

Earthquakes in Hawaii:

What you need to know

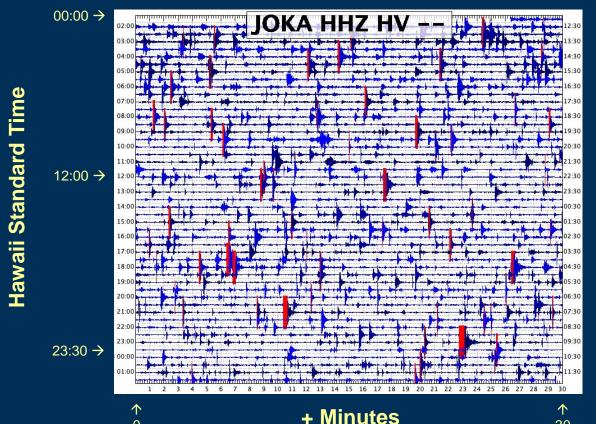
U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

Prepared by: Janet L. Babb Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (updated September 2019)

The State of Hawaii experiences thousands of earthquakes every year.

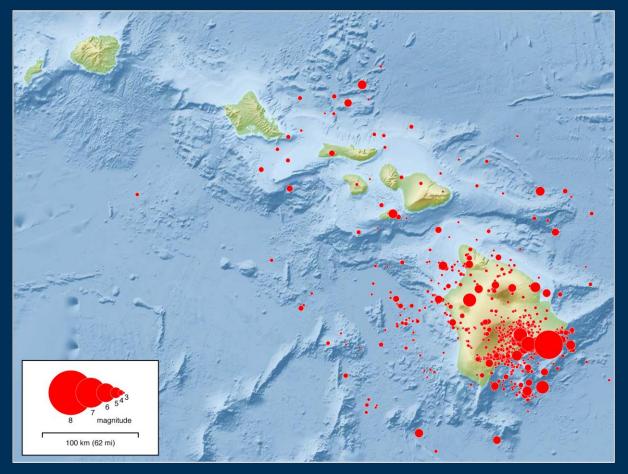
Most of these earthquakes are closely related to volcanic processes in Hawaii, and are so small they can be detected only by seismometers.

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Hundreds of small earthquakes were recorded by a nearby seismometer (JOKA) on May 2, 2018, just before the start of Kīlauea Volcano's lower East Rift Zone eruption in the Puna District of the Island of Hawai'i.

Many earthquakes are strong enough to be felt on one or more islands.



was higher than usual due to Kīlauea Volcano's lower East Rift Zone eruption in 2018, when thousands of earth-

quakes shook the island.

* The total for this decade

Source: USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

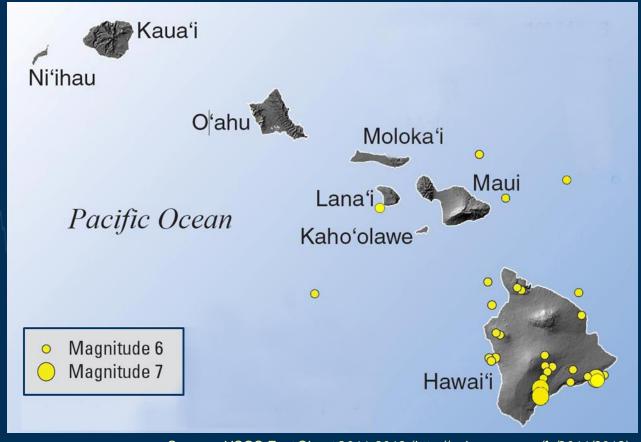


Locations of the 4783 magnitude-3.0 and stronger earthquakes that were recorded during the past decade (2009–2018*).

Some earthquakes are large enough to cause damage and impact residents across the State of Hawaii.

Since 1868, more than 30 magnitude-**6.0** or greater

earthquakes have rattled the islands.





Source: USGS Fact Sheet 2011-3013 (http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3013)

Two ways to measure or describe earthquakes:

Magnitude and Intensity



Magnitude

Measures the maximum ground motion recorded by a seismometer.

