



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH and SANITATION

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 13

Referred to this committee on May 27, 2025 were two proposed Provincial Ordinances:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LEYTE HEALTH ACADEMY, DEFINING ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS NEEDED THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;**
- 2. AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE LEYTE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, RISK REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI), HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Leyte Health Academy is envisioned to be a provincial center dedicated to enhancing the competencies of health professionals, community health workers, and other allied personnel. The measure addresses the gap in sustained, localized health capacity building, ensuring a pool of well-trained health workers capable of responding to the evolving needs of Leyte's population. Its primary goals include:

- * Providing continuing education and training in health service delivery.
- * Upgrading skills in primary health care, emergency response, and specialized medical services.
- * Supporting the implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC) in the province.

The proposed ordinance creating the Leyte Provincial Council for the Prevention, Control, Risk Reduction, and Management of STI, HIV, and AIDS as the lead policy-making and coordinating body at the provincial level, is in line with Republic Act No. 11166 or the "Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act". While national policies and programs exist, there is a pressing need to establish a localized, multi-sectoral, and coordinated approach to prevention, control, risk reduction, and management to effectively respond to the health, social, and economic challenges brought about by these diseases. Upon consultation with the Provincial Health Office, through the Focal Person, Ms. Kimberly Alvero, instead of the ordinance being just the creation of the Council, it will now be,

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, RISK REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS, AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE.

The said ordinance seeks to strengthen the province's public health response to the growing challenge of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) through:

- * Prevention and awareness programs.
- * Confidential, accessible, and stigma-free testing and treatment.
- * Support systems for affected individuals and communities.
- * Risk reduction strategies aligned with national and international best practices.



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan



The Committee reviewed the proposed ordinances and found them consistent with the objectives of Republic Act No. 11223 (Universal Health Care Act) and Republic Act No. 7305 (Magna Carta of Public Health Workers) and Republic Act No. 11166 (Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act) respectively.

Consultations with the Provincial Health Office, local health board representatives, and allied medical professionals confirmed the necessity of establishing a provincial training institution to standardize and improve the quality of health services. Inputs emphasized the need for community-based interventions, intensified public education campaigns, and mechanisms to protect the rights and dignity of persons living with HIV (PLHIV).

Both measures are aligned with Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla's vision of improving access to health services and reducing the shortage of qualified health professionals, contributing to better health outcomes by building local capacity and strengthening the provincial health workforce, and, delivering universally equitable and accessible health care services.

The Committee firmly believes that the establishment of the Leyte Health Academy will significantly upgrade the province's health service capacity, while the comprehensive STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention ordinance will address urgent public health concerns with a rights-based and evidence-driven approach.

The Committee, therefore, recommends the approval of these Proposed Ordinances:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LEYTE HEALTH ACADEMY, DEFINING ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS NEEDED THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;**
- 2. AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE LEYTE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, RISK REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STD), HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Submitted this 11th day of August 2025, in Palo, Leyte.

HON. RAISSA J. VILLASIN
Chairperson

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR
Vice Chairman

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
Member

HON. FLAVIANO C. CENTINO, JR.
Member

HON. MA. MARTINA L. GIMENEZ
Member

HON. MJ LUNLY D. LUMEN
Member

ORDINANCE NO. ____, SERIES OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LEYTE HEALTH ACADEMY (LHA), DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS, OBJECTIVES, AND FUNDING SOURCES, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall protect, and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, education is accorded with paramount importance towards the development of the human resource of the province in particular, and the country at large;

WHEREAS, the Province of Leyte recognizes the growing demand for a skilled and certified healthcare workforce to address the increasing complexity of health issues within the province;

WHEREAS, the Province of Leyte also recognizes the critical need for a well-trained and certified healthcare workforce to address the complex health challenges faced by its communities;

WHEREAS, the Leyte Health Academy (LHA) is envisioned as a premier institution for healthcare education, vocational training, capacity development, and health research, aiming to enhance health services and public health outcomes, with the primary goal of enhancing the capacity and competencies of health workers across Leyte;

