

## **The Mutual Benefit of Local Communities as Seen in the Actual Use of the Fund as a Commons : Secular Analysis of the Joint Fund on Ou District, Nanjo City, Okinawa Prefecture**

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The purpose of this paper is to clarify the characteristics of the management of the sea area that was jointly managed and used in Ou District, Nanjo City, Okinawa Prefecture, and the joint fund that was financed by the revenue generated from the sea area as a commons. The analysis will cover the period from the late Meiji period to before the outbreak of the Battle of Okinawa.

The fund was managed through a system in which residents were continuously involved in the management of the sea area and the fund, with their roles and positions changing as they grew older.

The analysis of the fund's expenditure items revealed the following. The fund was initially intended to subsidize tax payments, but gradually various projects were assigned to it to benefit the common interests of the residents. While the fund's primary purpose was intended to be for the common good, it did allow for some flexibility in its use. This flexibility may be attributed to the involvement of residents in the fund's management, where they shared in its utilization for the benefit of the community. It is also important to note the following hypothesis that emerged from the analysis.

Among the expenditure items of the fund, loans to individual residents are the most distinctive. This suggests that the right of living for the inferior is also established in the commons in the form of a fund.

Key words: property-wards of Japan, tax payment, Self-governing organization, Life Conditions, the right of living for the inferior