The amount of seismic energy released during an earthquake is related to its magnitude.

A unit increase in magnitude corresponds to a ~ 30-fold increase in released energy.

Compared to a M-3.0 earthquake...

- a **M-4.0** earthquake releases ~ 30 times more energy!
- a M-5.0 earthquake releases ~ 1,000 times more energy!!
- a M-6.0 earthquake releases ~ 30,000 times more energy!!!
- a M-7.0 earthquake releases ~ 1,000,000 times more energy!!!!



Intensity

Describes what people experience during an earthquake—the effects of shaking on structures and the extent of damage.

Intensity values (Roman numerals) are assigned using the **Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale**:

INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X-XII
SHAKING	Not Felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
DAMAGE	None	None	None	Very Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/ Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy

Maximum intensity values are often highest near an earthquake epicenter and decrease with distance from the source. What you experience (intensity) depends on your location relative to the epicenter.



Comparison of maximum intensity and magnitude:

Typical Maximum Intensity	Description of Shaking and Damage	Magnitude				
I	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.	1.0 – 3.0				
II	Felt only by a few persons at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings.	3.0 – 3.9				
III	Noticeably felt by persons indoors, especially on upper floors. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Parked cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to passing truck.					
IV	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by a few. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like truck striking building. Parked cars visibly rock.	4.0 – 4.9				
V	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.	4.0 – 4.9				
VI	Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.					
VII	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken. Noticed by drivers in moving cars.	5.0 – 5.9				
VIII	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.	6.0 – 6.9				
IX	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.					
х	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.	7.0 and				
XI	Few, if any (masonry) structures remain standing. Bridges destroyed. Rails bent greatly.					
XII	Damage total. Lines of sight and level are distorted. Objects thrown into the air.	_				

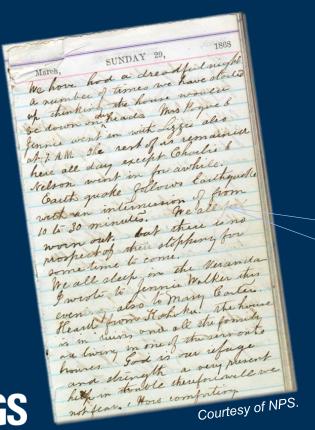


Hawaii's most destructive earthquakes since 1868



Magnitude: Estimated at 7.9 (pre-dates the development of magnitude scales)

Location: Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i



Strong foreshocks—including a magnitude-7.0 earthquake on March 28—and thousands of aftershocks shook the island for days.

"A dreadful night....

Earthquake follows earthquake
.... We're all worn out."

Diary of Annie Brown Spencer, Ka'ū, Hawai'i, March 29, 1868. The April 2, 1868, earthquake

was the largest in Hawaii's recorded history—equivalent in size to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake in California.

Wai'ōhinu church in Ka'ū, Hawai'i, destroyed by the 1868 earthquake. Photo by H.L. Chase, courtesy of the Hawaiian Historical Society.



Shaking: Extremely violent in south Hawai'i (Maximum Intensity XII)

Extent: Felt throughout the State of Hawaii

Damage: Very heavy along Hawai'i's south coast;

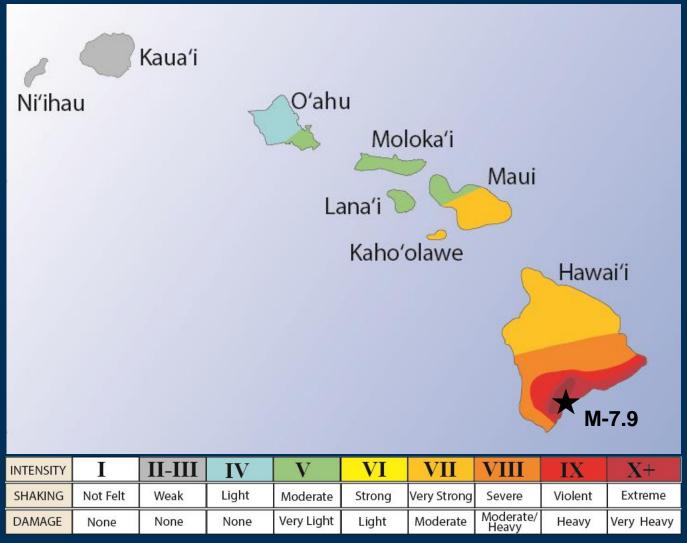
moderate in Maui County



This shaking and damage can be depicted on an earthquake intensity map.

