

## About the Language Documentation Center

In the Spring of 2004, graduate students in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa created the Language Documentation Center. Our mission is to help safeguard minority languages for which basic literacy documents, such as grammars and dictionaries, are either inadequate or nonexistent. We have a three-step approach to reaching this goal.

- (1) Inform the public, especially speakers of minority languages, about language endangerment issues.
- (2) Offer training in the techniques of language documentation and conservation.
- (3) Produce documents in a variety of formats to promote minority language learning.

For more information, please visit us at [www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc](http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc).

## About the authors

**Ryoko Hattori** is a graduate student in linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Ryoko has been investigating the Pingelapese language since the Fall of 2002. Along with her academic research, Ryoko is developing Pingelapese literacy materials in the hope that they will extend the domains of usage of the language.

**Billie-Jean Manuel**, a native speaker of Pingelapese from Mwalok, Pohnpei, received her B.A. in linguistics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. While working on her B.A., she received training in documenting her language. She also served as a language consultant for a Pingelapese language documentation course where she and Ryoko first met.

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NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
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Billie-Jean Manuel and Ryoko Hattori

# Pingelapese Alphabet Book



pictures & editing by Ryoko Hattori  
words by Billie-Jean Manuel

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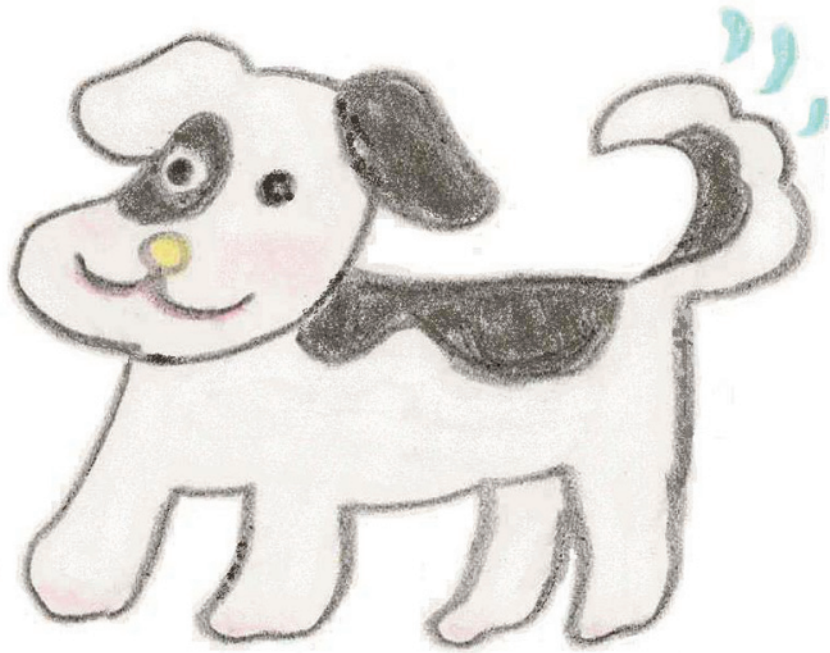