WHEREAS, the establishment of LHA is aligned with the policies and priorities of the Department of Health (DOH), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other national agencies focused on building the competencies of health workers;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of [Author], duly seconded, be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte in session assembled:

Section 1. Title - This Ordinance shall be known as the "**LEYTE HEALTH ACADEMY ORDINANCE**"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy

It is the policy of the Province of Leyte to:

1. Enhance the knowledge and skills of health workers through comprehensive training programs;
2. Promote health equity by capacitating healthcare providers to serve underserved and marginalized communities;
3. Foster research and innovation in healthcare to address local health challenges;
4. Align provincial health initiatives with national policies and global best practices.

Section 3. Establishment of the Leyte Health Academy (LHA)

The Leyte Health Academy is hereby established in Palo, Leyte, as a provincial institution dedicated to healthcare education, training, and research.

Section 4. Functions and Objectives of LHA

LHA shall:

1. Offer vocational training programs, including Barangay Health Services (BHS) NC II, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) NC II, and Pharmacy Assistant NC II, Healthcare Services;
2. Provide crash courses such as Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Diabetes Management, Hypertension Management, Mental Health Gap Action Program (MH GAP), and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI);
3. Conduct capacity-building programs and continuing professional development (CPD) for healthcare professionals;
4. Serve as a center for public health research, focusing on local and regional health challenges;
5. Collaborate with government agencies, local hospitals, and private institutions for internships, employment pipelines, and practical training.

Section 5. Governance and Administration

1. **Management Structure:** The LPHA shall be managed by a Board of Directors chaired by the Provincial Governor and co-chaired by the Provincial Health Officer.
2. **Executive Director:** An Executive Director shall oversee the daily operations of the Academy, appointed by the Governor.
3. **Advisory Council:** An Advisory Council, composed of representatives from DOH, TESDA, local hospitals, and academic institutions, shall provide strategic guidance.

Section 6. Funding and Budget Allocation. The LHA's establishment budget shall be sourced from provincial funds, grants from TESDA, DOH, and other national agencies, and private sector donations.

Section 7. Facilities and Infrastructure

LHA shall include the following:

1. Training facilities for BHS NC II, EMS NC II, and Pharmacy Assistant courses, Healthcare Services;
2. Simulation laboratories, pharmacy practice areas, and classrooms equipped with modern tools and equipment;
3. Administrative offices, research hubs, and resource centers;
4. Dormitories and support facilities for trainers and trainees as needed.

Section 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. **Quarterly Reviews:** The LHA Board of Directors shall conduct quarterly reviews to assess performance and progress.
2. **Trainee Assessments:** Graduates shall undergo TESDA National Competency Assessments to ensure they meet national standards.
3. **Feedback Mechanism:** A feedback system shall be implemented for continuous improvement of training programs.

Section 9. Sustainability Mechanisms

To ensure long-term sustainability, LHA shall:

1. Establish partnerships with hospitals and private institutions for funding and employment pipelines;
2. Offer CPD programs for professionals to generate additional revenue;
3. Engage in research projects funded by external grants and donors.

Section 10. Separability Clause

If for any reason, any section of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other sections which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or in effect.

Section 11. Repealing Clause

All ordinances, rules and regulations as parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Leyte.

Enacted this ___ day of _____, 2024 at the Leyte Provincial Government Complex, Palo, Leyte, Philippines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. WILSON S. UY
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. RAISSA J. VILLASIN
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. MILDRED JOY P. QUE
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MARIE KATHRYN VELOSO-KABIGTING
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. ALAN P. ANG
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. FLAVIANO C. CENTINO JR.
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. ELMER FREDERICO N. CODILLA
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MICHAEL L. CARI
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MA. MARTINA L. GIMENEZ
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. CARMEN L. CARI
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MJ LUINLY D. LUMEN
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. LEONARDO JAVIER, JR
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

Approved:

CARLOS JERICO L. PETILLA
Governor

Date: _____



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE



SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE _____ REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE CONDUCTED AT THE SESSION HALL, 3rd Floor, LEYTE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, WEST BYPASS ROAD, BRGY. GUINDAPUNAN, PALO, LEYTE ON _____, 2025.

