

**Table 2.18-- GREATEST CATASTROPHIC MORTALITY OF RECORD,  
BY TYPE OF DISASTER: 1778 TO 2019**

[Complete through June 1, 2019]

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	Kau; 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
Fire	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
Motor vehicle	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 about 400
War, riots, etc.	Dec. 7, 1941	Oahu	Pearl Harbor attack	2,500
War, riots, etc.	Jan. 1790	Olowalu	U.S. ship fired on native canoes	> 100
War, riots, etc.	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.