Earthquake Intensity Map — April 2, 1868

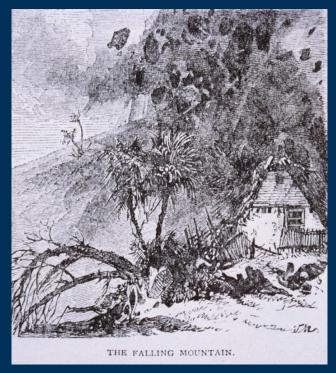
Using the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, colors on the map reflect the shaking and damage experienced by residents throughout the islands during the 1868 earthquake.



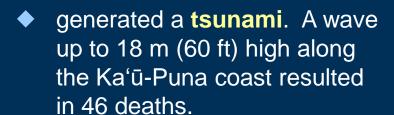


The April 2, 1868, earthquake...

- destroyed houses, toppled stone walls, opened ground cracks, and threw people off their feet.
- killed at least 77 people.



Source: Titus Coan, Scribner's Monthly, 1871



- triggered multiple landslides, including one in Ka'ū's Wood Valley, where 31 people died.
- induced short-lived eruptions on Kīlauea and Mauna Loa.

If this earthquake occurred today, damages could cost as much as:

\$ 500 million

Source: PDC's Hawaii HAZUS Atlas http://apps.pdc.org/hha/html/hzssummary.jsp



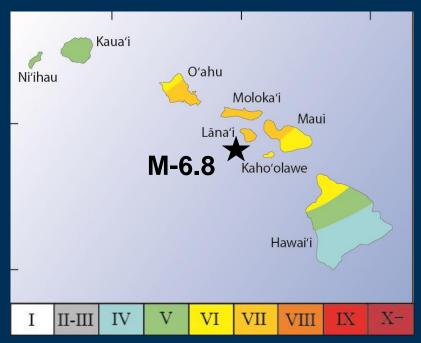
Shaking: Very strong from East Maui

to O'ahu

Extent: Felt throughout the State

Damage: Extensive in Maui County—some houses uninhabitable, stone walls and fences down, ground cracked open, rockfalls and landslides blocked roads and trails.

Moderate damage on O'ahu and minor damage on Hawai'i.



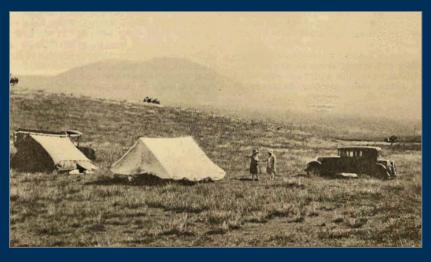
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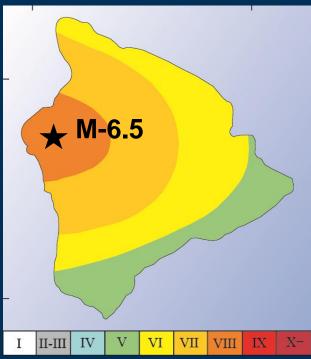


Shaking: Severe on Hualālai

Extent: Felt as far away as O'ahu

Damage: Heavy in West Hawai'i—houses, water tanks, stone walls fences, and roadways damaged, some beyond repair.





