoreline in municipal waters provided that the requisites as provided for in the law are met;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 7853, aiming to amend the current law, was passed by Hon. Pablo John F. Garcia seeking to allow small and medium commercial fishing vessels to operate within the municipal waters of a municipality or city whose municipal waters do not extend to at least 10.1 km from the shoreline;

WHEREAS, the proposed bill will be disadvantageous to the welfare of local fisherfolks whose livelihood depends on the marine riches of municipal waters. Commercial fishing vessels use equipment far advance and bigger than the small boats and nets used by small-scale fishermen, therefore appropriating to themselves what the latter may catch and sell, affecting largely the possible profit of small-scale fishermen. Furthermore, allowing these commercial fishing vessels might threaten the marine ecosystem flourishing within the municipal waters as they might damage the habitats which serve as breeding grounds of marine organisms;

WHEREAS, the pandemic has affected the lives of every Filipino; people are suffering from loss of livelihood, and many continue to struggle to bring food to their table. The situation of municipal small-scale fishermen, who remain to be among the poorest sector in our country, is worsened by this pandemic. As peoples’ representative, the Government must ensure that every lives are given importance during these trying times, and that it must give focus to those who struggle the most;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Board Member _____, duly seconded _____, be it;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL NO. 7853 OR “AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FISHERIES CODE OF 1998”**

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the office of Hon. Franz Josef Alvarez, Hon. Frederick Abueg and Hon. Gil Acosta for their information and possible endorsement to the House of Representative.

JUAN ANTONIO E ALVAREZ
Board Member, 1st District