

RADIOCARBON DATES FROM AN UPLAND SITE OF THE KONA FIELD SYSTEM, HAWAII ISLAND, HAWAII

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The following samples were excavated in July 1985 in an upland (elev 609.6m) prehistoric agricultural site in the Kona Field System on the west coast of Hawai'i Island.

^{14}C measurements were done by Beta Analytic Inc, Coral Gables, Florida. The samples were first carefully examined and picked for rootlets and any other non-contemporaneous carbonaceous materials. They were then subjected to an alternating series of hot acid and alkali solutions, interspersed with washings to neutrality with hot distilled water to eliminate carbonates and humic acids. After gentle drying the clean charcoal was benzene synthesized and counting of the ^{14}C activity with a liquid scintillation spectrometer measured for ^{14}C content. All steps in the analysis proceeded normally.

Soil descriptions are based on information supplied by Patti Spears and Jeff Yamauchi.

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ARCHAEOLOGIC SAMPLES

United States

Hawaii

Puaa, North Kona series

Charcoal from 2 loci within project site (19° 38' 30" N, 155° 56' 30" E). Coll July 1985 by Jeff Yamauchi; subm by C T Kawachi.

BAI Beta-13992. 25-35

610 ± 80

Charcoal from Feature 7, TP-5, Level 2 in fine, crumbly orange-brown soil at 25 to 35cm below surface in front of stone structure (19° 38' 30" N, 155° 56' 30" E). *Comment:* age determination is consistent with present theory of human environmental manipulation.

BAI Beta-15053. 25-35

880 ± 100

Charcoal from Feature 19, TP-3, Level 2 in clayish, granular, compact slightly orange-brown soil with cobble, pebble-sized rock matrix at 25 to 35cm below datum at front end of terraced platform (19° 38' 30" N, 155° 56' 30" E) probably represents habitation platform. *Comment:* extremely early date for occupation for W coast of Hawai'i I.