



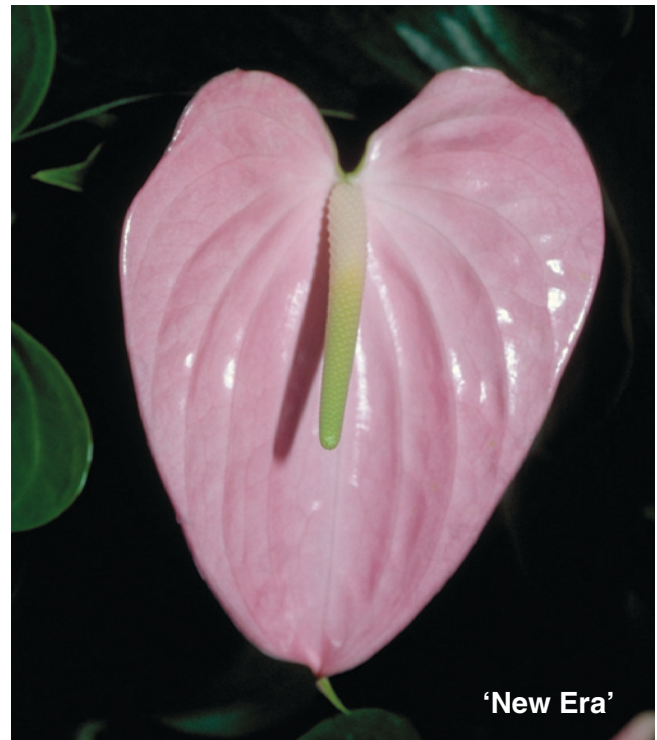
## 'Lē'ahi' and 'New Era' Anthuriums

A. R. Kuehnle<sup>1</sup>, T. D. Amore<sup>1</sup>, H. Kamemoto<sup>1</sup>, J. T. Kunisaki<sup>1</sup>, J. S. Lichty<sup>1</sup>, and J. Y. Uchida<sup>2</sup>  
Departments of <sup>1</sup>Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences and <sup>2</sup>Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

**A**nthurium cultivar 'Lē'ahi', UH1211, is a dual-purpose, light red and green bi-color selection. It is named after Diamond Head, the famous volcanic tuff cone in Honolulu that rises above a verdant skirt of vegetation at its base and glows cerise in the light of the sun's rise and set. The strengths of 'Lē'ahi' are its unusual obake coloration, which holds all year round, its good yield, averaging over 7.8 flowers per year, and its thick, sturdy, erect flower stems carried slightly above the foliage, making it attractive as a mid-sized blooming potted plant for interiorscapes. Potential weaknesses of 'Lē'ahi' are its susceptibility to bacterial blight and its short flower stems, which are not ideal for some applications in floral displays.

'Lē'ahi' has a formal, triangular, light red obake spathe, up to 9 inches long and 7½ inches wide, with slightly overlapping lobes carried at an angle of 45–60° from the stem axis. The short orange spadix is curved downward and is resistant to anthracnose. The average vase life of cut flowers, including 3 days of simulated packing, is 30 days, and 44 days when the flowers are dipped or sprayed with 100 ppm benzyladenine (BA or BAP).

An offspring of orange UH931 and pink 'Blushing Bride', 'Lē'ahi' was selected for micropropagation in 1996. Once established, nodal cuttings proliferate quickly in tissue culture. Plantlets were first transferred to Waiakea Research Station in 2000 and also distributed for testing as potted plants from August 2001 to



January 2002. Its dual purpose as a cut flower and potted plant, together with its high yield and fast propagation, made it a candidate for plant patenting. A University of Hawai'i Invention Disclosure was filed in 2002. The large obake was subsequently deemed undesirable for one target potted plant market after a two-year evaluation by Twyford, starting with flasks sent in March 2002. However, it may still be useful as a mid-sized andraeanum-type obake for the Hawai'i local and export markets due to its very attractive cerise color. Plant patenting will not be pursued; mother flasks of propagules will be provided to the Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association in 2007.

Anthurium 'New Era', UH1402, ushers in a new era of bacterial blight-resistant cut flowers suitable for greenhouse production. This selection arose from a cross between A494 (*Anthurium andraeanum* x *A. antioquiense*) and a pink selection (UH507) made by Dr. Kamemoto in an effort to breed blight-resistant varieties for the Hawai'i industry. 'New Era' has a pink

spathe 6½ inches long and 4¼ inches wide with a relatively long acumen on a long, erect flower stem. It is tolerant of bacterial blight and moderately resistant to anthracnose. 'New Era' shares its A494 parentage with 'Pumehana', another blight-resistant UH anthurium with a tapered tip, released in 2005.

Flasks of 'New Era' were transferred to Waiakea Research Station in late 2002 and to grower-cooperators in mid-2003. Hardened-off plants were delivered to cooperators during 2004 and 2005 for additional testing. The selection has open lobes that showed some cracking at one field test site but not at three other sites. It has good sucker production. Possible fading of the pink spathe at some test sites suggests early harvest or production under higher shade for best color. Yield averages 6.2 flowers per plant per year. The average vase life, with 3 days of simulated packing, is 44 days without BA treatment and 47 days with BA treatment. At Waiakea, the white spadix of mature flowers reverts to green over time before turning brown with old age; at Mānoa, the spadix can remain an attractive green with yellow and white.

#### Characteristics of anthurium 'Lē'ahi', UH1211.

##### **Spathe**

Size and shape	Triangular obake spathe 7½" long, 6½" wide, up to 9" long, 7½" wide
Color	Gradations of light red (RHSCC 47B to 46 C&D, red group); green lobes (RHSCC 144B)
Position	45–60 degrees from stem

##### **Spadix**

Size and shape	2½" long, ¾" wide
Color	White-orange red (RHSCC 33A, 34B orange-red)
Flower stem	27" long, ¾" wide
Yield	7.8 flowers per plant per year

##### **Leaf**

Blade	12½" long, 7½" wide
Petiole	22" long, ¼" wide
Internode length	Moderate
Sucker production	Good
Disease tolerance	Susceptible to bacterial blight; resistant to anthracnose; potentially susceptible to burrowing nematode

##### **Keeping quality**

(includes 3 days simulated shipping)	
No BA	30 days (139 stems)
BA	44 days (142 stems)
Other	Covered and containerized production

#### Characteristics of anthurium 'New Era', UH1402.

##### **Spathe**

Size and shape	6½" long, 4¼" wide; heart shape has long, tapered tip
Color	Pink (RHSCC 63C&D, in red-purple group)
Position	135 degrees from stem

##### **Spadix**

Size and shape	3" long, ¾" wide
Color	Green (RHSCC 142B) to yellow and white
Flower stem	26" long, ¼" wide
Yield	6.2 flowers per plant per year

##### **Leaf**

Blade	12½" long, 7¾" wide
Petiole	21" long, ⅜" wide
Internode length	Moderate
Sucker production	Good
Disease tolerance	Tolerant of bacterial blight; moderately resistant to anthracnose

##### **Keeping quality**

(includes 3 days simulated shipping)	
No BA	44 days (49 stems)
BA	47 days (51 stems)