

※All services are provided in Japanese.
Please come with someone who understands Japanese.

Okinawa City Hall Administrative News for Registered Residents

OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2026

Vol. 26 No. 1

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501



New Year's Greeting From Mayor of Okinawa City

Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City.

『Okinawa City, brimming with potential for development, toward further growth』
Happy New Year!

I am hoping for all of you are filled with hope and welcoming a glorious new year. I extend my deepest gratitude for the support and encouragement I received from many quarters last year, which enabled me to assume the position of the 14th Mayor of Okinawa City.

Last year, as I embarked on the challenge of entrusted with Okinawa City's development, a groundbreaking event occurred: the Ryukyu Golden Kings achieved the first Emperor's Cup Basketball championship for the prefecture, sending the city into a frenzy of celebration. Meanwhile, amid prolonged high inflation, we prioritized distributing Eisa Vouchers to all citizens as an urgent measure to support residents' livelihoods. In parallel, we have established a Disaster Prevention Management Office to enhance the city's overall disaster preparedness, launched a multi-layered support system development project, and initiated subsidies for infertility treatment costs.

In addition to these initiatives, we are determined to vigorously advance the creation of vibrant communities where residents can find greater comfort and pride in the neighborhoods they call home. Centered around neighborhood associations, we will advance the creation of 37 unique local communities, fostering cooperative connections between each area to enhance the overall attraction of Okinawa City. At the same time, we are promptly moving forward with the development of community hub facilities where local residents can gather. The Yamazato Neighborhood Association Community Center and the Matsumoto District Community Shared Facility reconstruction project aims for completion within fiscal year 2026, as well as the multiple other neighborhood associations are working toward formulating their basic plans.

Additionally, it has been decided that the "FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asia Qualifiers" will be held this February at the Okinawa Suntory Arena, which reached 2 million visitors last year. We are delighted to once again host an international tournament and are greatly anticipating the economic benefits it will bring to the entire city and prefecture.

This year, we will continue to work together with all citizens to further develop Okinawa City, a place brimming with potential for growth, and to build its future. All city employees will unite and dedicate our utmost efforts to this endeavor. We sincerely request your continued support and cooperation.

In closing, I sincerely pray that this year will be filled with happiness for all of you, and I offer my New Year's greetings.

Daikisuke Hanashiro
Okinawa City Mayor



沖縄市長
花城 大輔



Total Population: 141,764

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,353 Female: 71,947
[Foreign Population (65 Countries)] Male: 1,471 Female: 993



The Okinawa City Hall's *Bunka Geino Ka* (the Culture & Traditional Arts Division) selects excerpts from the city's public relations newsletter (*Koho Okinawa*) and publishes them in English in hopes of better serving our community of residents who may have difficulty reading or understanding Japanese. **These articles are translated by the Culture & Traditional Arts Division staff and are provided for reference only. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated).** For English support, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp. You can also view monthly issues of the newsletters and other information about living in Okinawa City by clicking the ENGLISH/ link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

Administrative Events & Announcements

► New 20-year-old Citizens! You Have Reached the Age to Join the National Pension System

20歳になったら国民年金

Anyone who lives in Japan between age 20 and 59 have the obligation to join the National Pension System.

-National Pension Enrollment Notice-

If you have turned 20 years old, you will receive a "National Pension Enrollment Notice," "National Pension Enrollment and Premiums Guide (Pamphlet)," "National Pension Premium Payment Form," etc. from the Japan Pension Service.

The "Pension Handbook," which will be sent to you separately, is necessary to confirm your premium payment and to receive your pension in the future. Please keep it in a safe place.

*If you are enrolled in an employee pension insurance plan at your workplace, you will not be enrolled in the National Pension Plan.

*If you are a dependent of your spouse (who is a member of the Employees' Pension Insurance or Mutual Aid Association) when you turn 20, please contact your spouse's workplace and apply for the National Pension Plan Category 3.

-Not Only for Post-Retirement Years –

The National Pension System supports you not only when you get old, but it also has the following benefits:

<Disability Pension Benefit>

Provided if you become disabled as a result of an accident or disease.

<Pension Benefit for the Bereaved>

Eligible dependents, such as your child or spouse, will be qualified to receive this benefit when you pass away.

However, please note that if you do not follow the necessary procedures and leave your insurance premiums unpaid, you may not be able to receive these pensions.

