Title:	Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Kawi Script
Source:	Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
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1 Introduction

This is a preliminary proposal to encode the Kawi script in the Universal Character Set (ISO/IEC 10646). This document provides a brief description of the writing system, a tentative code chart and names list, character data, and a few specimens. The glyphs used in the code chart are sourced from ancientscripts.com and appear to be an idealized version of the square style of Later Kawi. Research on the script is ongoing and additional information will be provided.

2 Background

The Kawi script (from Sanskrit कवि *kavi* "poet") is a historical Brahmi-based script that was used from the 8th to the 16th century CE in what is now Indonesia, primarily in Java and to some extent in Bali. The script is also called 'Old Javanese', however, this term is not commonly used. Kawi was used for writing Sanskrit and Old Javanese. Kawi is descended from southern Brahmi through Pallava. The development of Kawi may be classified into two broad phases: 'Early Kawi' (c.750–925 CE) and 'Later Kawi' (c.925–1250 CE) (de Casparis 1975). Kawi is the ancestor of modern Indonesian writing systems, such as Javanese and Balinese (see comparison in Table 1), as well as Batak, Buginese, Rejang, Sundanese, and related scripts.

The script was used primarily for inscriptional purposes. The oldest record in Early Kawi is the stele of Plumpungan located near Salatiga, Central Java, which is dated to c. 750 CE. The 'standard' form of Early Kawi is exemplified in the stone and copper plate inscriptions of the rulers Kayuwangi (856–882) and Balitung (899–910) (de Casparis 1975: 33). The Later Kawi script emerges in eastern Java and can be categorized into four script styles: 'East Javanese Kawi' found on the inscriptions of Daksa and others (c.910–950), Airlangga (c.1019–1042), and that used during the Kadiri period (c.1100–1220); and the 'Quadrate script' used during the the Kadiri period (c.1050–1220) (de Casparis 1975: 38). Later Kawi is attested on a copper-plate (c.900) found in Laguna province, Phillippines in 1989 (see figures 10 and 11).

The general structure of Kawi is similar to that of Pallava and related Brahmi scripts: Medial vowels are written using vowel signs, some of which are two-part signs. Consonant letters bear the inherent vowel /a/, which is removed using the VIRAMA. Consonant clusters are represented as conjuncts, which are rendered predominantly by stacking and the use of post-base forms. Kawi differs from the basic character repertoire of Pallava in that it lacks aspirated consonants.

3 Considerations for Encoding Kawi

The following questions should be considered by those interested in developing an encoding for Kawi:

- 1. It seems appropriate to unify the Early and Later forms of Kawi. Is there any structural difference between these forms that might require separate encoding of the two?
- 2. What style of the script should serve as the representative form?
- 3. Are aspirated consonants attested?
- 4. Are other vowels used for writing Sanskrit attested?
- 5. Are digits attested? What are their forms?

The tentative code chart in figure 1 shows an idealized repertoire for Kawi, which includes space reserved for vowels and aspirated consonants used for representing Sanskrit, in case they are attested. Space is also reserved for digits.

