

PROPOSAL TO ENCODE
しんおきなわ もじ
NEW OKINAWAN KANA (新沖縄文字)
IN THE UCS

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(フレッド・ブレンナン)
(*copypaste*  *kittens.ph*)

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とどてでるぐく
ぐええすずゞゞ
ふふふいふえやゆよあ
ええんいえを
とどてでるぐく
ぐええすずゞゞ
ふふふいふえやゆよあ
ええんいえを

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in no particular order...

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For many helpful recommendations on standardized glyph names.

Yoshiaki Funatsu (船津 好明), Meisei University (明星大学), originator of these characters

In order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, I didn't attempt to contact Dr. Funatsu before this submission. However, I do find it proper to acknowledge his careful online archival of many of the sources concerning his script, especially mentions in Japanese media. Without that I couldn't have come up with the requisite evidence.

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Chapter 1

Quick summary

I propose the encoding of 27 new hiragana letters, to be added to a new block, Kana Extended-C. There are no katakana versions of these letters. I only have evidence of the proposed letters in use to write the Central Okinawan language (沖縄口, うちなあぐち, [?ut̚ina:gut̚si]), although they may be used to write other languages in the Ryukyuan language family. These letters are known collectively in Japanese as the “New Okinawan Kana” (新沖縄文字); 23 of them have existed since 1986, with the remaining four having been created c. 2004. All 27 are the creation of Dr. Yoshiaki Funatsu (船津好明; born 1936), a professor of statistics, applied mathematics and economics; he later in life became a linguist.

Despite their novelty, these letters have seen quite wide use throughout Okinawa. I had no contact with Mr. Funatsu while writing this paper.

I propose that the block Kana Extended-C be two columns wide, beginning at U+1AFD0 and extending until U+1AEF, at which point it meets Kana Extended-B, which starts at U+1AFF0.

1.1 UnicodeData.txt

```
1AFD0;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD1;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD2;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD3;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD4;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD5;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD6;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD7;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD8;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD9;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDA;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDB;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDC;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDD;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDE;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDF;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YO;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE0;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE1;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE2;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE3;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN N;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE4;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE5;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN SI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE6;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN ZI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE7;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TSI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE8;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DZI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE9;HIRAGANA LETTER I WITH VOICED SOUND MARK;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFEA;HIRAGANA LETTER E WITH VOICED SOUND MARK;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
```

1.2 Chart

	1AFD	1AFE	
0	と 1AFD0	あ 1AFE0	U+1AFD0 と HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TU ligature of とう
1	ど 1AFD1	あ 1AFE1	U+1AFD1 ど HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DU ligature of どう
2	て 1AFD2	ゑ 1AFE2	U+1AFD2 て HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TI ligature of てい
3	て 1AFD3	ん 1AFE3	U+1AFD3 て HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DI ligature of でい
4	く 1AFD4	ゑ 1AFE4	U+1AFD4 く HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWA ligature of くわ
5	く 1AFD5	す 1AFE5	U+1AFD5 く HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWA ligature of ぐわ
6	く 1AFD6	ゞ 1AFE6	U+1AFD6 く HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWI ligature of くい
7	ぐ 1AFD7	ゞ 1AFE7	U+1AFD7 ぐ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWI ligature of ぐい
8	く 1AFD8	ゞ 1AFE8	U+1AFD8 く HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWE ligature of くえ
9	く 1AFD9	い 1AFE9	U+1AFD9 く HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN GWE ligature of ぐえ
A	ふ 1AFDC	え 1AFEA	U+1AFDA ふ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWA ligature of ふわ
B	ふ 1AFDD		U+1AFDB ふ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWI ligature of ふい
C	ふ 1AFDE		U+1AFDC ふ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWE ligature of ふえ
D	ゆ 1AFDF		U+1AFDD ゆ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YA → や
E	ゆ 1AFDF		U+1AFDE ゆ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YU → ゆ
F	ゆ 1AFDF		U+1AFDF ゆ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YO → よ
			U+1AFE0 あ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WA no relationship to あ hentaigana letter mi-5
			U+1AFE1 あ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WI → あ
			no relationship to あ hentaigana letter u-3
			U+1AFE2 ゑ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WE → ゑ
			U+1AFE3 ん HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN N → ん

Chapter 2

Overview

Central Okinawan (hereon Okinawan) is the most widely spoken and studied language in the family of Ryukyuan languages, which are Japonic languages spoken in Okinawa and Kagoshima Prefectures (沖縄県と鹿児島県), which are the modern day territories consisting of the land which used to belong to the ancient independent Ryūkyū Kingdom (琉球國) (1429–1609). Despite being a vassal state of the Empire of Japan from 1609 onwards, the kingdom had a degree of independence and the Okinawan language continued to be the language of administration until the late 19th century, when Emperor Meiji decided to more thoroughly integrate the islands into the Japanese mainland. The Okinawan language was banned and was practically invisible in public life by 1945, but with the end of World War II, saw a resurgence, though declined in prominence by the end of the 21st century.

Language revitalization efforts are ongoing; a problem it faces is the ongoing language shift in the region and the dominant view among lay Japanese that Okinawan is a “dialect” (方言) of Japanese rather than a language proper. (Japanese linguists, on the other hand, know better.)

The characters proposed here are used by a minority of Okinawan writers. The majority use hiragana sequences, combined with outdated hiragana (to write Standard Japanese) such as ゐ and ゑ, to write the missing phonemes of Okinawan, or otherwise a Latin-based writing system based on linguistic transcription of Japanese; this system is used in most Okinawan dictionaries. Also extant is the University of the Ryukyus (琉球大学) system, which in my research, seems mostly limited to academic use.

It is difficult for me to account for why these characters are minority usage; it's quite likely that their unencoded status makes them less usable on computers, decreasing their use. Their utility is obvious and their derivation very easy to figure out, being based on existing norms for writing Okinawan in Japanese, as well as even ancient norms for writing Okinawan.

2.1 History

あらうちなー む ず
The New Okinawan Kana (新沖縄文字) are a system for writing the languages of Okinawa devised by Dr. Yoshiaki Funatsu, who for most of his life was a professor of statistics, applied mathematics and economics. Later in life, he visited Okinawa and became interested in its language; in the 1980's, he began creating the system of Okinawan letters described in this paper.

The Okinawan letters created by Funatsu are designed to be easy to understand for speakers of Okinawan; rather than being a complication, they're meant to simplify the writing of the language. It was also Mr. Funatsu's observation that children who were familiar with the system of Japanese kana more easily took to letters like ド than sequences like とう, which they would mispronounce as [tou].

