A000-Pac-Poly-HI-HI- Menehune-Vesicular lava-700 CE



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Case No.: 13

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** Pac-Poly-HI-HI- Menehune-Vesicular lava-700 CE

**Display Description:**

This female Hawai'ian Menehune holding a baby is carved in vesicular lava, ca 700 CE. It ia the oldest figure of a menehune yet discovered on the island of Hawai’i, since it precedes the later waves of migration to the Hawaiian Islands at the end of the Neo-Atlantic Altithermal period ca. 1200 CE. For comparison, there is smaller vesicular lava head from Necker Island dated to the same period now in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. The ghosting of a natural red pigment is present on the surface where the baby is depicted, possibly applied to this human figure to assure a successful birth.

Excellent condition.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions: H** 15 in.

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

Paleontological evidence for Homo floriensis on the island of Flores in Indonesia provides evidence for a small-bodied hominin proportionately equivalent to hominins that coexisted with Homo sapiens for some millennia on isolated islands such as Flores and the Hawai'ian Islands providing the basis for the mythic menehune or "little people". Hominins such as Homo floriensis may represent sub-species of Homo sapiens who have undergone endemic dwarfism owing to their genetic isolation. See Dixon P. W. 2004. The Hawaiian Menehune in myth and paleontology, Human Evolution (19: 4, 287-291).

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