Modified from: USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

More than 6,200 foreshocks and aftershocks rattled the Hualālai area—including a M-6.2 earthquake on September 25. Fearing that their homes would collapse, some ranch residents camped out near Pu'uwa'awa'a in West Hawai'i. *USGS photo.*

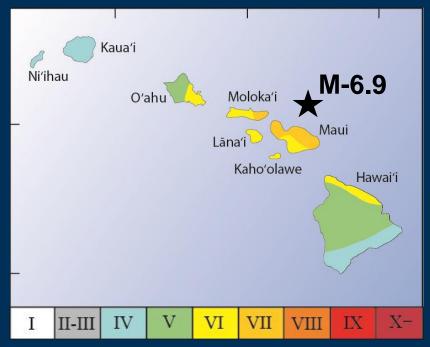


Shaking: Severe on Maui

Extent: Felt throughout the State

Damage: Heavy on north coast of Maui—oil pipelines and water tanks burst, landslides blocked roads, stone walls collapsed, and ground cracks ruined roads.

Minor damage from north Hawai'i to Kaua'i.



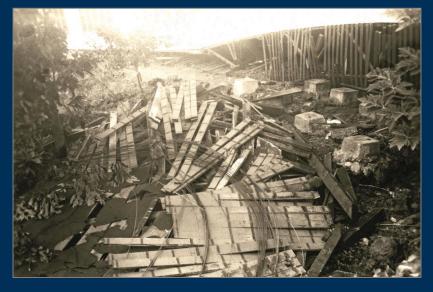
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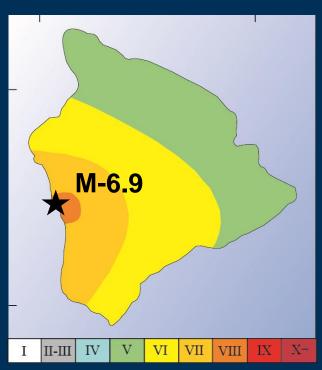


Shaking: Severe in West Hawai'i

Extent: Distinctly felt as far away as O'ahu

Damage: Roads badly cracked and blocked by rock slides, electric and telephone service disrupted, and ~200 water tanks collapsed in central Kona District. Generated a small local tsunami, but no significant wave damage.





Modified from: USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

Collapsed water tank at Hōnaunau School in South Kona, Hawai'i. USGS photo.

Shaking: Severe in north Hawai'i

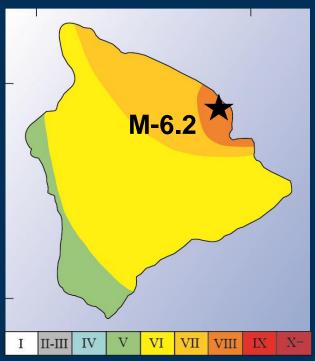
Extent: Felt on all islands

Damage: Estimated at \$5.75 million.

East Hawai'i declared a disaster area—
water and electric service disrupted;

rockslides blocked roads; homes and businesses damaged.

Injuries: At least 11 people injured in Hilo and Waimea.



Modified from: USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

Coastal damage on the Island of Hawaiʻi. Photo by Larry Kadooka, Hawaiʻi Tribune-Herald.

1975 November 29 mmmmmm

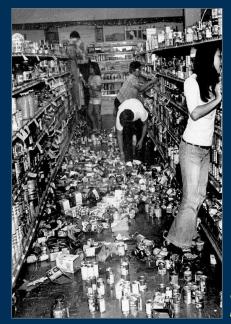
Shaking: Severe in Puna District

Extent: Felt across the State

Damage: \$4.1 million (including tsunami damage).

Massive ground cracking and landslides
damaged roads. Homes shifted off foundations.

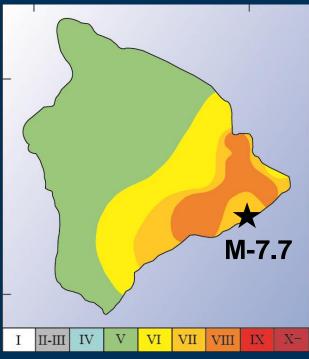
Structural and equipment damage at businesses.





Chain of Craters Road, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. USGS photo.

Impact on Hilo, Hawai'i, supermarket.
Photo by Larry Kadooka, Hawai'i Tribune Herald.