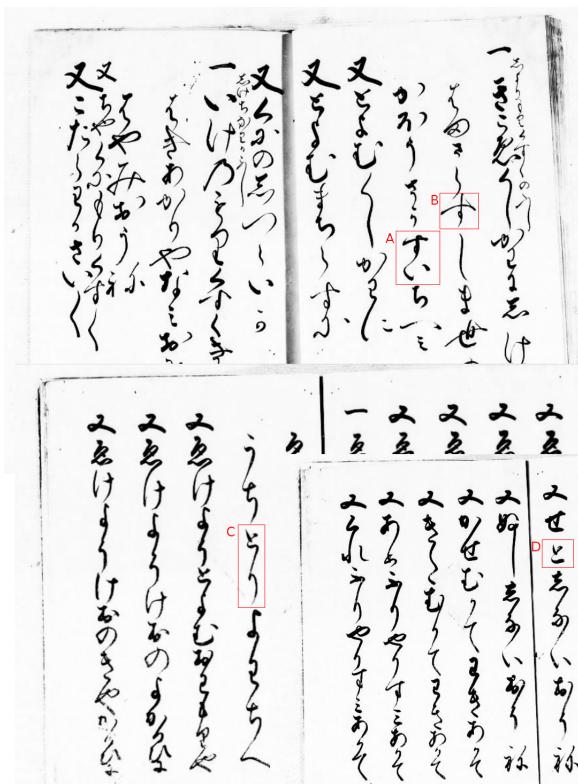


Figure №1—Omoro Sōshi (うむるそーし), NARA A3389

The image above compares three pages from the Omoro Sōshi (うむるそーし), a compilation of traditional Okinawan music. The manuscript above was recorded some time in the 16th century. The version above was put on microfilm after World War II and is from the National Archives. While I don't make any claims of character identity, the origins of the New Okinawan Kana letterforms are clear from this medieval hiragana document; the same impulse to combine characters seen in the form of すい (A) vs. isolated す (B) and in とう (C) vs. isolated と (D) is seen in the characters す HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN SI and と HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TU.

The New Okinawan Kana are known in their author's documents as simply the "Okinawan Kana" (沖縄文字), literally "Okinawan letters". They were originally disseminated in a series of newspaper articles in the Ryūkyū Shimpō (週休新報) by Funatsu beginning on June 6, 1986.¹ The name "New Okinawan Kana" is often used in third party reporting to refer to the characters, as a neutral term for them that does not prescribe their use to the community.²

Funatsu claims no copyright on these characters and allows free distribution of their shapes and phonetic values, unlike, for example, Mojikyō; therefore, GlyphWiki, (sticklers for copyright issues,) accept the New Okinawan Kana and have a category for them.³

1. Funatsu, Yoshiaki (1986-06-06 – 1986-07-16). よみがえれ地方語 [Yomigaere Chihōgo; lit. Resurrecting a Regional Language] (series of 15 articles). *Ryūkyū Shimpō* (週休新報). Archived by Funatsu on his website.

2. See e.g.: Emori (1987); Otsuka (2010); Japanese Wikipedia's 沖縄方言の表記体系 [Comparison of Okinawan Scripts] article. While both 新しい沖縄文字 and 新沖縄文字 are in use, (having identical English translations, "new"), there is a preference for 新 over 新しい in modern sources.

3. グループ:沖縄文字. GlyphWiki. Retrieved 2021-09-03.

There are two repertoires in current use. The first repertoire, consisting of all characters up to and including U+1AFE6, is exactly as it was in 1986, as explained in Funatsu's series of articles in the *Ryūkyū Shimpō* (週休新報). The second repertoire, that plus U+1AFE7–U+1AFEA, is of more complex origin. It seems that originally, Funatsu did not consider word origin when coming up with this writing system. However, with the frequent and common mixing of Okinawan and Japanese words, he came up with those four characters in around 2004 to mark out a word's origin. For example, both ちち and ツチ are pronounced equally, as [t̪eit̪ei]. However, because 月 is pronounced in Japanese as つき, the second is used: 月. Likewise, the extremely rare character ツ has hardly any use at all, being used to transcribe e.g. 三日月. Nevertheless, just barely enough attestations were found for me to recommend even these rare characters.⁴ The chart:

沖縄文字一覧	
ど[tu] どい (鳥)、うど (音)、みーど (夫婦)	ふ[hwe] ふー (南)、にふーでーびる (有り難うございます)
と[to] とーふ (豆腐)、とーばる (桃原<地名>)	へ[he] へい (おい「目下への呼びかけ」)
ど[du] どし (友人)、やど (宿)、どー (自分)	ウ?ja]* ピ?ー (君、お前)、ヤ?ん (言わない)
ど[do] どーぐ (道具)、まんどーん (たくさんある)	ヤ?ja] やー (家)、やん (である)
で[ti] デーち (一つ)、デーだ (太陽)、デ?ん (天)	ユ?ju]* ゆん (言う)
て[te] てーく (太鼓)、てーしち (大切)	ユ?ju] ゆんたく (おしゃべり)
で[di] ふ?ど (筆)、ぬーどー (喉)、?きやー (秀才)	ユ?jo]* ゆーいー (おさな子)
で[de] でーじ (大変なこと)、ちょーでー (兄弟)	ヨ?jo] よーんなー (ゆっくり)
か[kwa] カジ (火事)、カ?っちー (ごちそう)	エ?wa]* エー (豚)、エーちち (天気)
か[ka] かじ (風)、かんない (雷)、かーま (遠方)	エ?wa] わーむん (私のもの)
が[gwa] にんぐん (念願)、ぐんく (頑固)	エ?wi]* エー (上)、エーりきさん (面白い)
が[ga] がんちょー (眼鏡)、めがね、しがた (姿)	エ?wi] エー (男)、あなぐ (女)
く[kwi] くー (声)、さつくー (咳)、く?ゆん (呉れる)	エ?we)* エーきー (金持ち)、エーちゅ (ねずみ)
き[ki] きー (木)、きゆん (蹴る)、きぶし (煙)	エ?we] ういゑー (お祝い)、わじやゑー (災い)
く?gwi] くーく (越來<地名>)、	エ?N]* エー (上)、エー (胸)、エー (嶺井<地名>)
ぎ[gi] かーぎ (容ぼう)	エ?N] エー (胸)、エー (嶺井<地名>)
く?kwe] くー (鍼)、からじくー (髪きり虫)	イ?i]* いん (縁)、いだ (枝)
け[ke] けー (かゆ)、ちけー (使者)	イ?i] イン (犬)、イーび (指)、イチゅん (行く)
ぐ?gwe] ぐー (ぬかるみ)	オ?u]* オー (夫)、オーじ (さとうきび)
げ[ge] げー (害)、にげー (願い)	ウ?u] うど (音)、うーび (帶)
ふ[hwa] ふー (葉)、なーふ (那覇)	エ?e]*△ エーま (八重山)、エーじ (八重洲)
は[ha] はる (畑)、はぎもー (荒地)	エ?e]△ エーさち (挨拶)、エーじ (合図)
ふ?hwi] ふじやい (左)、ふーど (いるか)	オ?o] オーじ (扇)、オーさん (青い)
ひ[hi] ひやみかすん (えい、と言う)	オ?o] オー (王子)、オー (往来)
以下の4文字は文語専用	
す[si] すむん (済む)、ぐすく (城)	ズ[zi] ずんぶん (知恵)、しづか (静か)
そ[ci] そち (月)、まーそ (松)	ソ[zi] みかそち (三日月)

