

EXPERIMENT STATION

OF THE

HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII, U. S. A.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
EXPERIMENT STATION, H. S. P. A.

CABLE AND WIRELESS ADDRESS
"EXPERIMENT"

October 12, 1959

Dr. Grote Reber
Associated Universities'
Green Bank, W. Va.

Dear Grote:

I hear occasionally from someone or other as to your changing whereabouts, but none of these indirect contacts have stimulated correspondence. However, your note on "Age of lava flows on Haleakala, Hawaii" in the issue of the GSA Bulletin that just arrived is a stimulus that can't be overcome. I think the geologic profession owes a lot to your probing of the carbon in these flows.

The simple facts that the Kalua o Lapa radiocarbon date checks the historical date, and that the Kamahina radiocarbon date is not old but already pre Kalua o Lapa seem to me to give confidence to your results. The Pimoe radiocarbon dating of <100 years I find doubtful, however. The possibility of a 1938 date may be ruled out by reference to the topographic maps of 1924 (USGA Advance sheets Lualailua and Keoneoio which clearly show the flow), I am doubtful that any date later than the establishment of the Ulupalakua Ranch can possibly be supported because the cowboys would surely have seen the flow if not the eruption, and the general weathering of the flow seems more extensive than that of the Kalua o Lapa flow. Could not the Pimoe sample represent a nearly modern root occupying a perhaps older hole?

I am sorry that I don't know enough about the mauka relations to comment on your speculations.

What are the chances of our seeing you again in the Islands?

By the way, if you have any reprints of your note to spare, I'd like to have one.

Aloha nui loa,



Doak C. Cox

DCC/rs