

# Connecting High School Volunteers

## ～ A System for Community Empowerment ～

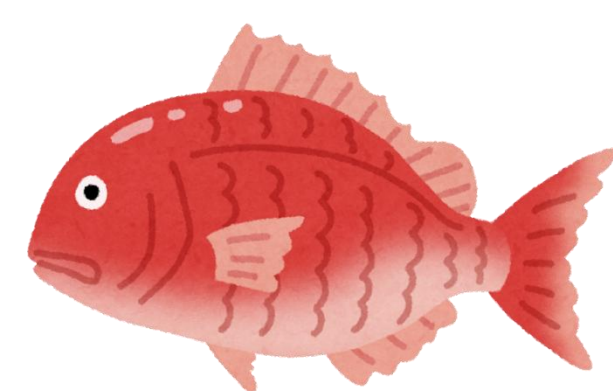
Uwajima Minami Secondary School



### Background

#### Current situation of Uwajima

Farmed Sea Bream



No.1 producer

Pearl(mother shellfish)



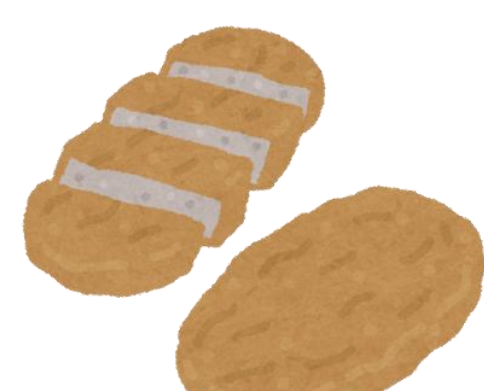
No.1 producer

Uwajima Castle



12 remaining castle towers

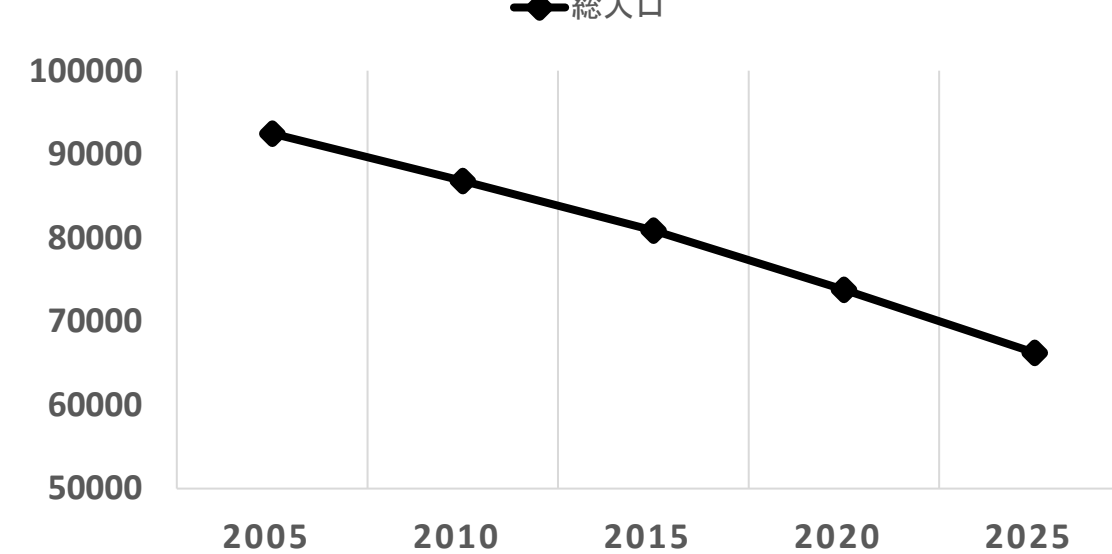
Jakoten



Our soul food

#### ◎ Depopulation

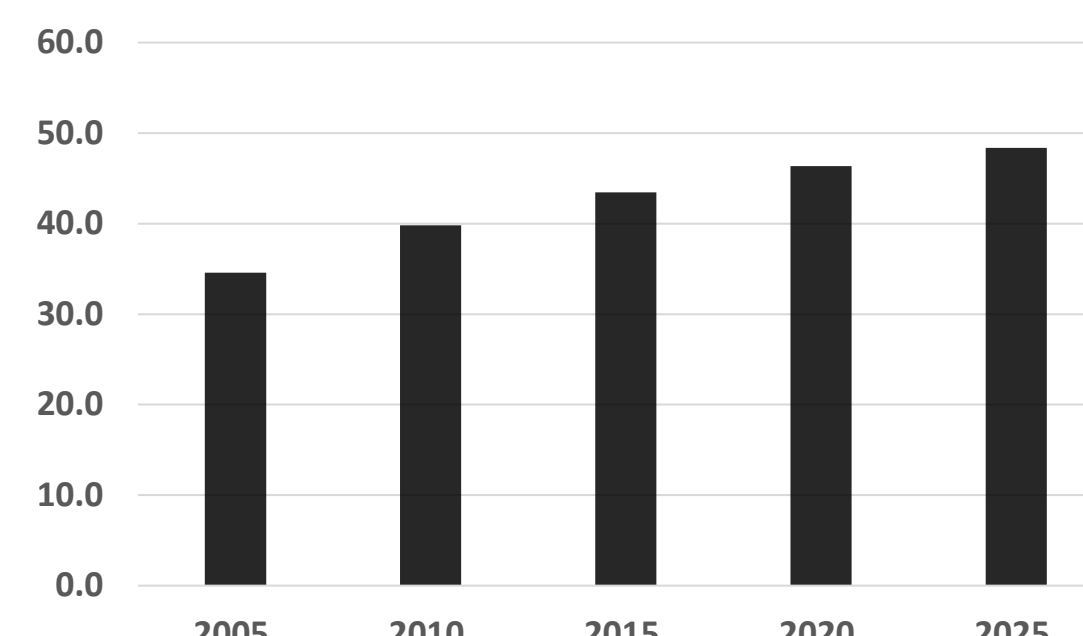
宇和島市の人口推移



down

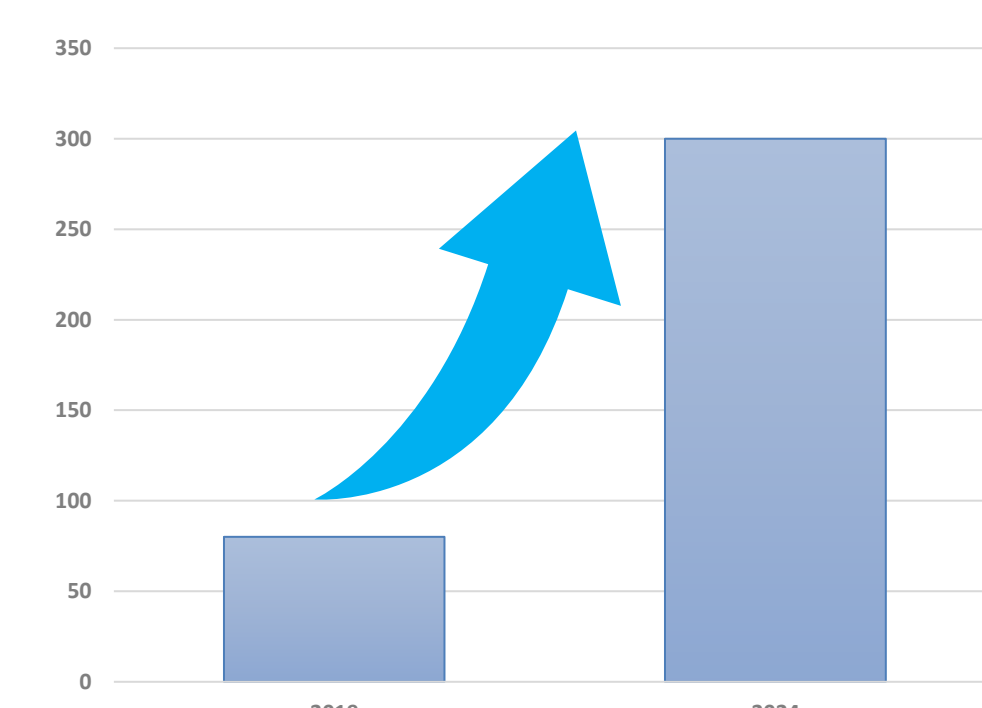
#### ◎ Aging

宇和島市の総人口に占める60歳以上の割合



up

#### ◎ Students who take part in volunteer work in our school



### Our Hypothesis

Connecting people in need with high school student volunteers can contribute to building more sustainable communities.



### How to research

- Interview
- Questionnaire
- Fieldwork
- Books, Internet
- Professor's advice

### Key Findings

#### Interview①

People who have asked for volunteers before

I feel bad asking volunteers to do so many things...

Because they are volunteers, I can't really say anything even if they don't do well.