[] 内は沖縄語辞典による読み方 (沖縄文字の使用は自由です。)

* は単語の語頭だけに用います。語頭以外では用いません。例 ○どい (鳥)、×どい

△ 音の出だしに、僅かに i をひびかせます。

「ズ」、「ソ」の z の上のダッシュは、沖縄語辞典では z の下についていますが、ここではフォントの都合で上につけたものです。

Figure №2—Funatsu (2016)

4. Thanks again to Daichi Shimabukuro.

The system proved immediately popular, as the shapes of most of the letters are extremely obvious to any Okinawan speaker literate in Japanese (or even just in hiragana), and led to press attention for Funatsu inside and outside Okinawa. Some of this attention led to the unusual character of Funatsu himself, a university professor from Tokyo who had no obvious connection to Okinawa beyond a short business trip to it. At what must have been not inconsiderable expense in 1987, the *Asahi Shimbun*, as of 2020 the 2nd most circulated newspaper in Japan, even used some of the letters in its writeup of Funatsu:



Also of aid to the spread of the system could have been Funatsu's statement in most charts he authored which bear the letters, such as the 2016 one on the previous page, that:

沖縄文字の使用は自由です。

Use of the Okinawan letters is free.⁵

5. In the sense of freedom, not price; Japanese, like French and Spanish, has different words for the different concepts.

Chapter 3

Potential technical issues

3.1 Atomicity of 𠁕 and 𠁖

The atomicity of 𠁕 and 𠁖 is unlikely to be upheld, however, I find it necessary to request it be considered; in any event, I mention it here so users understand why it was not done.

Existing fonts encode the characters atomically (see § Fonts), and, a legacy encoding, known as TRON,¹ encoded these characters atomically because they also appear in the *Dai Kan-Wa Jiten* [*The Great Kan(ji)-Japanese Dictionary*]. They are located in TRON Plane 9 (TRONコード第9面): 𠁕 = TRON9-8027; 𠁖 = TRON9-802E.

Daisuke Miura (@qvarie) has come up with a de-facto standard that also assumes their atomic encoding; at least one other font is using this encoding as well, and it is mentioned on GlyphWiki as "unstable-nishiki".² 𠁕 = にしき的F464; 𠁖 = にしき的F466.

3.2 Infrequent disambiguation letters

I have fewer attestations of these letters, but still more than enough for encoding.

These letters are in all fonts I've seen which support this system, including Nishiki-teki (にしき的). They are certainly expected, and they certainly do have a use, it is just that finding inline examples of them is challenging because they are only used in a few words. Especially, as noted, 𠁔, which only has a single example across repertoires, 三日月. There just aren't that many words which have a clear shared etymology with Japanese and begin with 𠁔, *itself* a rare kana, as it is pronounced equally to 𠁔 in Standard (Tokyo) Japanese (e.g. in the verb 続く).

1. TRON has very similar aims to Mojikyō: encode characters without Han unification. Both were created by Japanese people.
2. This uses Private Use Area codepoints in Miura's font “Nishiki-teki” (にしき的).

3.3 *Shima Shotai* collision

あいうえおかきくけこさしさしすせそたちちつつ
てとなにぬねのはひふふへほまみむめもやゆよら
りるれろわをんゑゑがぎぐげござじじじずぜぞ
だぢぢぢづでどばびぶべぼばびぶべぼっつ
つつつつつつつがぎぐげございばういば
ゲゲゲゲえああああずすすいあいうえおああ
くけこがぎでびざししすせそざじじずぜぞた
ちううとだうでどなにぬねのはひふふへほば
ぶべばびぶべばまみもめもやゆよらりるれ
ふふるあいうえおかきくけこたちちらうと
ぬねのばびぶべばまみもめもやいいゆよらり
ろわくくすしししだとちちとちちんふふ
ううぶぶむむるりんんかがちちさししすそ
ふふへほおおぱぱぐどぶかきくけこさし
たちちううとてはひふふへほばびぶべば
ぎりあいうえおやゆよわかけこアイウエオカキ
ケコサシシシスセソタチチツテトナニヌネノハ
ヒフフヘホマミムメモヤユヨラリルレロワランエ
ヰガギグゲゴザジジジズゼゾダヂヂヂヂ
ビブベボバビブベボッッッッッッッッ
ツツガギグゲゴイイウイイエギヴヴヴエエア
アズズスイアイエオアカキクケコガギ
サシシスモシザジジズゼソタチチシシテトダツ
ドナニヌネンハヒララ入ホバビブベボバビ
マミムメモヤユヨラリルレロワフルアイウエ
カキクケコタチチツツテトナニヌネソバビ
マミムメモヤイイユヨラリルレロワククスシシ
シトチチントチシソウフグダツヅブムル
ソカガチチソシソセソハヒフフヘルオヨ
グドブカキクケコサシシスセソタチチツツテト
ヒフクヘホバビブベボジジヂヂギリアイウエオ
ユヨワカケコヅヅドヌハヒヘホラレログギズ「
しょたい」『』――、。！？・…～（）←→ おがわしんじ

やまだ まさひろ やしゅか うえだ ひろと
Shima Shotai (しま素体) is an incompatible system presented by Shinji Ogawa (小川 晋史), Masahiro Yamada (山田 真寛), Yuka Hayashi (林 由華), and Hiroto Ueda (上田 寛人) at ATypI, the typography conference held by the Association Typographique Internationale, in 2019.³ It is for the representation of the Ryukyuan languages. I have not as yet been able to find enough community use of this neography to recommend formally the encoding of its characters. The encoding of the New Okinawan Kana does not preclude future encoding of the *Shima Shotai* system, should it be used more widely.

