

**Table 2.19-- GREATEST CATASTROPHIC MORTALITY OF RECORD, BY TYPE OF DISASTER: 1778 TO 2025**

[Complete through June 1, 2025]

Type of disaster	Date	Location	Event	Deaths
Aircraft	June 8, 1944	Kalihi	Colliding bombers set fire to houses	1/ 10
Aircraft	Mar. 22, 1955	Waianae Mts.	Crash of MATS R6-D1, killing all aboard	66
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
Explosion	Dec. 31, 2024	Oahu	Aliamanu fireworks explosion	6
Fire, electrical	Oct. 15, 1997	Palolo	Electrical fire destroyed 3 houses	7
Fire, wildfire	Aug. 8, 2023	Lahaina	Wildfires destroyed most of Lahaina	102
Flood	Jan. 18, 1916	Iao, Wailuku	Cloudburst and flood	14
Gas leak	Oct. 19, 1937	Palama	Leaking gas in house	8
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, massacres	Jan. 1790	Olowalu	U.S. ship fired on native canoes	> 100
War, massacres	Sept. 9, 1924	Hanapepe	Police fired on strikers	20
War, massacres	Dec. 7, 1941	Oahu	Pearl Harbor attack	2,500

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.