PHYSICALLY PRESENT:

VIRTUALLY PRESENT:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-____

A RESOLUTION ENACTING ON THIRD AND FINAL READING, PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2024-____, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING INTERVENTIONS FOR PREVENTION, CONTROL, RISK REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI), HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;”

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the Constitution provides that “the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution, declares that, “the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all people at affordable cost;”

WHEREAS, Section 16, the General Welfare Clause of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates all Local Government Units (LGUs) to exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied, and those necessary, appropriate, or incidental for the promotion of the general welfare, particularly to:

- Enhance the well-being and quality of life of their constituents;
- Ensure the provision of basic services, including health and social services; and
- Promote health and safety, enhance prosperity, and improve public morals, among others;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11166, otherwise known as An Act Strengthening The Philippine Comprehensive Policy on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention, Treatment, Care, and Support, and Reconstituting The Philippine National AIDS Council, And Appropriating Funds Therefor, provides for a comprehensive, rights-based, and community-led response to the prevention,

treatment, care, and support for HIV and AIDS, and mandates local government units to develop and implement relevant programs;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) has identified Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), as significant public health concerns requiring sustained prevention, control, and treatment interventions;

WHEREAS, in line with this mandate, it is the duty of the Leyte Provincial Government to safeguard its constituents from public health risks, including the growing threat of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government of Leyte, in collaboration with national agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, and the private sector, is committed to establishing sustainable programs and mechanisms that address STIs, HIV, and AIDS in an integrated and holistic manner;

WHEREAS, the enactment of a Provincial Ordinance shall institutionalize these interventions, ensure continuity of programs, and provide the legal framework for their effective implementation in the Province of Leyte.

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Honorable _____, and duly seconded by Honorable _____, be it

RESOLVED to enact, as it is hereby **ENACTED** on third and final reading, the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-___
Series of 2025

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, RISK REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI), HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE

AUTHOR: HON. RAISSA J. VILLASIN
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Sanitation

CO-AUTHORS: ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR

Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte in session assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Leyte STI, HIV, and AIDS Prevention and Management Ordinance or the Leyte SHARE (STI, HIV, and AIDS Risk Reduction and Education) Ordinance".

Section 2. Scope. This ordinance shall apply to all inhabitants within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Leyte.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** refers to a condition characterized by a combination of signs and symptoms, caused by HIV contracted from another person which attacks and weakens the body's immune system, making the afflicted individual susceptible to other life-threatening infections;
- b. **AIDS Medium Term Plan** refers to the Philippines' strategic framework to address the country's growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. The plan is formulated by the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) in partnership with government agencies, civil society, and international organizations. The AMTP provides a roadmap for implementing comprehensive and multisectoral HIV/AIDS responses across the country over a defined period, usually five years.
- c. **Compulsory HIV Testing** refers to HIV testing imposed upon a person attended or characterized by lack of consent, use of physical force, intimidation or any form of compulsion;
- d. **Contact Tracing** refers to the method of finding and counselling the sexual partner(s) of a person who has been diagnosed of as having sexually transmitted infection;
- e. **Entertainer** refers to a person who is employed in the entertainment establishment and renders establishment service to customers. Entertainers include GROs, dancers, masseurs, cocktail waiters and waitresses and other similar occupation;
- f. **Entertainment Establishments** refers to business establishments which include but are not limited to the following: bars, night clubs, disco houses, beer houses, cocktail lounges, massage clinics, karaoke bars/sing along pub houses, hotels, motels, lodging houses, saunas, and other similar establishments wherein the services of hired entertainers are employed and patrons are entertained and thus, secured a permit to operate within the municipality;
- g. **HIV Transmission** refers to the transfer of HIV from one infected person to an uninfected individual, most commonly through sexual intercourse, blood transfusion, sharing of intravenous needles and during pregnancy;
- h. **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)** refers to the virus which causes AIDS;
- i. **Informed Consent** refers to the voluntary agreement of a person to undergo or be subjected to a procedure based on full information, whether such permission is written, and/or conveyed verbally;
- j. **Key Population** include the following:
 - 1. **Males having Sex with other Males (MSM)** refers to all men who engage in sexual and/or romantic relations with other men;
 - 2. **Transgender having Sex with other Males (TSM)** refers to people who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their assigned sex at birth and who engage in sexual and/or romantic relations with men;
 - 3. **Transactional Sex Workers (TSW)** is defined as persons who in exchange of money, favors, or gifts engage in sexual and/or romantic relations;