moahs



suhkae



kidi



pwohsik

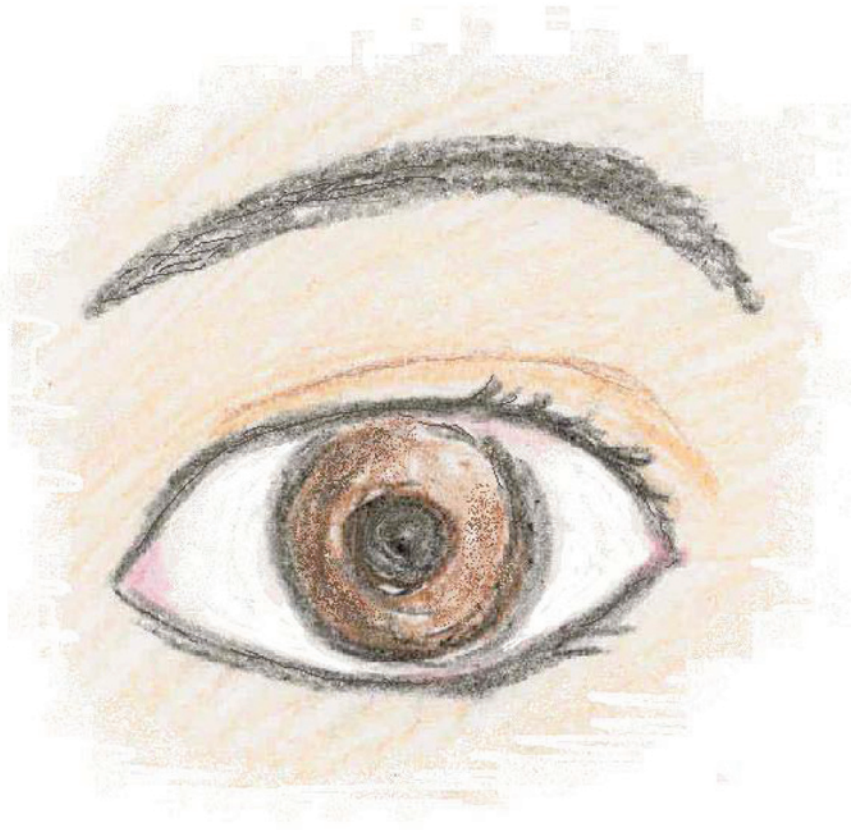




ihlok



lipahrohro



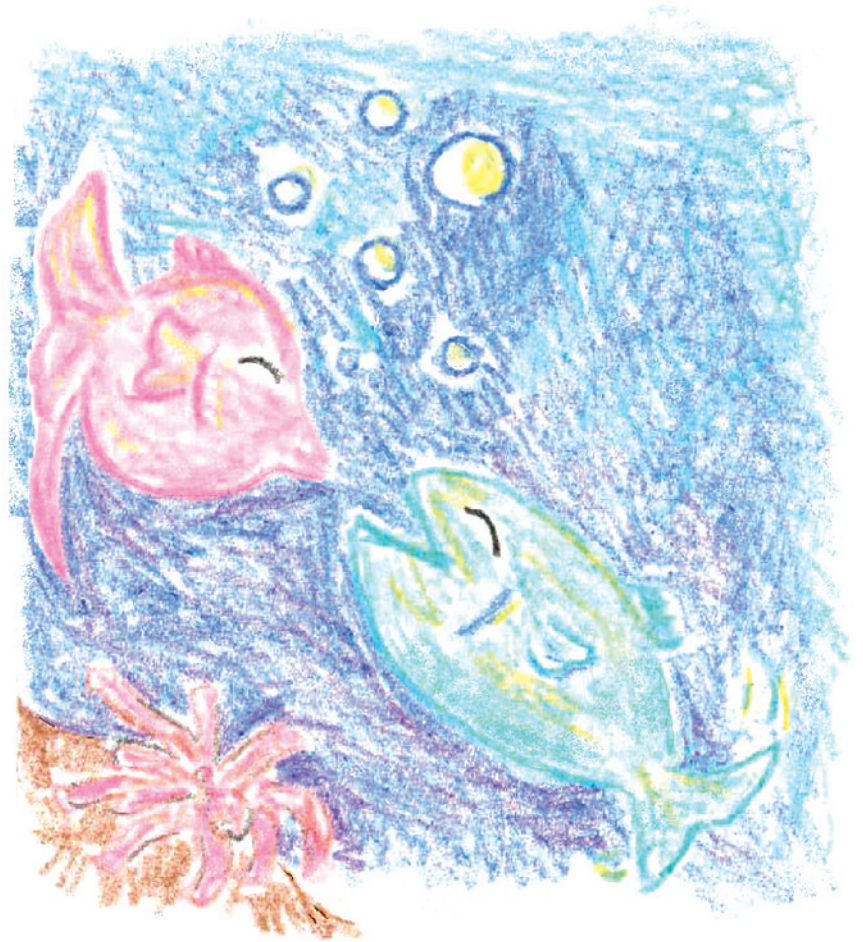
**m**aesae



eh**h**wa

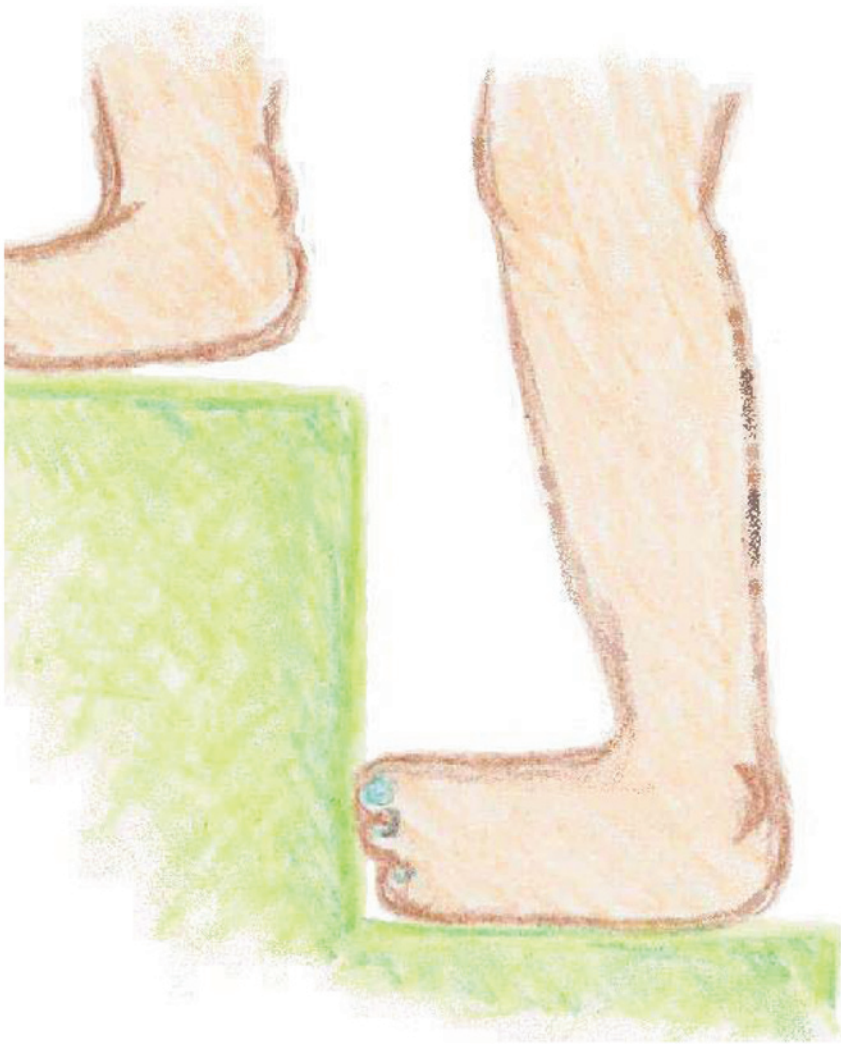


kaehn



mwoamw





ne



"h" raehraeila ma pasaehng a, ae, e, i, o, oa, u

mahs mahs





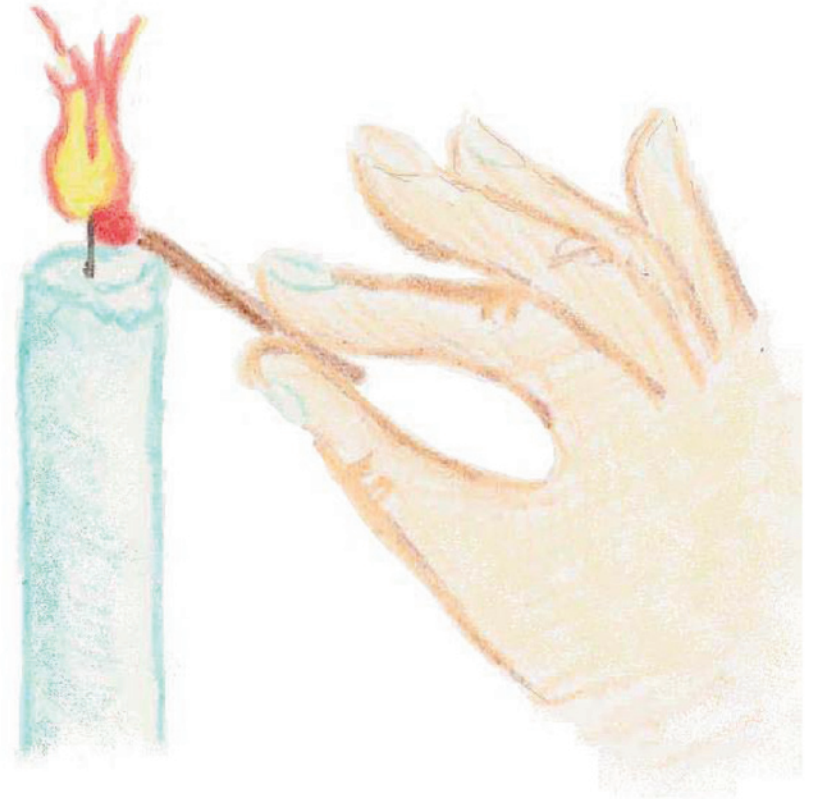
usu



ngenengen



**p**aeraen



**o**ak



**o**ureman

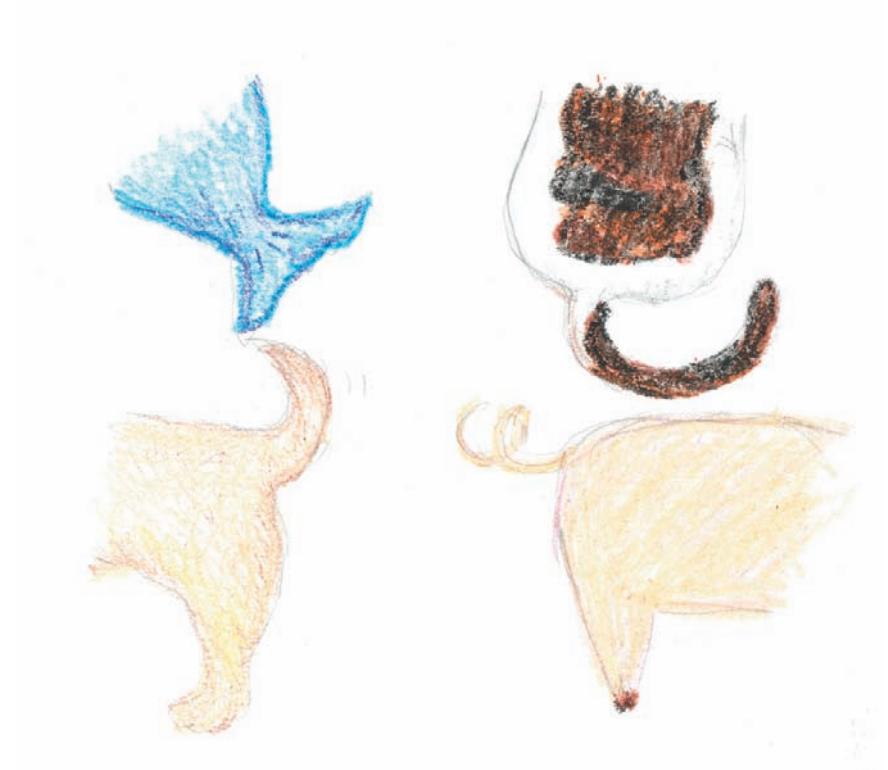


**p**waeki





**r**ohs



**i**k



**e**sies



**s**iksak





doal



aei





**a**mwise



**w**is

## A Letter from the Pingelap Mayor

On behalf of the Pingelap Municipal Government and all the Pingelapese people, I wish to extend our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to Ms. Ryoko Hattori, a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i, who has spearheaded this very important project, especially for Pingelapese. This project will have a lasting effect on our language and will guide the future of our children.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Bilie-Jean Manuel, a Pingelapese person who helped Ms. Hattori while attending the University of Hawai'i, and to all others who have assisted in one way or another on this book.