Modified from: USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

If this earthquake occurred today, damages could cost as much as:

\$ 500 million

The November 29, 1975, earthquake generated a devastating **tsunami**.

At Halapē, two campers died and 19 others were injured when the tsunami swept over them.

The coastline subsided by as much as 3.5 m (11 ft) during the earthquake, submerging Halapē's coconut grove in seawater.



Red pack marks the extent of the tsunami inundation at Halapē. USGS photo.

The tsunami—with waves up to 14.6 m (48 ft) high—caused extensive damage on the Island of Hawai'i's south coast.

A Punalu`u house demolished by the 1975 tsunami. Photo by David Shapiro, Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

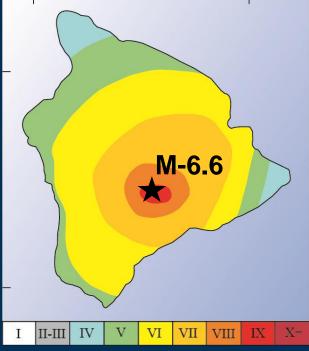
Shaking: Violent in Volcano area

Extent: Felt as far away as Kauai

Damage: Estimated at \$7 million in 1983. Houses moved off foundations, roads heavily cracked and temporarily closed, water tanks

and chimneys collapsed, landslides and severe ground failures occurred in many areas.

Injuries: At least 6 people injured.



Modified from USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

Damage in the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory library. USGS photo.

If this earthquake occurred today, damages could cost as much as:

\$ 200 million

Shaking: Strong in southeast Puna District

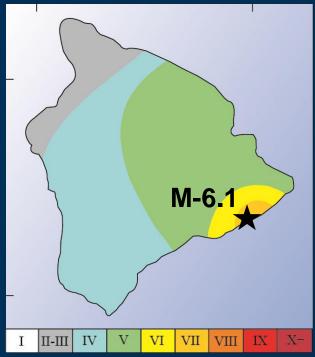
Extent: Felt as far away as O'ahu

Damage: Estimated at \$1 million in 1989. Several homes collapsed; many others suffered significant structural damage.

Generated a small local tsunami, but no wave damage was reported.



Collapsed home in Kalapana, Hawai'i. USGS photo.



Modified from: USGS Bulletin 2006 (http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b2006)

If this earthquake occurred today, damages could cost as much as:

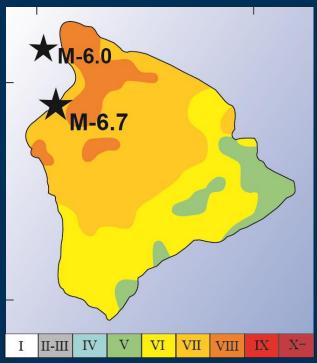
\$ 300 million

Shaking: Strong to severe in North Kona and Kohala Districts

Extent: Felt throughout the State

Damage: Heavy damage to Kawaihae harbor, homes, hotels, roads, and bridges; extended power outage on O'ahu; landslides blocked roads.



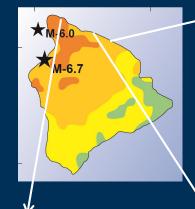


Minutes after the M-6.7 Kīholo Bay earthquake, a M-6.0 earthquake struck offshore of Māhukona, Hawai'i.

A massive rockslide diverted the course of Honokāne Nui Stream in northeast Hawai'i. USGS photo.



Examples of damage on the Island of Hawai'i caused by the 2006 Kīholo Bay and Māhukona earthquakes. USGS photos.





Kalāhikiola Congregational Church, Kapa'au.



Highway 19, southeast of Kawāili Bridge.



