



'Hokuloa' and 'Hilo Moon' Anthuriums

A. R. Kuehnle¹, T. D. Amore¹, H. Kamemoto¹, J. T. Kunisaki¹, J. S. Lichty¹, and J. Y. Uchida²
Departments of ¹Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences and ²Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences



'Hokuloa'

'Hokuloa' is a new cut-flower anthurium given the Hawaiian name for the bright planet Venus, the Morning and the Evening Star. The bright white, heart-shaped flower conjures images of romance under the Hawaiian skies. It complements the other new white anthurium with a celestial theme, 'Hilo Moon'. Both releases are part of the new streamlined release program, with propagules already made available to industry while field tests continue on farms of cooperating growers.

... continued, p. 2

Characteristics of anthurium 'Hokuloa'

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Spathe | Medium, 5½" long, 4¾" wide; white, glossy |
| Spadix | 3½" long, ⅜" diameter, straight; light yellow to white |
| Flower stem | 27" long, ¼" diameter, straight |
| Leaf blade | 12½" long, 9" wide, triangular, dark green |
| Leaf petiole | 18½" long, ⅜" diameter |
| Yield | 6.8 flowers per stem per year |
| Internode length | Moderate |
| Sucker production | Fair |
| Disease tolerance | Moderately resistant to bacterial blight and anthracnose |
| Keeping quality | 37 days (includes 3-day packing time) |

'Hilo Moon'

'Hilo Moon' (UH1450) is a companion cultivar to the white anthurium 'Hokuloa' (UH1349). The name evokes the first phase of the moon, called *hilo* in the Hawaiian moon calendar, because the flower is glossy white with a light yellow spadix. The name also pays tribute to the worldwide reputation of the region around Hilo on the Island of Hawaii, which is known for its excellence in anthurium production.

... continued, p. 2

Characteristics of anthurium 'Hilo Moon'

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Spathe | Medium, 5" long, 4" wide; white |
| Spadix | 3" long, ⅜" diameter; curved slightly downward, yellow-green to white |
| Flower stem | 24" long, ¼" diameter |
| Leaf blade | 12½" long, 7¾" wide |
| Leaf petiole | 14½" |
| Yield | 8.3 flowers per stem per year |
| Internode length | Moderate |
| Sucker production | Good |
| Disease tolerance | Moderately resistant to bacterial blight and anthracnose |
| Keeping quality | 22 days (no packing, preliminary) |

'Hokuloa' (*continued*)

'Hokuloa' originated from a cross between 'Tropic Mist', a large, cream colored variety released by the University of Hawaii in 1994, and selection 768-47 (*A. antioquiense* x 'Marian Seefurth'), made in 1987 by H. Kamemoto. This seedling was selected for observation and evaluation in February, 1990, and assigned the selection number UH1349. Tissue-cultured plantlets were initiated in culture in 1996, and micropropagated plants were given to grower-cooperators for advance testing starting in 1999. Field performance from all test sites indicated good growth and yield, and this selection was deemed worthy of early release in December, 2001. Mother flasks of propagative materials were released to the local industry in March, 2002.

'Hokuloa' has a medium to medium-large, heart-shaped flower with open lobes that are occasionally asymmetrical. The clean white flower retains its gloss year-round and shows little damage from rain mechanical injury in the field. The leaves are dark green and triangular. It propagates quickly in tissue culture. The yield potential of 'Hokuloa' is 6.8 flowers per stem per year, with an annual yield of 6.6 flowers over a 4-year period. Results of packing trials with over two dozen flowers showed an excellent vase life of 37 days, including 3 days of simulated packing. Vase life increased slightly when the flowers were dipped or sprayed with 100 ppm 6-benzyladenine (BA or BAP). No phytotoxic reactions were observed in response to Avid® 0.15EC and Dimethoate® 400 at twice the labeled rates.

'Hilo Moon' (*continued*)

'Hilo Moon' derives from a cross between 'Tropic Mist', a large, cream colored variety released by the University of Hawaii in 1994, and selection 768-47 (*A. antioquiense* x 'Marian Seefurth'), made in 1987 by H. Kamemoto. This seedling was selected for observation and evaluation in June, 1990, and assigned the selection number UH1450. Tissue-cultured plantlets were initiated in October, 1996. Distribution of stage III plants to grower-cooperators commenced in September, 2001. Mother flasks of propagative materials were released to the Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association in March, 2002.

'Hilo Moon' is a medium sized, heart-shaped flower with smooth, open lobes. It features an excellent yield of about 8 flowers per stem per year and has good sucker production. Preliminary studies indicate a vase-life of over three weeks. It propagates quickly in tissue culture.