Furthermore, there is no possibility of a name collision between the New Okinawan Kana and the *Shima Shotai*. The only characters missing for the *Shima Shotai* are some small versions of existing hiragana and katakana letters. These have a clear pattern by which their names are derived, and it is already known that they belong in the block Small Kana Extension, which has room to receive them. It is also possible some more diacritics are needed to represent the *Shima Shotai*, but there is also an obvious way to name these diacritics as they are very similar in appearance to Latin typographical diacritics, and if new diacritics are needed, they wouldn't have any specific Script category.

While the authors of the *Shima Shotai* stated in 2019 that their top priority was being encoded in Unicode, no proposal has been submitted as of the date of this paper. Nonetheless, I am confident that the encoding of my requested characters would do nothing to hinder a possible future encoding of theirs should adequate third-party use of their *Shima Shotai* system be documented.

3. See [しまの文字.site](#). In the presentation, Ogawa mentions that *Shima Shotai* have existed since 2015, but I could not independently verify this.

Chapter 4

Evidence

4.1 Attestations

Note: Listed below are only attestations in which Funatsu, the creator of the characters, was either not involved, or was not the lead author. If I were to include Funatsu's work this section could be neverending, but because the ISO P&P are about proving the existence of a user community, Funatsu's works aren't relevant for proving one.

・新沖縄文字

さいきんになって琉球語の発音をあらわすために考えられた文字です。

い	あ	え	や	ゆ	よ
て	と		き	か	な
で	ど		お	え	ま
あ	あ	ゑ	す	す	
く	く	ゑ	フ	フ	フ
ぐ	ぐ	ぐ			
ふ	ふ	ふ			
ん					

↓実際に新沖縄文字をつかって単語をかいて見ると・・・

どし(ともだち)
くっちー(ごちそう)
てーだ(太陽)
てーきやー(かにい子)
わなぐ(おんな)



Figure №4—Tamaki, Yumi [玉城 裕美] (2009). ウチナークトゥバ：琉球語 [Okinawan: A Language of Ryūkyū]. Kid's Seminar 2009 [きつずせみなあ 2009]. Chubu University Center for the Study of Foreign Languages [中部大学語学センター].

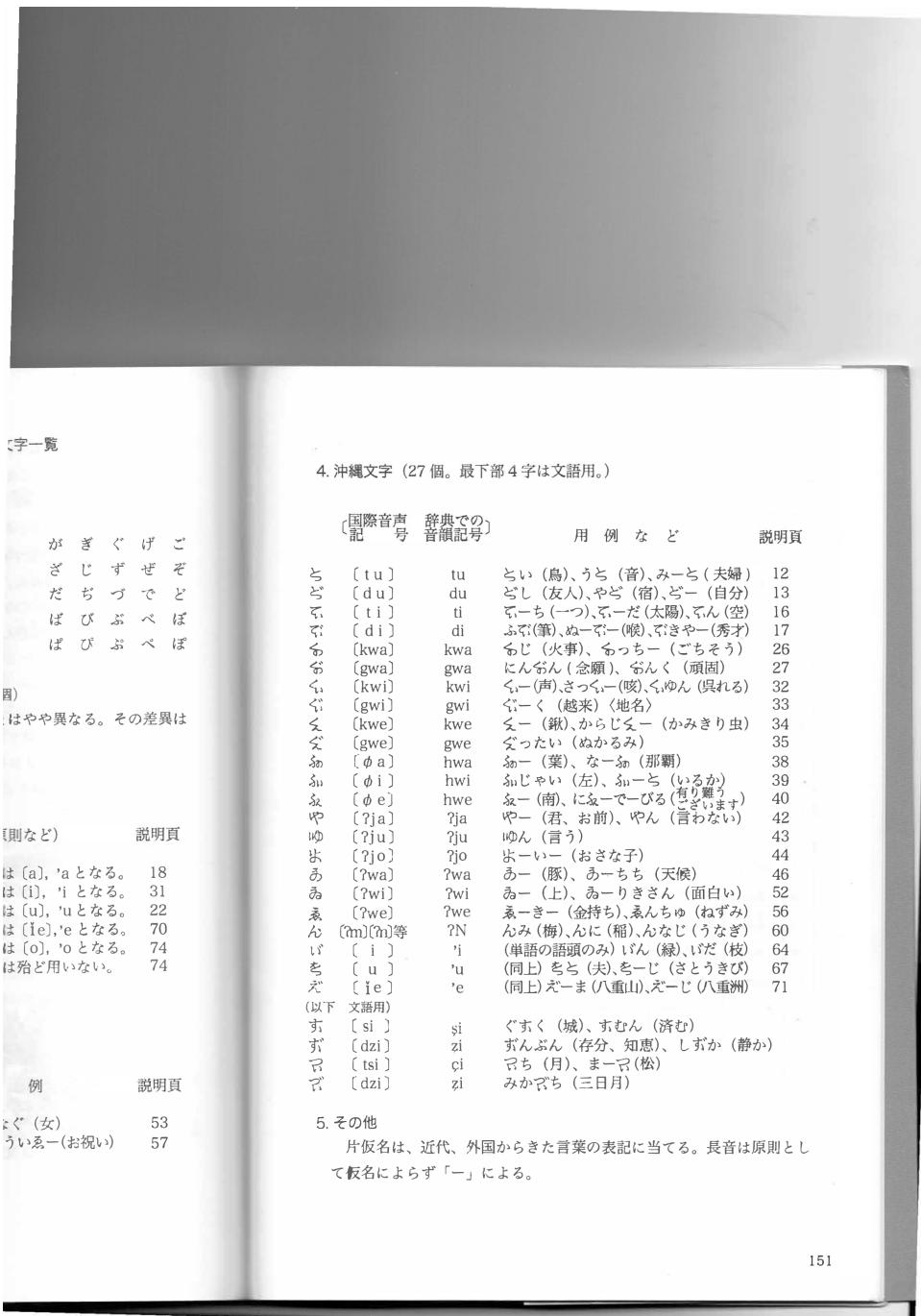


Figure №5—Nakamatsu, Takeo [中松 竹雄]; Funatsu, Yoshiaki [船津 好明] (2010). 沖縄口さびら [Let's Speak Okinawan]. Naha: Ryūkyū Shimpō Publishing House [琉球新報社]. p. 151.