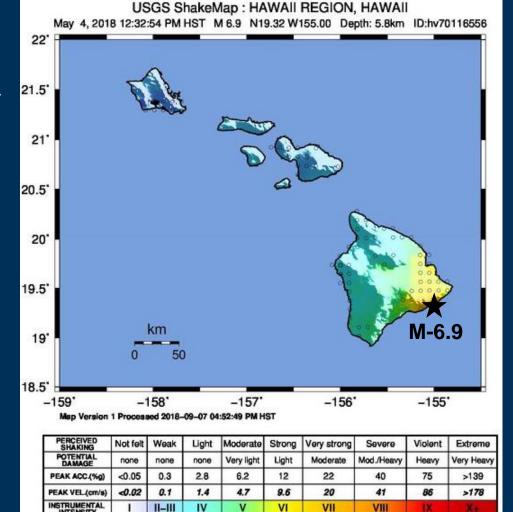
Honoka'a High School.

Shaking: Severe to violent in Puna District

Extent: Felt throughout the State

Damage: Some structural damage in the Hilo and Puna Districts; a minor tsunami reached a maximum height of 40 cm (~16 in) in Kapoho and 20 cm (~8 in) in Hilo.

This magnitude-6.9 event was the largest earthquake to strike Hawaii since 1975.







New fissures open as activity intensifies

By TOM CALLIS Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Kilauea volcano erupted new fissures Friday inside Leilani Estates and produced the largest earthquake in Hawaii since 1975, causing residents around the island to take cover.

Six fissures had opened by late Friday, with one sending lava onto Pohoiki Road, making it impassable. Two homes have been confirmed destroyed and hundreds of residents have been displaced.

The magnitude-6.9 quake occurred at 12:32 p.m. on the volcano's south flank and was one of several large temblors Friday that shook buildings and rattled nerves.

Some businesses and schools closed for the day, and 14,000 Hawaii Electric

More inside

- >>> It's business as usual for the tourism industry on the Big Island despite eruption and quakes. A7
- >>> Officials discuss the situation in lower Puna with residents. A7

Keep up online

 Be sure to check out www.hawaiitribune-herald. com and our Facebook page for the latest information about the eruption in Leilani Estates.

Light Co. customers lost power for a few hours in East Hawaii. Landslides also were reported along the Hamakua Coast.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park closed because of damage from the quake. About 2,600 visitors were evacuated.

The eruption started Thursday inside Leilani Estates on

See ACTIVITY Page A10

News about the M-6.9 earthquake was overshadowed by the largest Kīlauea lower East Rift Zone eruption in at least 200 years, which had begun the day before with multiple fissures erupting lava in the Leilani Estates subdivision in East Hawai'i.





Hawaii has a long history of destructive earthquakes.

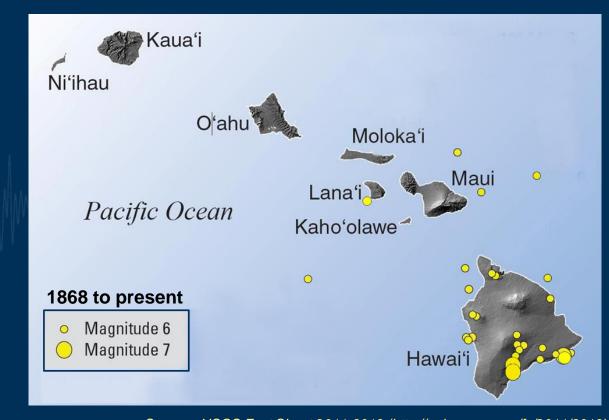
Hawaii's large earthquakes are equivalent in size to the strong earthquakes that occur along California's San Andreas fault. For example:

1906 San Francisco (M-7.9) 1989 Loma Prieta (M-6.9) 1994 Northridge (M-6.7)



Remember...

Large earthquakes can impact the entire **State of Hawaii**.



