

## Self-Serving Mayors and Local Government Consolidations in Hokkaido

同志社大学・総合政策科学研究科・教授

川浦昭彦

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This paper investigates local government consolidations with a focus on public choice aspects in the decision-making. A municipality's politicians could lose future payoffs if their locality enters the consolidation as a subordinate partner. Accordingly they may find it in their own interests to frustrate the merger. The analysis of Hokkaido data reveals that a long-serving mayor would present an obstacle for consolidations.