4. **Injecting Drug Users** refers to persons who undergo the method of illicit drug use. The drugs are injected directly into the body, into a vein, into a muscle, or under the skin with a needle and syringe. Blood-borne viruses, including HIV and hepatitis, can be transmitted via shared needles or other drug injection equipment;
 5. **Young Key Population** refers to children (below 18 years old) and adolescents (18-24 years old);
 6. **Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) or Migrant Workers** refers to persons who are to be engaged, are engaged, or have been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which they are citizens or on board a vessel navigating the foreign seas other than a government ship used for military or noncommercial purposes, or on an installation located offshore or on high seas. "Persons to be engaged in a remunerated activity" refers to applicant workers who have been promised or assumed employment overseas;
 7. **Pregnant Women**;
 8. **TB Patient**;
 9. **Persons Deprived of Liberty or PDLs**
- k. **Medical Confidentiality** refers to the relationship of trust and confidence created or existing between a patient or a person with HIV and his attending physician, consulting medical specialist, nurse, medical technologist and all other health workers or personnel involved in any counseling, testing or professional care of the former; it also applies to any person who, in any official capacity, has acquired or may have acquired such confidential information;
 - l. **Peer Educators (PE)** refer to the volunteers from the community who have knowledge, skills and dedication to educate others about STI, HIV and AIDS and safer sex practices;
 - m. **Person Living with HIV (PLHIV)** refers to person with HIV infection;
 - n. **Ports of Entry or Exit** refer to a place where people or goods may lawfully enter or exit the province;
 - o. **Post-Test Counselling** refers to the process of providing risk reduction information and emotional support to a person who submitted to HIV testing at the time that the test result is released;
 - p. **Pre-Test Counselling** refers to the process of providing an individual information on the biomedical aspects of HIV/AIDS and emotional support to any psychological implications of undergoing HIV testing and the test result itself before he/she is subjected to the test;
 - q. **Prophylactic** shall mean any of the agent or device used to prevent the transmission of a disease (e.g. condom);
 - r. **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)** refers to diseases acquired from sexual contact, such as but not limited to gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, hepatitis B, bacterial vaginosis, scabies, pubic lice, HIV and AIDS;
 - s. **Voluntary HIV Testing** refers to HIV testing done on an individual who, after having undergone pre-test counselling, willingly submits himself/herself to such test.

Section 4. The Council. There is hereby created the Leyte Provincial Council for the Prevention, Control, Risk Reduction, and Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), hereinafter referred to as the Leyte SHARE (STI, HIV, and AIDS Risk Reduction and Education) Council for brevity, along with its Technical Working Group. The Leyte SHARE Council shall be responsible for overseeing the effective implementation of this Ordinance, ensuring that all programs, projects, and initiatives are aligned with the goals of prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS within the Province of Leyte.

Section 5. Purpose. The Council is hereby created to serve as the central advisory, planning, and policymaking body tasked with the following responsibilities:

- a. Lead the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) within the Province of Leyte;
- b. Define the specific functions and responsibilities of the Council and its Technical Working Group, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response to STI, HIV, and AIDS-related challenges;
- c. Provide comprehensive responses through the development and implementation of programs, projects, and other related initiatives aimed at addressing STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention, control, risk reduction, and management;
- d. Offer technical assistance and capacity-building to Local AIDS Councils in the component municipalities and cities of Leyte, ensuring they have the resources and expertise to address local STI, HIV, and AIDS concerns;
- e. Ensure the establishment of Local SHARE Councils in all municipalities and component cities in the Province of Leyte, promoting a uniform and localized approach to STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention and management.

