

**Request to explain why certain sets of accepted characters have not advanced their ISO stage****Eduardo Marin Silva****05/06/2018**

**Introduction.** This is a formal request to provide information from the relevant parties of why two sets of characters in particular have not advanced beyond their formal initial approval.

**Two kana characters.** Back in 2011, Ken Lunde proposed one small version of a Hiragana letter as well as its corresponding Katakana counterpart (the letter ko): <http://unicode.org/L2/L2010/10468r2-lunde.pdf>. Considering the fact that another three Hiragana and another four Katakana have been accepted for Unicode 12, even though they were proposed after these characters, one cannot help but wonder exactly why they haven't been advanced.

Although the Hiragana character has changed position once and the Katakana character twice, they are still allocated to the Kana Extended A block, even though the block Small Kana Extensions was created for such a purpose.

The only real rationale that occurs to me of why these character has not been advanced, is that the other characters had a phonetic function, while these were justified by compatibility, however whatever the reason for not advancing them should have been enough reason to not accept them at all.

**Southern Song counting rods.** In 2017 I proposed encoding the Southern Song style counting rods as SVS (<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/17085-counting-rod-std-var-seq.pdf>), however since the glyphs were so different it was recommended to me to propose them atomically, and so I did: <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/17187r-southern-song-counting-rods.pdf>, however last time I checked the consortium did not advance the characters, under the excuse that they wanted feedback from an expert. However, I was not given a time frame of when this expert would give his feedback; to be honest he might have already given the feedback but nothing has been done to inform or change the status of the characters.

With the encoding of these characters, the representation of ancient Chinese numerals would be complete, they are important for transcribing the documents of that dynasty, and they have plenty of evidence of use.

I simply don't understand what they would need the expert for to begin with, since all the relevant information was readily available.