4 Tentative Character Properties

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11D00; KAWI LETTER A; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D02; KAWI LETTER I; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D04; KAWI LETTER U; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D0E;KAWI LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;
11D0E; KAWI LETTER GA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D15; KAWI LETTER NGA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D11; KAWI LETTER CA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D13; KAWI LETTER JA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D15; KAWI LETTER NYA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D16;KAWI LETTER TTA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D18;KAWI LETTER DDA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;
11D1B; KAWI LETTER TA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D1D; KAWI LETTER DA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D1F; KAWI LETTER NA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D20; KAWI LETTER PA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D22; KAWI LETTER BA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D24;KAWI LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D25;KAWI LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;
11D26;KAWI LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D27; KAWI LETTER LA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D28;KAWI LETTER VA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D29; KAWI LETTER SHA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D2A; KAWI LETTER SSA; Lo; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D2B;KAWI LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D2C;KAWI LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D30; KAWI VOWEL SIGN AE; Mn; 0; NSM; ;; ;; N; ;; ;;
11D30; KAWI VOWEL SIGN AA; Mc; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D31; KAWI VOWEL SIGN I; Mn; 0; NSM; ;; ;; N; ;; ;;
11D33;KAWI VOWEL SIGN U;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;
11D35;KAWI VOWEL SIGN E;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D37;KAWI VOWEL SIGN AI;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11D38;KAWI VOWEL SIGN 0;Mc;0;L;11D29 11D28;;;;N;;;;;
11D3D;KAWI SIGN ANUSVARA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;
11D3E; KAWI SIGN VISARGA; Mc; 0; L;;;;; N;;;;;
11D3F; KAWI SIGN VIRAMA; Mc; 9; L;;;; N;;;;;
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5 References

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6 Acknowledgments

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Figure 1: Proposed code chart for Kawi.

Independent vowels

Indepe	ndent vowels
11D00 \$I 11D01 \$I 11D02 \$E 11D03 \$C 11D04 \$C 11D05 \$I 11D06 \$I 11D07 \$I 11D08 \$I 11D09 \$I 11D08 \$I 11D00 \$I	KAWI LETTER I
Consor	nants
11D0F П 11D10 П 11D11 П 11D12 Г 11D13 Г 11D14 Г 11D15 Г 11D14 Г 11D15 Г 11D16 Г 11D17 Г 11D18 Г 11D19 Г 11D10 Г 11D11 Г 11D12 Г 11D14 Г 11D15 Г 11D16 Г 11D17 Г 11D18 Г 11D19 Г 11D10 Г 11D11 Г 11D12 Г 11D21 Г 11D23 Г 11D24 Г 11D25 Г 11D26 Г 11D27 ۳	KAWI LETTER NA KAWI LETTER PA <reserved> KAWI LETTER BA <reserved> KAWI LETTER MA KAWI LETTER YA KAWI LETTER RA KAWI LETTER LA</reserved></reserved>
• •	lent vowel signs
11D2F • 11D30 • 11D31 • 11D32 • 11D33 • 11D34 • 11D35 • 11D36 • 11D37 • 11D38 • 11D39 •	KAWI VOWEL SIGN AE KAWI VOWEL SIGN AA KAWI VOWEL SIGN I <reserved> KAWI VOWEL SIGN U <reserved> <reserved> <reserved> <reserved> <reserved> KAWI VOWEL SIGN E</reserved></reserved></reserved></reserved></reserved></reserved>

11D39 coKAWI VOWEL SIGN E11D3A (coKAWI VOWEL SIGN AI11D3B coKAWI VOWEL SIGN O11D3C S<reserved>

11D3D	0	KAWI SIGN ANUSVARA
11D3E	ះ	KAWI SIGN VISARGA
11D3F	ୗ	KAWI SIGN VIRAMA

Figure 2: Proposed names list for Kawi.

	LA	ND v.	AST INI	E- DIE.				B.	NE	DERL	ANDS	CH
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Figure 3: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for KA .. DA (from Holle 1882: 4). Continued in figure 4.

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Figure 4: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for ка.. DA (from Holle 1882: 5). Continued from figure 3.

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Figure 5: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for DHA .. HA (from Holle 1882: 14). Continued in figure 6.

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Figure 6: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for DHA .. HA (from Holle 1882: 15). Continued from figure 5.



Figure 7: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for vowel letters and signs (from Holle 1882: 24). Continued in figure 8.



Figure 8: Chart showing various Kawi glyph shapes for vowel letters and signs (from Holle 1882: 25). Continued from figure 7.