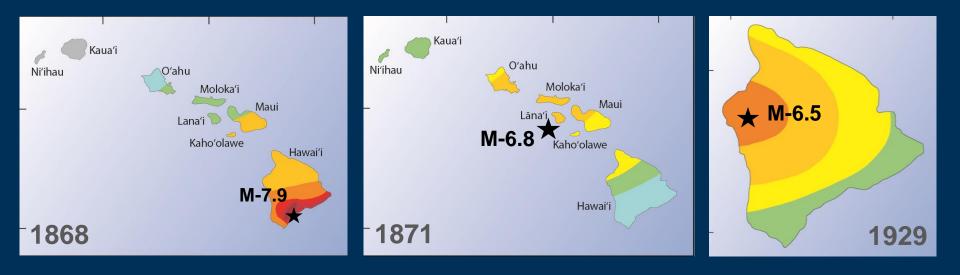


Source: USGS Fact Sheet 2011-3013 (http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3013)

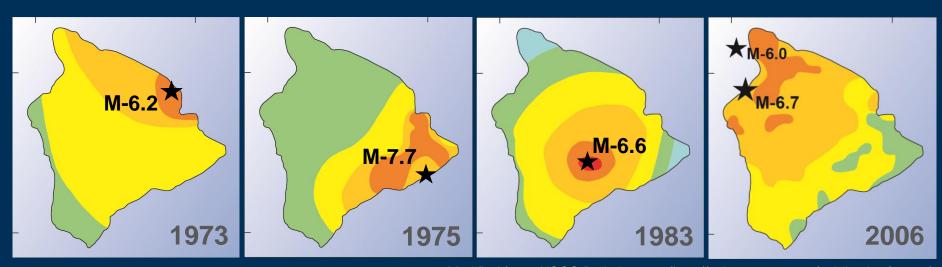
The probability of a destructive magnitude-6.5 or higher earthquake striking the Hawaiian islands:

- ... in the next 10 years is 50%.
- ... in the next **20** years is 75%.
- ... in the next **50** years is 97%.





So... It's not **IF** a destructive earthquake will strike Hawaii, but **WHEN** the next one will happen.



Do you know how to protect yourself during Hawaii's next big earthquake?



To reduce injury (or worse) during an earthquake, take these actions:



Source: http://www.shakeout.org/hawaii/dropcoverholdon/



If you're inside a building, stay there, and ...

DROP to the floor (before the earthquake drops you)!

Take **COVER** under a sturdy table or desk!

HOLD ON to your shelter—and move with it until the shaking stops!



Photo: Humboldt State University (http://humboldt.edu/shakyground/)



If you're at or near the beach...

Drop! Cover! Hold on! until the strong shaking stops.



Then...

quickly walk to higher ground—or inland—until you are at least 30 m (100 ft) above sea level, or beyond the marked tsunami hazard zone. Avoid steep cliffs and watch for falling rocks.



Strong earthquakes in Hawaii have generated **deadly tsunami**, so moving to higher ground after the next "big one" could save your life.

For more information on what to do during an earthquake, including situations when you cannot get beneath a table, please see...

"Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions in Hawaii"

http://shakeout.org/hawaii/resources/



Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions in Hawaii

Federal, State, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "Drop! Cover! Hold On!" is the appropriate action to take to reduce injury and prevent death during earthquakes.

The **Great Hawaii ShakeOut** (<u>shakeout.org/hawaii/</u>), an annual earthquake awareness and preparedness event held on the 3rd Thursday in October, is an opportunity to practice protecting yourself during an earthquake.

You cannot tell from the initial shaking of an earthquake if it will suddenly become intense, so...always, and immediately, Drop! Cover! and Hold On!



- DROP to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!)
- Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table
- HOLD ON to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops

If a table or desk is not near you, drop to the ground and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. If possible, crawl to an inside corner of the room. Stay in a crawling position to protect your vital organs and to be ready to move if necessary.

If you are unable to Drop! Cover! Hold On!: If you have difficulty dropping safely to the floor on your own, get as low as possible, protect your head and neck, and move away from windows or other items that can fall on you.

Guidelines on how to protect yourself in specific situations

If you are inside a building: Stay inside, and Drop! Cover! Hold on! until the shaking stops. Do not move to another location or outside. Moving outside can put you in greater danger than staying inside because exterior walls and windows often collapse. Trying to walk or run during strong shaking can also result in serious injury if you fall.