Section 6. Composition. The Leyte SHARE Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. Chairperson – Provincial Governor
- b. Vice-Chairperson – Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee Chairperson on Health and Sanitation
- c. Members shall be composed of the following or their authorized permanent representative or alternate:
 1. Provincial Health Officer
 2. HIV/AIDS Core Team Chairperson from the Treatment Hubs under the Province of Leyte
 3. Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer;
 4. Provincial Population and Development Officer;
 5. DILG Provincial Director
 6. DOH Representative
 7. DepEd Representative
 8. CHED Representative
 9. PNP Representative
 10. Representative from Faith-based Organization
 11. Representative from NGOs/ POs working with groups vulnerable or most at risk for HIV/Development Partner

12. Representative from LGBT Community
13. Representative from an Organization of PLHIV
14. Representative from Youth Organizations in the Province of Leyte
15. Representative from Women's Organizations in the Province of Leyte

The members of the Council must inform the Secretariat of any changes pertaining to their authorized permanent representative and/or alternate.

Membership may be increased by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan upon the recommendation of the Leyte SHARE Council.

Section 7. Powers and Functions. The Leyte SHARE Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate policies, strategies, and implementing rules and regulations consistent with Republic Act No. 11166, for the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS in the Province of Leyte;
- b. Prepare multi-sectoral plans and strategies aligned with the AIDS Medium Term Plan (AMTP) for the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management STIs, HIV, and AIDS;
- c. Network, partner, and coordinate with local, national, and international organizations for data gathering and program implementation;
- d. Strengthen working relationships and coordinate activities between government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) involved in the campaign against HIV and AIDS;
- e. Mobilize resources, foster collaboration and convergence among government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS;
- f. Determine methods to control the prevalence of STIs and identify potential sources of infection within the province;
- g. Develop strategies and provide skills training programs targeted at populations most at risk for STIs, HIV, and AIDS;
- h. Identify gaps in program coordination and policy guidelines, and recommend to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan the enactment of ordinances to enhance the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS;
- i. Promote and conduct information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns on STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention, control, risk reduction and management, ensuring that key populations are adequately informed and reached;
- j. Develop an annual STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention, control, risk reduction, and management plan;
- k. Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the SHARE Program in the province, and provide recommendations for the optimal mobilization and utilization of resources to maximize the program's impacts and outcomes;

- l. Initiate skills development, capability-building, and advocacy programs that benefit key populations, while developing innovative strategies to improve public health outcomes;
- m. Recommend to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan the enactment of additional ordinances that support the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS;
- n. Assist in sourcing funds, requesting funding, and recommending the allocation of resources to ensure the availability of medications, medical services, and treatment facilities as provided by of this Ordinance;
- o. Establish the Technical Working Group, define its composition, and outline its specific powers and functions; and
- p. Perform all other tasks and functions necessary to achieve the overall objective for the prevention, control, risk reduction, and management of STIs, HIV, and AIDS in the Province of Leyte.

Section 8. Structure. The SHARE Council shall be divided into three (3) committees performing specific roles as follows:

8.1 Committee on Information, Education, and Communication

- a. Initiate skills training and advocacy programs and develop strategies to benefit people at risk of STI/HIV/AIDS and other stakeholders;
- b. Conduct regular seminars on STI/HIV/AIDS in all educational institutions and produce relevant modules or education materials;
- c. Ensure the conduct of education and information activities on Reproductive Health in the private sector, NGOs, and the general public;
- d. Design, produce, mobilize and distribute IEC (information, education, and communication) materials on STI/HIV/AIDS;
- e. Compulsory STI/HIV/AIDS education in key populations;
- f. Universal access to STI healthcare;
- g. Develop communication/s plan for the Leyte SHARE Council; and
- h. Network and coordinate with the media, church-based organizations and other services.

