

July 29th, 1953  
Wailuku, Maui  
Territory of Hawaii  
U. S. A.

Dr. H. R. Crane  
Memorial-Phoenix Project  
Radio-carbon Laboratory  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Crane:

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. We have the carbon wrapped in newspaper inside of airtight cans. Please advise what the charge is and how long will be required to process one sample. How large a piece do you require?

Very truly yours,

Grote Reber