In bed: If you are in bed, stay there. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured by staying in bed. Broken glass on the floor has caused injuries to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to a doorway.



Page 1 of 2

Adapted from: Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions © Earthquake Country Alliance 2012



Practice makes perfect!

You are encouraged to practice **Drop! Cover! Hold on!** during...



The Great Hawaii ShakeOut

Annual Statewide Earthquake Drill

Held annually – 3rd Thursday in October



ShakeOut began in California in 2008.

This earthquake drill is now global, with millions of people from around the world participating each year.

Hawaii joined ShakeOut for the first time in 2013. Details are posted on the Great Hawaii ShakeOut website:



www.shakeout.org/hawaii



ShakeOut Resources

Information on how to participate in the **Great Hawaii ShakeOut** and resources to help you know what to do during Hawaii's next earthquake are available online:

http://shakeout.org/hawaii/resources/





Summary:

- ✓ Large, destructive earthquakes have impacted the State of Hawaii in the past—and will do so in the future.
- ✓ You must know how to protect yourself during an earthquake.
- ✓ Practice Drop! Cover! Hold on! so that you can react quickly during the next earthquake.
- ✓ The Great Hawaii ShakeOut is a good time to practice.



Please

Join Us

in the World's Largest **Earthquake Drill.**







Register at www.ShakeOut.org

For more information about Hawaii earthquakes:



Recent Earthquakes in Hawaii

The USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory monitors earthquakes across the State of Hawaii.

Information and real-time data about recent events are posted on the HVO website:





https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/hvo_earthquakes.html

Online resources:

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) Website

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/

Information about Hawaiian volcanoes and earthquakes, photographs and videos, "Volcano Watch" articles, news releases, and more. Earthquake pages include:

About Earthquakes in Hawaii

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/about_earthquakes.html Info on types and locations/numbers of earthquakes in Hawaii.

Felt Earthquakes

<u>https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/felt_earthquakes.html</u>
Info on magnitude/intensity and how to report a felt earthquake.

Recent Earthquake Map

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_earthquakes.html Details (location, depth, magnitude) about recent earthquakes in Hawaii.

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

http://ptwc.weather.gov/

Earthquake data and tsunami warning information.



"Earthquakes in Hawai'i—An Underappreciated but Serious Hazard"

https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3013/

A USGS Fact Sheet about earthquake hazards and seismic monitoring in Hawaii.

"Selected Images of the Effects of the October 15, 2006, Kīholo Bay-Māhukona, Hawai'i, Earthquakes and Recovery Efforts" https://pubs.usqs.gov/ds/506/

Almost 600 images from 36 sites on the Island of Hawai'i, where damage was the most concentrated by the 2006 earthquakes.



"The Story of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory—A Remarkable First 100 Years of Tracking Eruptions and Earthquakes"

https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/135/

The story of HVO's founding in 1912, advances in monitoring tools and techniques, significant discoveries over the past century, and notable earthquakes and eruptions during HVO's first 100 years.



"Volcano Watch" articles about some of Hawaii's significant or destructive earthquakes:

1868 Great Ka'ū earthquake

- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=1160
- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=1358

1929 Hualālai earthquake

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=192

1938 Maui earthquake

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=915

1951 Kealakekua earthquake

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=1174

1973 Honomū earthquake

- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=813
- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=653

1975 Kalapana earthquake

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=1152

2006 Kīholo Bay earthquake

- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=493
- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=517
- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=398

2018 Kīlauea south flank earthquake

https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hvo_volcano_watch.html?vwid=1386



USGS Earthquake Hazards Program

https://earthquake.usgs.gov/

Information about earthquakes around the world, including historic events in specific states.

Frequently Asked Questions about Earthquakes

https://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/faq.php

USGS Earthquake Notification Service

https://earthquake.usgs.gov/ens/

Sign up for a free service that sends you automated notifications when earthquakes happen.

Did You Feel It?

https://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/dyfi/

Feel an earthquake? Report what you experienced with a few clicks of your computer mouse. https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/tellus





www.shakeout.org/hawaii

