

March 2nd, 1954
General Delivery
Wailuku, Maui, T.H.

Geochronometric Laboratory
Yale University
New Haven 11, Conn.

Gentlemen:

Some time ago two friends and I dug some carbon out from under a lava flow at Ulupalakua. Reconstructing the picture, it seems that a banyan or Koa 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 in the past several centuries.

If the age of the carbon can be determined, the date of the flow can be secured and some idea may be 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 and about what accuracy in dating can you achieve?

Very truly yours,

Grote Reber