★If you are financially unable to pay your insurance premiums

There is an exemption system, a grace period system, and a special payment system for students. Please contact below for details.

Koza Pension Office : 098-933-2267 **Shimin Ka** (市民課 Residential Division) Ext. 2133/ 2134
(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

► Certification Of Tax Deduction For Those With A Disability

障害者控除認定書の交付

If you are at least 65 years old and certified that as having a certain level of physical disability or dementia, you may be approved to receive a 障害者控除対象者認定書 (tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability). This certificate will allow you to claim a deduction during the income tax filing process in 2025.

Sending a Tax Deduction Certificate: To avoid congestion at the counter, a "Tax Deduction Certificate for Persons With a Disability" will be mailed to eligible individuals in late January.

Eligibility: Those who are categorized under level 4 to 13 (person taxed for resident tax in 2024) in the income category for long-term care insurance premiums will have the certificate mailed in late January.

For others, or those needing the certificate for taxes filing, please visit the *Kaigo Hoken Ka* (Nursing Care Insurance Division) window for assistance. Applications can be submitted starting January 5, 2026.

Required Documents: Applicant's ID (Resident card, driver's license, My-Number-card, etc.).

*If someone other than the applicant or their behalf, a Power of Attorney will be required. Application forms are available at the service counter.

※If you already have a certificate, such as *Shogaisha Techo* (for physical/mental) or *Ryoiku Techo* (for intellectual), you can use it to receive tax deductions. You do not need to apply for this service.

※If someone outside your family is applying on your behalf, a Power of Attorney is mandatory.

(Please obtain the necessary application form from the division in charge.)

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division Ext. 2085, 3145

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

Okinawa City Hall will be Closed from
December 27(Sat) to January 4 (Sun) & January 12
(Mon) for a Coming-of Age Day as Japanese holiday.

▶ Please note:

January is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

Residential Tax (4th term)/**Long-term Care Insurance Premium** (8th term)/**National Health Insurance Premium** (7th term)/**Medical Care for the Elderly Insurance Premium** (7th term). If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on **February 2(Mon)**. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Adult Diapers

おむつ代の医療費控除事項証明書

If you are bedridden and certified as being in “long-term-care-need” in Okinawa City, you may be able to eligible to obtain in a tax deduction certificate for medical expenses incurred on adult diapers. Certificates can be issued at the city hall .

Eligibility:

1. You must be certified in Okinawa City as being in “long-term-care need”. The certification period must include the days you used the diaper or when the doctor’s statement was issued within the same year.
2. You must have been certified as being “long-term-care need” for over 6 months continuously .
3. You must provide a doctor’s statement indicating “Bedridden Level B1~C2” and “Possibility of Incontinence.”

NOTE: If you do not meet the above criteria but would still like to apply, please contact the Nursing Care Insurance Division for assistance.

(Please attend with A Japanese Speaker)

Call more details Contact: Kaigo Hoken Ka 介護保険課 (Nursing Care Insurance Division) Ext. 3167,3170

**▶ Filing Depreciable Assets
for the FY 2026**

令和 8 年度償却資産申告

This applies if you own any depreciable assets used for business as of January 1, 2026 (the assessment base date), not including land or building establishments. (If you own even one depreciable asset, you are still subject to report and file them).

Assets To File:

- Assets acquired/ lost between 01/02/2025~ 01/01/2026
- Assets acquired before 01/01/2025 that you currently own.

Reductions for Solar Power Generators, etc.

Solar power generators, or assets acquired by companies to improve business may be eligible for reductions if they meet the requirements. For more information about reductions (and special exceptions), please contact the division in charge or visit our website (Japanese only).

Application Period: 5 January (Mon) to 2 February (Mon) 2026.

(Must be completed during those days: weekdays only)

Time: ①8:30am ~ 12:00pm(noon) ②1:00pm ~ 5:00 pm.

Place: Okinawa City hall 2F Shisan Zei Ka

Property Tax Division Ext. 2252/2253

(Please attend with A Japanese Speaker)

**▶ High-cost Nursing Care Service Loaning
System 高額介護サービス費等資金貸付制度**

This system provides loans to those who are eligible for high-cost nursing care service expenses coverage and have difficulty paying the nursing care service expenses until they receive the payment.

