In a document in 2003 (L2/03-277), Peri Bhaskararao criticized the name \textit{Upakshara} that Jeyakumar Chinnakkonda Krishnamoorty and I had used in N2607, and which we later used in N2969R2 which was approved for balloting as U+A8B4 $\textcircled{sa} \text{URASHTRA LETTER UPAKSHARA}$ by WG2. In particular he suggested that the name was a recent coinage.

Further research on the name indicates that it is not a recent coinage, but also that it is not the right name for the character. The name should be changed.


Rāma Rao says that \textit{Sauraśṭra bhāśā} has fifty letters: twelve vowels (including ē and ŏ, and the diphthongs (dūvun) ē ai, ŏ au; but excluding r ř l ř an ř ah); thirty-five consonants (those of the Sanskrit alphabet, with cerebral ř and kṣ); and three upāksarun: hāru (= nh mh rh lh); dātu (= the dental modification of c ch j jh); and nāgu (= a nasalization written *).… "Hārun."—nh, mh, rh, lh occur in very few words, but most of them are words in frequent use: rhält- (as common in Sau. as rah- in Hindi); mhotō (great); lhovvo (red); nhī- and nhā- in negative forms of hū-; nhanno (small).

It is clear from this that \textit{upāksara} (Saurashtra plural \textit{upāksaraun}), is a generic term for “modifier”, which makes sense, since the word means, literally, ‘sub-letter’. It would be better to change the name of U+A8B4 to \textit{SURAASHTRA LETTER HAARU}, which is the term used for the particular aspiration this character marks in Saurashtra.