いー正月でーびる そーらち

城問 朝昌

家人衆打ち揃一揃一、うぬ龍んで言しえー、水
いー正月迎みしえーびー
が、うぬ龍んで言しえー、
今年一龍年んで言びーし
が、うぬ龍んで言しえー、
小堀んでーんかい籠まで、
戦世ぬ終わいるぐるまでー
時々ー天ぬあまくま飛で歩
唐破風ぬ瓦屋ぬ上なかい戴
ちゅんで言つとーやびーし
して、あいびーたん。また、
が、今年ー、うぬ龍んかい
唐破風ぬ上い口ぬ左と右面
肖で、御衆様、皆頑丈さし
んかい、龍柱ぬ向かて建つ
氣張みしえーびり。
ちよーいびーたん。うりか
東京沖縄県人会ぬ新聞
ら、う龍樋ぬ水ん、龍ぬ口
「月刊・おきなわの声」
から走い出じーる如成とー
どーでん忘りらん如し読で
やびーたしが、一杯冷つ
う賜みしえーびりんち、う
願ーさびら。

ご家族お揃いでよい正月をお迎えでしょーか。

今年は龍年といふことです、その龍といふのは戦争の終わり頃までは曾里城正殿の臺(いらか)に龍頭が飾られてありました。また、正殿へ上がる階段の左と右側に龍柱が向き合って立っていました。それから、龍樋の水も龍の口から湧き出るようになっていましたが、とても冷たくておいしい水でした。

その龍といふは、水の神といつて、素戔鳴守護神と言われています。いつでも海の中や池などに龍り、時には天空の彼方此方を自由に飛び回ると言ひ伝えられていますが、今年はその龍があやかって、皆様方に健康で元活躍ください。

東京沖縄県人会の新聞「月刊おきなわの声」も何卒お忘れなくご愛読くださいますようお願いいたします。

Figure №6—Excerpt from おきなわの声 (*The Voice of Okinawa Monthly*) issue 98, 1988.

そーらち

This article, entitled いー正月でーびる, is of unknown authorship. At right is the Okinawan text, at left a Japanese translation.

It's of particular interest that this was published without an explanatory chart, and lends credence to the idea that the letters have shapes that are so obvious to literate Okinawans as to need no explanation. The article is not about the kana themselves, but is rather about the fact that 1988 was the year of the dragon (龍年) in the Chinese Zodiac.

2021年2月2日 投稿者: 小林

沖縄文字と発音

沖縄文字と発音についての問い合わせがありました。

「と」「で」「て」などの扱いや「沖縄文字」との互換についてはどこかでご紹介がないか?

ということです。問い合わせの答えになるかどうか自信がありませんが、分かる範囲でお答えしようと思います。

Figure №7—Kobayashi, Hitoshi [小林ひとし] (2021). [沖縄文字と発音](#) (Okinawan Kana and Pronunciation). 沖縄語を考える [Thoughts on Okinawan (blog)].

This article is interesting in that it shows documentation of enduring user community demand for these characters. Dr. Kobayashi is a professor emeritus of engineering; he's the author of several fonts for the characters. In this article he explains why he went to the trouble of using web fonts to get them on his personal blog about Okinawan, because he believes they aid pronunciation.

さんしん
三線で琉歌を歌いたいと思っているひとへのアドバイスです。三線は楽譜として工工四がありますが、歌う場合の発音が問題です。沖縄語には正書法がないので、歌詞を正しく発音するには師匠からの口伝になります。ところが、この「師匠」たるもののが問題で、その琉歌が唄われる地方の言葉に精通してないことがあります。また、前にも書きましたが「梅」=「んみ」の「ん」（「ん」のグロッタル音）ができない師匠も多くいます。聞いていると「うん」とか変に籠らせた「ん」を発声したりしています。師匠の教えは教えとして、正確な発音は古い先人のレコード、たとえばマルフクレコードに収録されているものを参照されるようお勧めします

Figure №8—Kobayashi, Hitoshi [小林ひとし] (2021). [「沖縄語」は話せなくてよい](#) (It's Fine Not to Speak Okinawan). 沖縄語を考える [Thoughts on Okinawan (blog)].

The excerpt above laments the loss of the unique phonemes of Okinawan in colloquial speech, and shows one of the problems Dr. Kobayashi has with using regular hiragana only to write Okinawan: there's no good way to distinguish ん (n) from ん (?n), which can appear word-initial in Okinawan. This leads, he speculates, people to assume that they are the same. As Okinawan is not taught in most schools, the author writes, this has led to them *becoming* the same.

Above, **highlighted** is ん.

うちなー ちどい 沖縄ぬ 踊

児玉清子（横浜市港北区）

今、我っ達んかい伝わとーる沖縄ぬ
踊や、沖縄ぬ琉球 やたる時に、御城
ぬ踊 どっしりじまとーたしと、村々ん
かい伝わとーたる御神んかい捧ぎーる
踊ぬ合ーさったしやいびーん。
親國ぬ大切な芸能成とーいびーたく
と、踊と唄三線ー400年余いぬ間栄
一やびたん。
隣ぬ国、明国ぬ皇帝や、14世紀ぬ
初み、琉球んかい使ー出じゃさびたん。

かい 催さったる芸能や「御冠船 踊」
んで言ちょーいびーたん。くぬ御冠船
踊ど國ぬ商一ぬ為なかい一杯役に
た立ちやびたん。御冠船 踊や冊封使達が
来ゆーる2、3年前から稽古そーいび
ーたん。あつ達や長ー居たくだ、踊や
7回んかい分きらって催さって、うれ
ー「七宴ぬ式」んで言らっとーいびー
ん。
御冠船 踊んかい出じーるつ人ぬ
達や、御城んかい勤みとーる位ぬ高
さる士ぬ次男、三男から選ばったし
やいびーん。あんし踊奉行ぬ前をで
たり。

Figure №9—Newsletter of the Okinawa Speaker's Association (沖縄語を話す会会報), issue 26. Okinawan Edition (うちなーぐちかわら版). 2020-07-04.

All 26 issues of this use the Okinawan kana; the example above is an example of an article in the newsletter by 児玉清子.¹

1. Reading unknown. (Some Japanese names have multiple possible pronunciations, and unless specified explicitly can only be guessed at.)

現代的表記
5 船ぬ艤綱とくとくと 船子いさみて真帆引
きば 風やまとむに午未
6 又ん廻り逢御縁とて まにく扇や三重
城 残波岬んあとに見て
7 伊平屋渡立つ波うしすいで 道ぬ島々見
渡しば 七島渡中んなだや六く
8 むゆる煙や硫黃が島佐多ぬ 岬にはいな
らで、ありに見ゆるわ御開聞 富士に見ま
ご一桜島
この頁の沖縄文字
5 船の艤綱とくとくと 船子いさみて真帆引 ば 風やまともに午未
6 又も廻り逢う御縁とて まねく扇子や三重城 残波岬もあとに見て
7 伊平屋渡立つ波おしそひて 道の島々見渡せ ば 七島渡中やなだやすく
8 もゆる煙や硫黃が島 佐多の岬にはいならで あれに見ゆるは御開聞 富士に見まがふ桜島

Figure №10—Kuniyoshi et al. (2009) p. 33.