Kawi script The word *kawi* means 'poet' in Sanskrit. It is the name of the literary language of pre-Islamic Java. The Kawi script, a syllabic alphabet of the

Table 8 Variant Kawi letter forms and the corresponding Nagarī letters

Indian type, is a descendant of the Pallava script, a member of the southern Indian group of Brāhmī-derived scripts, although its exact genealogy is unknown (table 8). The oldest inscription, on a stele near Salatiga, central Java, dates from 750 CE, marking the beginning of what is conventionally classified as the period of the early Kawi script (*c*.750–925 CE) as opposed to the later Kawi script (*c*.925–1250).

Most Kawi inscriptions are from eastern Java, but the script is also attested in Bali and southern Sumatra. After 1250 its several varieties are usually referred to as Javanese script. The development from Old Kawi to Javanese concerns graphic style more than structural make-up. The development of Kawi is well documented in a substantial corpus of inscriptions which, however, are all engraved in stone or metal, the only writing materials that do not perish quickly in the humid climate of Indonesia (figure 6).

See also JAVANESE WRITING.

Reading Casparis 1975; Cohen Stuart.

Figure 9: Variant forms of Kawi consonant letters (from Coulmas 1996: 262, 263).

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Figure 10: The Laguna copperplate inscription (provenance unknown).

*់ត ម៉ាត្រីតាក 33 (*ទេហាស់មា*ប់ដំ*វេញអ៊ីម -នគុ ថ្មីក្ ព្រាកថាញាលជយ៍មន្ត្តថា ជាលេខ៍សិទ្ធភ្ញាំ ការអាកតាង៩/ ត្រូ អ្វ *ឣឝឝឝ្សជំហ្វម្ភម្លូន្យ*ថៃថា ចាយទិឝ្សដ្ឋញិ្តស^{្ត}រិបម្តីគ្នាចារជាបត ហ្គីត្មាយ៣ឲ្យហាឝ៊្លៃ៚:EយçEð Enj មင់ហ្គិតម្អូរី ୰៷୰୲ୢୠ୶ଡ଼୕ୠୡ*ଌୄ*୲ଋୢ୕ୢୢୢ୷୷୵ୠ୕ୢ୕୰ୖ^{ୄ୰୰୰}ୡୄୖୢୄ୰ୄୢୖଡ଼ୣୠ୰୷ୖ୶୶ *សិ*រឱ្យតាំងឲ្យដែលជីស្លាំស្លាយ៣៩៣៩៩៩៩៩៤៤ សេងស្លឹង១ឆ្នីស្លាយ៣៩ ៴៱៲ឝ៙៝៹៵៵ឩ៝៰ឨ៓៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៝៹៰៓៰៓៝៝៝៝៝៝៴៸៱៝៵៲៱៹៲៱៶៸៸៲៝៷៶៷៝៝៝៓ឨ៝៝ឨ៓ឨឨ៓ឨ៓ *ଢ଼ୄଢ଼ଽୖ୲୷ଵୄୢୖୄୢୡୄ*ୖୄ୵୰୰ୠ୶ୄଌ୰ୄ୰୶*୲୷୲୷୲୷୷୷ୡ*୶ୄ ក្នុងស្ថិត ដែល ᢍᡥ*ᢦ*ᠬ᠖᠋ᠹ᠋᠋᠋᠊ᠿᢦ᠋ᡠᡄᡷ᠕ᢩᠻᢩᠳᢓᢄᡃᡠᠥᢩᢩᢂᢩᢒᡣᡄ᠔ᡋᠬᡃᢩᡢᢄᠿ *မျာ၍ ပျှ၊ပ*်ညွှဲဖမှ ၅၅၍ငြိန္နာ၊ ကမ္မင္ဘုနဲ့) ၏င(ြိုင်္ဂုံခဲ့(၉၅၍ ကပ္႐ုံရဲ့ဟိုလို ငင်္င

Figure 11: A negative of the Laguna copperplate inscription (from Wikimedia 2008).

	Kawi	Javanese	Balinese		Kawi	Javanese	Balinese
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Table 1: Comparison of Kawi, Javanese, and Balinese.