The Department of Education (DepEd) recently included in its strategic goals the "expansion of access and inclusion in basic education." In line with this thrust, the DepEd institutionalized the Special Education (SPED) Program – a curriculum that caters specifically to learners who are visually or hearing impaired, orthopedically handicapped, have learning disabilities, suffer speech impediments, or are afflicted with autism, ADHD and other similar medical conditions. Students in the SPED program are placed in an educational environment with facilities suited to their abilities and guided by sufficient faculty and staff members trained to educate special learners.

At present, there are only three (3) SPED Centers in the Schools Division of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. Due to the distance and financial constraints brought about by high transportation costs, personal and safety expenses, and other necessary logistical costs, these centers are inaccessible to special learners residing in the farther areas of the district including barangays Dahican, Dawan, Macangao, La Union, Tibanban and Luzon.

This bill is being filed in response to the petition filed by the residents of Barangay Dawan, City of Mati for the establishment of a SPED Center within their barangay proper to be called Dawan Central Elementary School SPED Center.

Support for this bill is earnestly sought.
AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DAWAN,
CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS
DAWAN CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of
Education, a special education school in Barangay Dawan, City of Mati, Province of Davao
Oriental to be known as Dawan Central Elementary School Special Education (SPED) Center.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the
Department’s program the operationalization of the Dawan Central Elementary School SPED
Center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations
implementing the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect (15) days after its publication in the Official
Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.