All Pingelapese people very much appreciate this well-done work; and welcome and encourage future work to secure our language and culture.

We deeply appreciate the support of the National Foreign Language Resource Center in helping to make this book a reality.

Thank you all, and Kaelahngaen.

**Kikuo L. Apis**

*Pingelap Mayor Representative in Pohnpei*

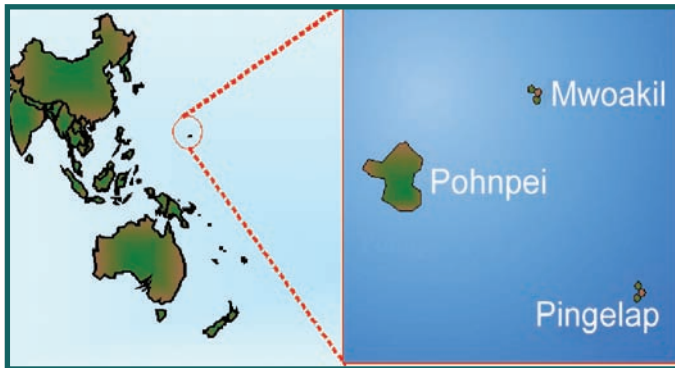
## The Pingelapese Language

Pingelapese is spoken primarily on Pingelap Atoll and the high island of Pohnpei, two eastern Caroline Islands. Pingelap Atoll, the homeland of the Pingelapese people, is composed of three small coral islets. Collectively, all three islets cover only about three square miles, and the highest point on the atoll is only 10 feet above sea level.

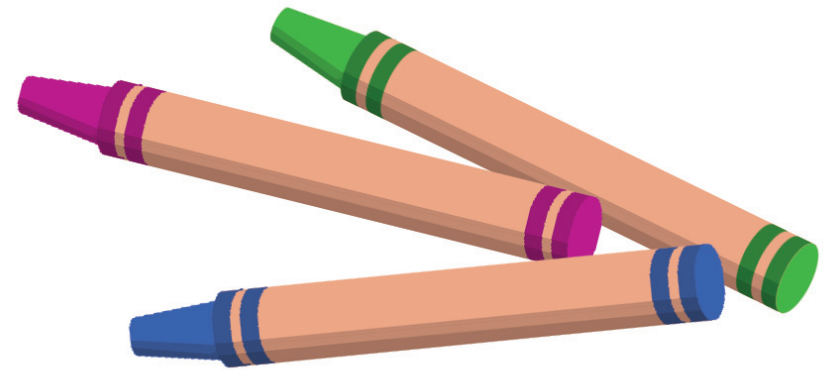
Politically, Pingelap Atoll is part of the state of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. The majority of the Pingelapese people live on the island of Pohnpei, where the national and state capitals are located. Today, there are a few hundred Pingelapese speakers on Pingelap Atoll and a thousand in the two major communities, Mwalok and Mand, on Pohnpei. The remainder lives in other locations.

Although we employ the spelling "Pingelap" in this book, following the spelling in other documents, the actual pronunciation is "Pingilap."

Since English is the national language and Pohnpeian is the official state language, Pingelapese people are generally multilingual. Not much work has been done on the Pingelapese language. Lacking its own dictionary, reference grammar, and bible, documentation of this language is needed for the sake of future generations.



## Pingelapese Alphabet



a, ae, e, i, o, oa, u,  
h, k, l, m, mw, n,  
ng, p, pw, r, s, d, w