Panaon Island in Southern Leyte is strategically located along the Maharlika Highway. But in spite of this fact, only half of the island is starting to be developed. The other half remains in an economic stagnation thereby keeping its residents within the poverty threshold. The construction of the circumferential road will certainly improve the economic status of the other half of Panaon Island.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is hereby being earnestly sought.
AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF PANAON ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IN SOUTHERN LEYTE

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

SECTION 1. In alignment with the existing coastal road in Panaon Island, Southern Leyte, there shall be constructed a road to be known as the Panaon Island Circumferential Road.

SECTION 2. The amount necessary to defray the cost of undertaking and completing the feasibility study and detailed engineering for this project and other activities related thereto shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall include in the Department’s program the construction of the said road, the funding of which shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 3. The DPWH shall immediately cause the planning/programming and implementation of the Construction of Panaon Island Circumferential Road. The maintenance of the said road shall be included in the annual maintenance program of the DPWH.

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

Approved,