8.2 Committee on Surveillance, and Monitoring

- a. Implement, monitor, and evaluate STI/HIV/AIDS prevention policies;
- b. Prepare short term, medium term, and long-term plans for STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, control, risk reduction and management;
- c. Monitor compliance with existing municipal and city ordinances;

- d. Recommend the closure of any establishment found in violation of prohibited acts mentioned in this Ordinance and the Labor and Sanitation Laws.

8.3 Committee on Care and Support

- a. Establish Treatment Hubs with HIV/AIDS CORE Team and develop capabilities through trainings;
- b. Community-Based Services – Strengthen knowledge, attitude, skills, and practices of health workers and develop their capabilities through reorientation and updates.
- c. Social Hygiene and Wellness Clinic – Enhance STI services and management by integrating comprehensive reproductive health care, and ensure the availability of essential drugs and medicines for the effective treatment of STI cases.

Section 9. Meeting. The Council shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as may be necessary by serving the notice to all members at least five working days before the meeting.

Section 10. Quorum. The presence of a simple majority shall constitute a quorum for purposes of doing business.

Section 11. Secretariat. The Secretariat shall be headed by the Provincial Health Office.

Section 12. Functions of the Secretariat. The Secretariat of the Leyte SHARE Council shall perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Prepare the agenda for Leyte SHARE Council meetings and accurately record the minutes;
- b. Maintain and safeguard all records of the Leyte SHARE Council;
- c. Collate reports from the member agencies of the Leyte SHARE Council;
- d. Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report;
- e. Issue communication letters to authorized and permanent representatives regarding the schedule of Leyte SHARE Council meetings; and
- f. Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the Leyte SHARE Council.

Section 13. Training of Peer Educators. All individuals or organizations conducting STI, HIV, and AIDS education and information activities must undergo seminars or trainings accredited by the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH, in concurrence with the Leyte SHARE Council, shall certify the competency of those conducting STI, HIV, and AIDS education.

Section 14. Education in Schools. The Leyte SHARE Council shall encourage the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to integrate STI, HIV, and AIDS education into the curriculum of public and private schools at the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels, respectively. This education should focus on the causes, modes of transmission, and prevention methods for STI, HIV, and AIDS. Additionally, this content shall be incorporated into non-formal education programs and indigenous learning systems. Family Development Sessions conducted in communities shall also include topics related to STI, HIV, and AIDS.

Section 15. Education in Entertainment Establishments. Operators and/or managers, entertainers of entertainment establishments, and transactional sex workers shall attend seminars on STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention and control, conducted by the Municipal Health Office. Additionally, operators and/or managers shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating a workplace STI, HIV, and AIDS education and information program for all entertainers and identified transactional sex workers who frequent their establishments.

Section 16. Education in Other Workplaces. Pursuant to Department Order No. 102-10, Series of 2010 of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Announcement No. 21 Series of 2010 of the Commission of Civil Service, STI, HIV and AIDS education shall be integrated in the orientation, training, continuing education and other human resource development programs of employees and employers in the government and private offices. Employers shall develop, implement, and evaluate a workplace STI, HIV and AIDS education and information program for all their workers.

Section 17. Education in the Communities. Local government units through their health, social welfare, and population offices shall undertake an STI, HIV and AIDS education and information programs in their communities in coordination with non-government organizations and civil society groups.

Section 18. Information for Tourists and Transients. Adequate information materials for STI, HIV, and AIDS shall be made available in all forms (printed, television, social media)

Section 19. Information Dissemination as Health Service. STI, HIV, and AIDS education shall be included in the services provided by health workers in both the government and private sectors. Information dissemination shall cover HIV-related ethical issues, including confidentiality, informed consent, and the duty to provide treatment.

Section 20. Mass Media. The Leyte SHARE Council shall conduct information dissemination through mass media, social media, and other platforms, leveraging advancements in information and communication technology (ICT). This will be done in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and Provincial Public Information Officer, as well as media organizations and establishments within the province.

