

July 12th, 1953  
Wailuku, Maui, T.H.

Bishop Museum  
Honolulu, Oahu, T.H.

Att: Director

Gentlemen:

Recently, two friends and I dug some carbon out from under a lava flow at Ulupalakua. Reconstructing the picture, it seems that a banyan tree nearly eight feet in diameter was growing in the orange clay of the region. About a hundred yards away the earth opened and lava spouted out which came down as cinder. This part of the eruption lasted only a few minutes because the cinder is only an inch or two deep. Then the lava poured out and engulfed the tree to a depth of about six feet. It cooled quickly forming a tree mould. The carbon we secured is from roots under the cinder. An interesting Hawaiian legend is also associated with this flow, so it must have occurred during the past few centuries.

If the age of the carbon can be determined the date of the flow can be secured and some idea obtained of the length of time this island has been inhabited. Please advise who at the University of Chicago does this type of work and what the charges are. We have the carbon inside of airtight cans.

Very truly yours,

Grote Reber