

**Table 2.18-- GREATEST CATASTROPHIC MORTALITY OF RECORD,  
BY TYPE OF DISASTER: 1778 TO 2009**

[Complete through June 15, 2009]

Type of disaster	Date	Location	Event	Deaths
Aircraft	Mar. 22, 1955	Waianae Mts.	Crash of MATS R6-D	66
Asphyxiation	Oct. 19, 1937	Palama	Leaking gas in house	8
Construction	Mar. 25, 1930	Kauai	Collapse of Alexander Dam	6
Earthquake	Apr. 2, 1868	Ka'u; Puna	Earthquake	32
Explosion	May 21, 1944	West Loch	Explosions on 9 Navy ships loading ammunition	163
Fire	June 8, 1944	Kalihi	Colliding bombers set fire to houses 1/	10
	Oct. 15, 1997	Palolo	Fire destroyed 3 houses	7
Flood	Jan. 18, 1916	Iao; Wailuku	Cloudburst and flood	14
Homicide	Nov. 2, 1999	Iwilei	Mass murder in office	7
Hurricane	Sept. 11, 1992	Kauai; Oahu	Hurricane Iniki	8
Landslide	May 9, 1999	Sacred Falls	Landslide	8
Marine	1829 or 1830	New Hebrides	Losses to Boki's ships 2/	410
Motor vehicle	July 2, 1944	Waialua	Truck overturned on pedestrians	7
	July 5, 1969	Kamehameha Hwy at Puuloa	2-car accident	7
Railroad	June 26, 1916	Near Hana	Work train derailed	5
Tsunami	Apr. 1, 1946	Statewide	Tsunami	159
Volcano	Nov. 1790	Kilauea	Eruption killed soldiers	80 or 400
War, riots, etc.	Dec. 7, 1941	Oahu	Pearl Harbor attack	2,500
	Jan. 1790	Olowalu	U.S. ship fired on native canoes	> 100
	Sept. 9, 1924	Hanapepe	Police fired on strikers	20

1/ Death toll in burning houses; in addition, 4 airmen perished.

2/ Of Boki's two-ship expedition to New Hebrides, the *Kamehameha* and its crew of 250 vanished; the *Becket* survived but lost 160 of its crew.

Source: Robert C. Schmitt, "Catastrophic Mortality in Hawaii," *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Vol. 3 (1969), pp. 66-86, and "Catastrophic Mortality in Hawaii: An Update," *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Vol. 23 (1989), pp. 217-227; Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, compiled from various newspaper sources.