Eligibility:

Insured by Okinawa City's long-term care insurance

The applicant must be expected to receive high-cost nursing care (preventive) service expenses.

Must complete payment of long-term care insurance premiums
The amount the user pays exceeding the following amounts
For taxable households, the maximum amount of user fees plus 7,000 yen

For tax-exempt households, the maximum amount of user fees plus 4,000 yen

Conditions for Loaning

Interest on Loans...interest free

Redemption Method: Lump-sum redemption of the entire loan amount; however, all or part of the loan amount may be redeemed in advance.

Reimbursement Deadline...Within 15 days from the date of receipt of high-cost nursing care (prevention) service payment.

Note: Please contact the section in charge for the required documents and application procedures.

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division (Ext. 2085/3145)

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

Okinawa City Library News

Book Readings & Hand Games: Saturdays, January 10, 17 starting at 3:00 pm.

Days Closed: December 28 (Sun) through January 3 (Fri) for New Year's Holiday,

Address: 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City BC KOZA (Old Korinza Mall) (1F) TEL: 098-929-4919



Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you? Let us know!

Email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho

Bunka Geino Ka

沖縄市役所 文化芸能課 (B1)

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa

Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 923-3485

Visit our website NOW!

**Koza International Plaza**

4-1-3 Chuo, Nankai Product Building

1st Floor Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: kipokinawa@gmail.com

Mon-Fri :10:00-19:00/ **Sat** :10:00~ 17:00

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.



All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501

▶ Tax Return Filing Venue- Okinawa Tax Office

沖縄税務署の確定申告会場

Venue: Aeon Hall-3F, Aeon Mall Okinawa Rycom (Address: 1 Rycom, Kitanakugusuku Vil.)

Period: February 16(Mon)- March 16(Mon) ※Only on the weekdays

※A numbered ticket is required for entry to the tax filing venue.

You can get a numbered ticket in advance at official LINE account of National Tax Agency(国税庁).

※Application will be available after February 2(Mon), 2026

※One ticket per person (Reservation for multiple persons with one bracket is not available)

For a number ticket at door:

●8:30-10:00am: Grand Square entrance door, Main entrance(1F)

●After 10:00am: In front of Aeon Hall(3F)

※Distribution of at-door tickets will be finished when capacity filled.

Please consider to file your tax through Chatbot on National Tax Agency website or e-tax since the tax return filing venue above is expected to be very crowded during the period.

【Contact】Okinawa Tax Office TEL: 098-938-0031

Official LINE Account of National Tax Agency(国税庁). 国税庁LINE公式アカウント



国税庁 LINE
公式アカウント

確定申告に関する税務相談

Tax Consultation for Final Tax Returns

The National Tax Agency website will launch a tax consultation chatbot for the 2025 tax year final tax returns on the following schedule. Consultations are available 24 hours.

●Income Tax Final Return Filing: Early January

●Consumption Tax Final Return Filing: Early February

●Gift Tax Filing: Early February

【Contact】Okinawa Tax Office TEL: 098-938-0031

Tax Consultation Chatbot 税務相談チャットボット



税務相談
チャットボット

▶ " Long -Term Care Insurance Premium Payment Notification " Will be Sent to You

介護保険料支払済通知書の交付

Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums Payment Notification (介護健康保険料支払済通知書) is sent in the late January to notify the amount of Long-Term Care Insurance premiums you paid from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

The notification will be mailed to those who paid by account transfer, payment slip (the general collection) in the late January.

If you are in a hurry, you can apply at the counter.

Required documents are identification, a power of attorney is required for applications by anyone other than the applicant or a relative in the same household.

The issuance fee (200 yen) is charged per a copy of the certificate.

Please bring the receipts of the long-term care insurance premium payment which you made in the last one month.

Contact: Nursing Care Insurance Division Ext. 3146/3147

(Please Call with A Japanese Speaker)

New Year's Greetings in Japanese -A Happy New Year!-

新年 あけまして おめでとう ございます(Shin-nen Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu)

This Month's KANJI 新年-Shin nen

Example:

Atara shii ie

Atara shii shigoto

新...Shin /Atara (new) 年...Nen /Toshi (Year)

新しい家 (New House) /新しい仕事 (New Job)

まいにち にほんご-ミニ Daily NIHONGO-Mini

1月 (Ichi Gatsu)-January

2月 (Ni Gatsu)-February

3月 (San Gatsu)-March