As an individual, I'm not sure where to go to find volunteers

#### Interview②

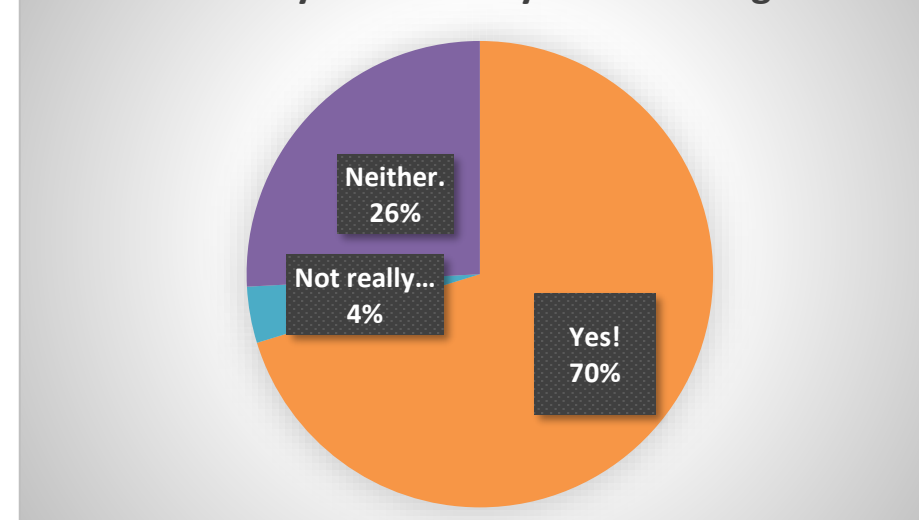
Uwajima City Social Welfare Council  
宇和島市社会福祉協議会

- Basic information on volunteer opportunities in Uwajima City
- The importance of volunteer insurance
- The concept of paid volunteering

#### Questionnaire

To students from three other high schools in the Uwajima area (N=205)

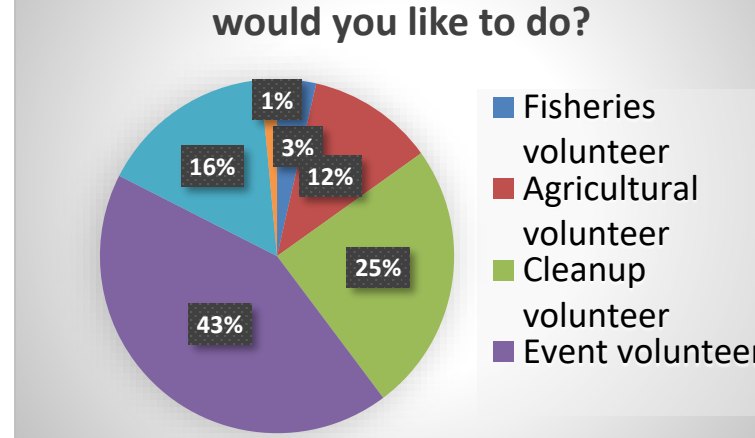
Would you like to try volunteering?



How many people would you like to join the volunteer work?



What kind of volunteer work would you like to do?



#### Fieldwork

Work in the stone terraced fields (Danbatake)

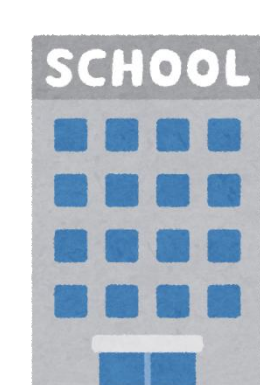


### Insights from Data

- Many community members want to request volunteers.
- Many high school students want to volunteer.
- Both groups are **unsure where to apply** or whom to contact.
- Volunteer **safety** must be the top priority.
- Reduce hesitation and anxiety for those who need volunteers.
- **Feeling achievement and satisfaction** from contributing to our community

### Our Suggestion

#### Community Volunteer Platform for High School Students



Students

- ① Register their name, date of birth, and parents' contact information.
- ② Look for the volunteer work



Parents

- ① Notice parents that the children registers the platform.
- ② Accept students to volunteer and give information of volunteer work.

#### Mobile App

(Administrative Office)



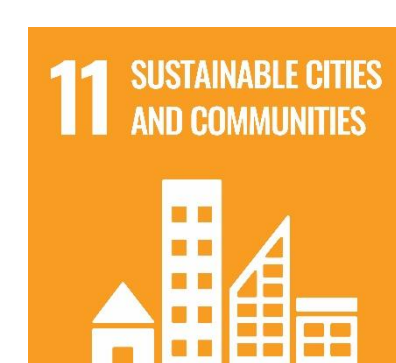
- ① AI will check if the information is appropriate for registration.
- ② If the requirements are met, send an acceptance notice; if not, send a rejection notice



People who need volunteers

Various institutions  
Register the people who need volunteers

Contact the nearest institution



### Future Vision

We started this project with high school students in mind. However, as our research progressed, our vision became much bigger. **We want volunteering to grow from a school-based activity into a community-wide movement.**

Imagine this: after graduating and returning from university, we want to start volunteering immediately—without any barriers. To make this possible, we aim to create a flexible system that is not limited by age or status. This platform will allow anyone who wants to contribute to their community to do so easily, safely, and effectively.