Section 21. Promotion of Prophylactics and Information Materials for Prevention. To prevent STI, HIV, and AIDS infections, all entertainment establishments are required to provide accessible prophylactics (e.g., condoms) and informational materials on STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention and control within their premises. Establishments must also offer guidance on the correct and consistent use of these prophylactics. Posters containing this information shall be prominently displayed, especially in comfort rooms and dressing rooms.

Section 22. Compilation of Roster of Entertainers/Employees in Entertainment Establishments. The Municipal Health Office of respective Local Government Units shall maintain a roster of entertainers/employees indicating their age and place of employment. In relation thereto, all operators and/or managers of entertainment establishments shall submit to their respective Municipal Health Office a monthly updated list (or any time a new employee is hired) of their employees.

Section 23. Regular STI Screening and HIV Testing for Entertainers, Transactional Sex Workers and Others with Similar Occupations. All entertainers, transactional sex workers and others with similar occupations shall be encouraged to undergo voluntary medical checkup (gram staining) once a month, or as frequent as necessary at the Social Hygiene and Wellness Clinic in their respective Municipal Health Office and secure a health certificate as requirement for work.

Section 24. Declaration of AIDS Awareness Month. The month of December, recognized as World AIDS Prevention Month, is hereby declared AIDS Awareness Month in the Province of Leyte. The Leyte SHARE Council shall lead the advocacy programs during December and ensure that adequate funds for these events are appropriated, allocated, or sourced.

Section 25. Social Hygiene And Wellness Clinic. The Leyte SHARE Council encourages the establishment of a Social Hygiene and Wellness Clinic in every Municipal Health Office to serve as a frontline facility for STI, HIV, and AIDS prevention and control. The Provincial Government shall strengthen these clinics by providing adequate technical and logistical support, facilities, and funding.

Section 26. Precautions Against HIV Transmission. The principles and guidelines to protect any person from HIV transmission and precautionary measures on the donation of blood, tissue or organ; during surgical, dental, embalming, tattooing or similar procedures; and on the handling and disposition of cadavers, body fluids or wastes of persons known or believed to be HIV-positive, as mandated in Republic Act 11166 shall be strictly observed.

Section 27. Screening, Testing, and Counseling

- a. HIV Testing. The Province adheres to the policy of voluntary HIV testing. Written consent from the person taking the test must be obtained before taking the test.
- b. Prohibitions on Compulsory HIV Testing. Compulsory HIV testing as a precondition to employment, admission to educational institutions, the exercise of freedom of abode, entry or continued stay in the country, or the right to travel, the provision of medical service or any other kind of service, or the continued enjoyment of said undertakings shall be deemed unlawful.
- c. Conditions for voluntary HIV testing and exceptions to compulsory HIV testing, as provided in Article IV of Republic Act No. 11166, shall be strictly observed.
- d. The Social Hygiene and Wellness Clinics and HIV testing centers shall guarantee anonymity and medical confidentiality in the conduct of the HIV test.
- e. Provider-Initiated and Client Initiated HIV Counseling and Testing. All HIV Testing Facilities shall provide free Pre-test and Post-test HIV Counseling to individuals who wish to avail of HIV Testing.

Section 28. Access to Services. Persons with STI, HIV, and AIDS shall have access to basic health and support services through the community and hospital-based programs without prejudice to optimum medical care which may be provided by special AIDS wards and hospitals.

Section 29. Partner Notification. Any person with HIV is obliged to disclose his/her status and health condition to his/her spouse or sexual partner at the earliest opportune time.

Section 30. Ethics of Care. Health workers providing services, examinations, and education to clients shall adhere to the basic principles of the ethics of care. They must also be sensitive to gender and sexual orientation in their treatment of patients, ensuring that individuals are informed of their rights, including the right to file charges for any abuse committed against them.

Section 31. Livelihood Programs and Trainings. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are encouraged to conduct livelihood, skills enhancement, and organizational development programs, making these opportunities accessible to all individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Section 32. Monitoring and Reporting. In coordination with the Department of Health, the SHARE Council shall establish a comprehensive monitoring program and reporting procedures to track the prevalence of STI, HIV, and AIDS across the Province.