This source is particularly valuable because it has inline examples of two of the infrequent disambiguation letters. Because each song in this collection is intended for use detached from the whole, an explanation of the New Okinawan Kana used in the lyrics are on each page. **Highlighted** are, from right to left, top to bottom, ヽ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DZI, ヽ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TSI, and ヽ HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN SI.

伝統的表記例

5 船ぬ艤綱とくとくと
　　船子いさみて真帆引

　　きば 風やまとむに午未

6 又ん廻り逢御縁とて
　　まにく扇や三重

　　城 残波岬んあとに見て

7 伊平屋渡立つ波うしすいで
　　道ぬ島々見

　　渡しば 七島渡中んなだや六く

8 むゆる煙や硫黃が島佐多ぬ
　　岬にはいな

　　らで、ありに見ゆるわ御開聞
　　富士に見ま

ご一桜島

この頁の沖縄文字

5 船の艤綱とくとくと 船子いさみて真帆引
　　ば 風やまともに午未

6 又も廻り逢う御縁とて まねく扇子や三重城
　　残波岬もあとに見て

7 伊平屋渡立つ波おしそひて 道の島々見渡せ
　　ば 七島渡中やなだやすく

8 もゆる煙や硫黃が島 佐多の岬にはいならで
　　あれに見ゆるは御開聞 富士に見まがふ桜島

「琉球古典音楽」習て　---うちなーぐちにて---

我んねー、四十八ぬ歳に、「琉球古典音楽」習い始みて、なー、今ー、八十ぬ歳成いびたん。
習い始みたる頃ー、教室をて、皆んかい珍さきて、又、しーじゃ弟子ぬ御方々からー、「珍さる大和ん人ぬ、入っち来よーんどー。」んで、言らりやびたん。
今ー、「野村流音楽協会関東支部」ぬ全そん、沖縄ん人、えーねー、うぬ弟子やかん、大和ん人ぬど、多さいびーる。八卦ー、超ーとーんび、思ーりやびーん。
古典音楽ー、歌歌いる際に、肝えーぬ切り目ぬ場所をて、声や、必じ切らりーるむの一、あらんあい、爻、色分きて、名詞ー、二ちんかい分きらって、うぬたばさなかい、囁子詞ぬ入りらったいさびーん。
歌ぬ発音ー、世間をて、言らっとーる沖縄口ぬ音どやくど、どー易さるむの一、あいびらん。
歌ぬ発音ー、大切やんて思て、「沖縄語を話す会」かい、どーとびけーん通たしが、今やでん、大和口っし音ーどんしえー、「遠洋の帆」どやいびーる。
古典音楽聽ちよーいねー、眠ーぶいするつん居んでぬ、話ー、いきらこー無やびらん。
うれー、あんやる苦やいびーしが、一ちぬ考ーぬあざ、耳んかい入っち来ゆーる音ぬ、胴体んかい響ぬ伝ーらって来ゆーる音ぬど、つんぬ命続かち行ちゆる力ぬ、あんでん言らとーいびーん。うれー、あんがやら分かいびらんやー。
「新人賞課題曲」ぬ、一ちやいびーしが、伊野波節んかえー、此ぬよーなっ人ぬ命続かする力ぬあいがすら分かいびらん。
伊野波ぬ坂道から、どーぬ女ぬ親、えーねー、ぞない、思やー小添ーて上て、あんし、んまをて、別りらんだれー成らん事情「例れー、くんちゃー成たる故に隔てあーかさんだれー成らん場」ぬ事やいびーん。此ぬ事ー、どく嘆かさぬ、肝病で出じーる声ど、味ゑーぬある何どんぐん音ららん、弦ぬ音んかい応じて、意ーじふらーじ、群り毛立ちするあたい氣引ち縮みらんだれー成らんぐる思いやいびーん。
年奇いぬ年奇い見一考ーする事、見一考ーするつん居らんくど、胸獨い死ぬる事、うりから、どく見一考ーする故に、心労びけーいっし疲りて、後ぬうじゅめー、命捨てーる事んでーや、つんぬ命んかい係わいる事やで、此れー、生ちみどーみ、考ーらんどんあれー成らんむんやいびーさ。伊野波節ー、此ぬよーな考ーどっし、我んねー、要き止みとーいびーん。此ぬ事ー、何がな見一出じゃさりーがすら、分からんしが、肝要なむんぬあえーさにんで、思とーいびーん。
我っ達師匠、仲宗根忠治先生や、何時がやら、くん如っし、言みしぇーいびーたん。「いつ達が、ちゃーがなっし、沖縄ぬ文化分かいる如成いる事やさ。」あんやいびーさやー。沖縄ん人らーさる滑い方、計れー方ー、古典音楽習いる為ねー、此りどん、志てー成らんえーさにんで、思とーる次第やいびーん。

沖縄文字の読み方：「文中に出ている沖縄文字は、すべて一音で読みます。」
例えば「ぐ」は、「guwa」（ぐわ）にならないように一音で、「gwa」と読みます。

ゞ=トウ (tu)、ぢ=ティ (ti)、ヰ=ヲウ (' u) ('う'の不破裂音)、
ぢ=ディ (di)、ヰ=クワ (kwa)、ゞ=ドウ (du)、ヰ=クイ (kwi)、
ゑ=フエ (hwe)、ヰ=フイ (hwi)、ヰ=フワ (hwa)、ヰ=グワ (gwa)、
ゐ=ン (' N) の破裂音、ヰ=「や」 (' ja) の破裂音。

Figure №11—Gokita, Hideo [五木田 秀夫] (2018). 「琉球古典音楽」習て. [Learning Ryukyuan Classical Music]. Ryūkyū Classical Music Association [琉球古典音楽協会].

(The pixelation of this image is in the original source.)



Figure №12—Ōtsuki, Noriko [大槻紀子] (2011). うちなーライフ in 東京 [Okinawan Life in Tokyo]. *Shima-be* [島へ。] (magazine). 78: 31.

This cute cartoon is of a meeting of the Okinawan Speaker's Association (沖縄語を話す会), a Tokyo group of Okinawan speakers, native and non-native. **Highlighted** are ど HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN DU and て HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TI.

