

**Table 5.19-- EARTHQUAKES WITH HONOLULU INTENSITIES OF  
V OR GREATER: 1859 TO 1999**

[Complete through December 31, 1999]

Date	Epicentral location	Magnitude (Richter scale)	Honolulu average intensity (Modified Mercalli Scale 1/)
1861: Dec. 5	Molokai-Lanai vic. (?)	(NA)	Mid V
Dec. 15	Molokai-Lanai vic. (?)	(NA)	Lower V - mid V
1868: Apr. 2	SE coast of Hawaii	7.5	Upper IV - lower V
Apr. 4	Maui group vicinity (?)	(NA)	Lower V
1871: Feb. 19	S coast of Lanai	7.0	Upper VI - lower VII
1895: Dec. 8	Oahu vicinity (?)	(NA)	Mid V
1926: Mar. 19	N of Kohala, Hawaii	(NA)	Upper IV - lower V
1929: Oct. 5	W of Kona, Hawaii	6.5	Lower V
1938: Jan. 22	N of Maui	6.8	Upper V - lower VI
1948: June 28	S coast of Oahu	4.8	Mid VI
1964: Oct. 11	Ka Lae, Hawaii	5.5	Upper IV - lower V
1973: Apr. 26	Hamakua coast, Hawaii	6.2	Mid V
1981: Mar. 5	Kalohi Channel	5.0	Mid V

NA Not available.

1/ Modified Mercalli Scale of 1931, 1956 abridged version further simplified. This scale, which extends from I to XII, reads in part:

IV. Hanging objects swing. Vibration like passing of heavy trucks or sensation of a jolt. Standing autos rock. Windows, dishes, doors rattle. Crockery clashes. In the upper part of range wooden construction creaks.

V. Felt outdoors; direction estimated. Sleepers wakened. Liquids distributed, some spilled. Small unstable objects displaced or upset. Doors, shutters, pictures swing. Pendulum clocks stop.

VI. Felt by all. Many frightened, run outdoors. Persons walk unsteadily. Windows, dishes, glassware broken. Knickknacks, books thrown off shelves, pictures off walls. Furniture moved, overturned. Weak plaster and masonry cracked. Small bells ring. Trees, bushes noticeably shaken.

VII. Difficulty in standing. Noticed by drivers of autos. Hanging objects quiver. Furniture broken. Damage to weak masonry. Weak chimneys broken at roof line. Fall of plaster, loose bricks, etc. Some cracks in ordinary masonry. Waves on ponds. Small slides on sand and gravel banks. Large bells ring. Irrigation ditches damaged.

Source: Doak C. Cox, "Earthquake Experience in Honolulu", *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Vol. 21 (1987), pp. 98-109; U.S. Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, records.