Section 33. Documentation. The Leyte SHARE Council, in coordination with the Treatment Hubs, shall initiate STI, HIV, and AIDS contact tracing activities. The SHARE Council shall monitor and report on all related activities.

Section 34. Handling of Medical Information. Any person entrusted with medical records or test results must strictly observe confidentiality in handling all medical information, especially regarding the identity and status of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Exceptions to this confidentiality requirement, as well as regulations on the release of HIV/AIDS test results, must strictly adhere to the provisions outlined in Article VI of Republic Act No. 11166.

Section 35. Discriminatory Acts and Policies. The following are considered discriminatory against a person on the basis of actual, perceived or suspected HIV/AIDS status and are considered unlawful:

- a) Denial of hiring, promotion, assignment or benefits from employment; and termination of work;
- b) Refusal of admission, participation in school activities, benefits and services to a student, segregation or expulsion;
- c) Abridgment of freedom of abode, lodging and travel, quarantine, isolation, or refusal of lawful entry into the Province;
- d) Disqualification from an election or appointive office;
- e) Exclusion from credit and insurance services including health, accident and life insurance;
- f) Refusal of health care services or be charged with a higher fee; and
- g) Denial of decent burial services.

Section 36. Violations and Penalties. Any person, group of persons, or establishment found guilty of committing any of the following punishable acts shall be subject to the penalties outlined below:

- (1) Violation of Section 16 - Education in Entertainment Establishments;
- (2) Violation of Section 22 - Promotion of Prophylactics and Information Materials for Prevention;
- (3) Violation of Section 29 - Prohibition on Compulsory HIV Testing;
- (4) Violation of Section 34 - Ethics of Care;
- (5) Violation of Section 39 - Handling of Medical Information; and
- (6) Any discriminatory acts or policies against a person on the basis of actual, perceived or suspected HIV/AIDS status as cited in Section 41;

The penalties shall be as follows:

- (a) On the first offense, a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) and/or an imprisonment of one (1) month, at the discretion of the court;
- (b) On the second offense, a fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P 3,000.00) and/or an imprisonment not exceeding three (3) months, at the discretion of the court;
- (c) On the third offense, a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) imprisonment of six (6) months, and/ or suspension or revocation of business permit and license to operate, at the discretion of the court.

For groups of persons or establishments, the penalties shall be imposed on the president or manager in case of a company, corporation or association; the owner, proprietor or operator in case of a single proprietorship; or the administrator in case of government property, office or building.

All fines collected shall be allocated to finance STI, HIV and AIDS programs, projects and campaign of the Province.

Section 37. Budgetary Requirement. The operation of the SHARE Council and implementation of this Ordinance, to be charged against the appropriations of the Provincial Health Office and/or GAD Fund under the Annual Budget, and other sources such as provided by National Government Agencies and Developmental Partners.

Section 38. Implementing Agencies. All agencies and offices of the government and private sectors shall implement this Ordinance in coordination with the SHARE Council.

Section 39. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The SHARE Council shall, in consultation with relevant offices, departments, associations, public agencies, and private organizations and non-government organizations, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance.

Section 40. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other sections which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or in effect.

Section 41. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, rules and regulations as parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 42. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Leyte.

Enacted this ___ day of _____, 2025 at the Leyte Provincial Government Complex, Palo, Leyte, Philippines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. WILSON S. UY
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. RAISSA J. VILLASIN
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. MILDRED JOY P. QUE
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MARIE KATHRYN VELOSO-KABIGTING
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. ALAN P. ANG
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. FLAVIANO C. CENTINO JR.
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. ELMER FREDERICO N. CODILLA
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MICHAEL L. CARI
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MA. MARTINA L. GIMENEZ
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. CARMEN L. CARI
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. MJ LUNLY D. LUMEN
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member

HON. LEONARDO JAVIER, JR
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

Approved:

CARLOS JERICO L. PETILLA
Governor

Date: _____