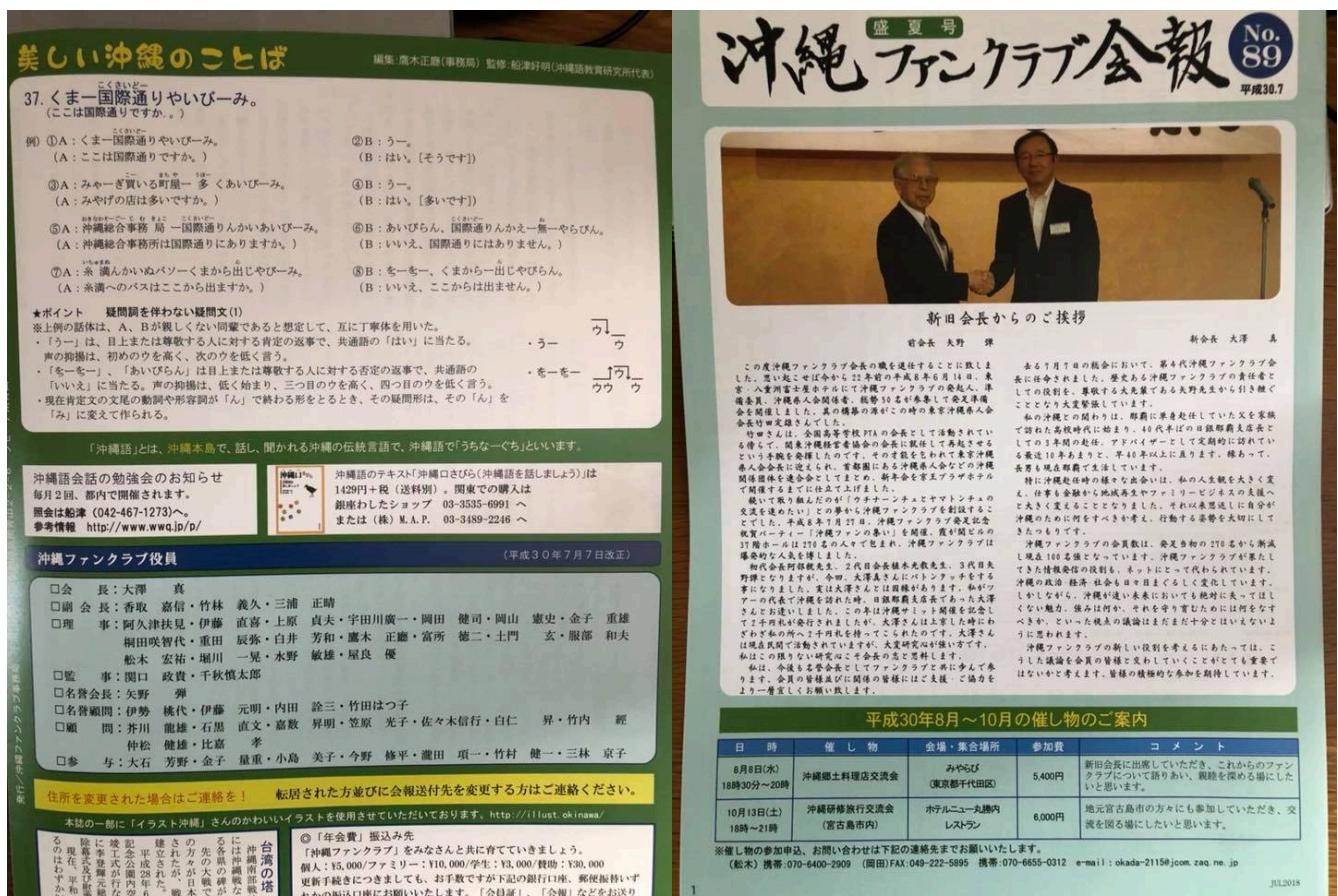


Figure №13—沖縄ファンクラブ会報 [Okinawa Fan Club Newsletter] issue №89 (July 2018)

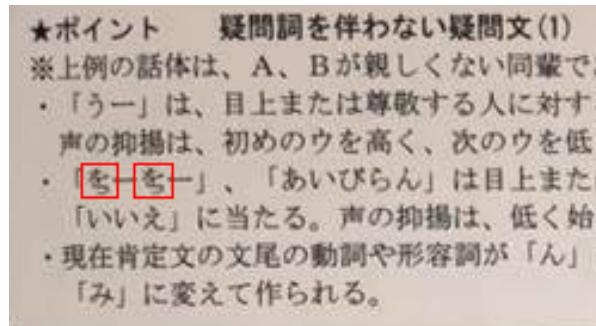


Figure №14—Above newsletter, closeup of the HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WU

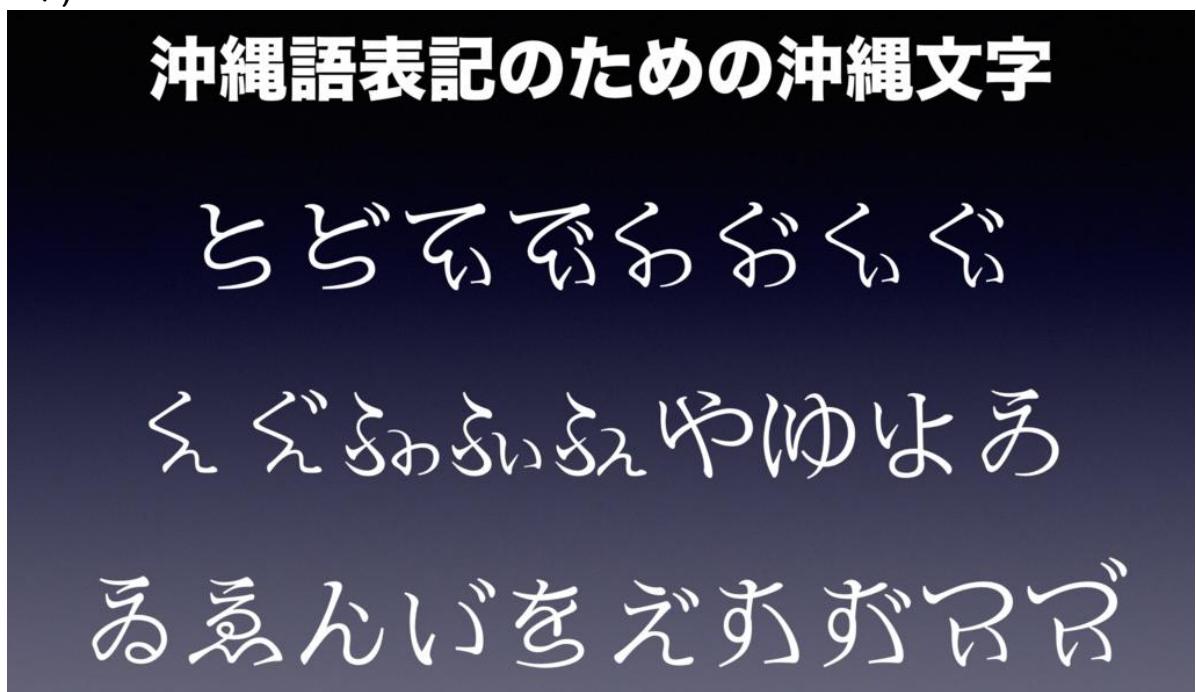
4.2 Fonts

Many fonts have existed for writing this script. As it is not feasible for me to go back and research fonts used in the 80's-00's, listed here are only fonts publicly available for download as of 2021.

Daisuke Miura's [Nishiki-teki](#) (にしき的)

❖くんぐち じゅーはちにち しまくとばぬ ひ
い[ji] ウ[wu] エ[je] ャ[?j'a] ウ[?j'u] オ[?j'o]
あ[?w'a] ゐ[?w'i] ゑ[?w'e] ク[?w'a] グ[?w'a]
ク[?w'i] グ[?w'i] ク[?w'e] グ[?w'e] キ[si] ズ[zi]
テ[ti] デ[di] ド[tu] ド[du] ツ[tsi] ド[dzi]
ム[φa] ム[φi] ム[φe] ム[?n, ?m]
あ[?a] い[?i] う[?u] エ[?e] お[?o] オ[wo]
ジ[dzi] チ[tsi] ブ[dzu] ハ[çi] ム[φu] ム[N]

Three Ring Font Shop (参環のフォントショップ)'s [FROkinawaMoji](#) (明朝体用の沖縄文字フリー
フォント)



Kobayashi Hitoshi's FKOkinawan fonts



Chapter 5

Bibliography

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- Kuniyoshi, Shinshō [國吉 真正]; Funatsu, Yoshiaki [船津 好明] (2009). 現代仮名遣いで易しく読める沖縄の古典音楽歌詞118 [118 Classical Okinawan Songs Made Easily Readable via Modern Kana]. Tokyo: Okinawa Language Education Institute [沖縄語教育研究所].
- Otsuka, Satoru [大塚聰] (2010). アイヌ語用仮名文字：新沖縄文字（拡張ひらがな・拡張カタカナ・を探せ!!） [Ainu Specialized Kana and New Okinawan Kana (hunting for extended hiragana/katakana!!)].
- Funatsu, Yoshiaki [船津好明] (2016). 沖縄文字一覧 [Okinawan Kana Chart].

Appendix A

Alternative version of § Quick summary

I propose the encoding of 18 new hiragana letters, to be added to a new block, Kana Extended-C. There are no katakana versions of these letters. I only have evidence of the proposed letters in use to write the Central Okinawan language (沖縄口, うちなあぐち, [?utɕina:gutɕi]), although they may be used to write other languages in the Ryukyuan language family.

Through adding U+3099 COMBINING KATAKANA-HIRAGANA VOICED SOUND MARK, these characters represent all 27 of the letters known collectively in Japanese as the “New Okinawan Kana” (新沖縄文字). 23 of them have existed since 1986, with the remaining four having been created c. 2004. They are the creation of Dr. Yoshiaki Funatsu (船津好明; born 1936), a professor of statistics, applied mathematics and economics; he later in life became a linguist.

Despite their novelty, these letters have seen quite wide use throughout Okinawa. I had no contact with Mr. Funatsu while writing this paper.

I propose that the block Kana Extended-C be two columns wide, beginning at U+1AFD0 and extending until U+1AEEF, at which point it meets Kana Extended-B, which starts at U+1AFF0.

A.A UnicodeData.txt

```
1AFD0;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD1;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD2;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD3;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD4;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD5;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD6;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD7;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD8;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFD9;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDA;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YO;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDB;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDC;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDD;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WE;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDE;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN N;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFDF;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE0;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN SI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1AFE1;HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TSI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
```

A.B Chart

	1AFD	1AFE	U+1AFD0 𩉂 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TU ligature of 𩉃 𩉄 may receive 𩉅 ⇒ 𩉂	U+3044 U+3099 𩉃 N/A = 𩉃 + 𩉄 = New Okinawan yi
0	𩉂 1AFD0	𩉃 1AFE0	U+1AFD1 𩉄 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN TI ligature of 𩉃 𩉅 may receive 𩉆 ⇒ 𩉄	U+3048 U+3099 𩉄 N/A = 𩉄 + 𩉅 = New Okinawan ye
1	𩉅 1AFD1	𩉆 1AFE1	U+1AFD2 𩉆 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWA ligature of 𩉃 𩉇 may receive 𩉈 ⇒ 𩉆	See § Atomicity of 𩉃 and 𩉄
2	𩉇 1AFD2		U+1AFD3 𩉇 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWI ligature of 𩉃 𩉉 may receive 𩉊 ⇒ 𩉇	
3	𩉉 1AFD3		U+1AFD4 𩉈 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN KWE ligature of 𩉃 𩉈 may receive 𩉊 ⇒ 𩉈	
4	𩉈 1AFD4		U+1AFD5 𩉉 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWA ligature of 𩉃 𩉉	
5	𩉉 1AFD5		U+1AFD6 𩉊 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWI ligature of 𩉃 𩉊	
6	𩉊 1AFD6		U+1AFD7 𩉊 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN HWE ligature of 𩉃 𩉊	
7	𩉊 1AFD7		U+1AFD8 𩉋 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YA → ゃ	
8	𩉋 1AFD8		U+1AFD9 𩉌 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YU → ゃ	
9	𩉌 1AFD9		U+1AFDA 𩉍 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN YO → ゃ	
A	𩉍 1AFDA		U+1AFDB 𩉎 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WA no relationship to 𩉃 hentaigana letter mi-5	
B	𩉎 1AFDB		U+1AFDC 𩉏 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WI → わ	
C	𩉏 1AFDC		U+1AFDD 𩉐 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WE → ゑ	
D	𩉐 1AFDD		U+1AFDE 𩉑 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN N → ん	
E	𩉑 1AFDE		U+1AFDF 𩉒 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN WU ligature of 𩉃 𩉒	
F	𩉒 1AFDF		U+1AFE0 𩉔 HIRAGANA LETTER NEW OKINAWAN SI ligature of 𩉃 𩉔	
				See § Infrequent disambiguation letters