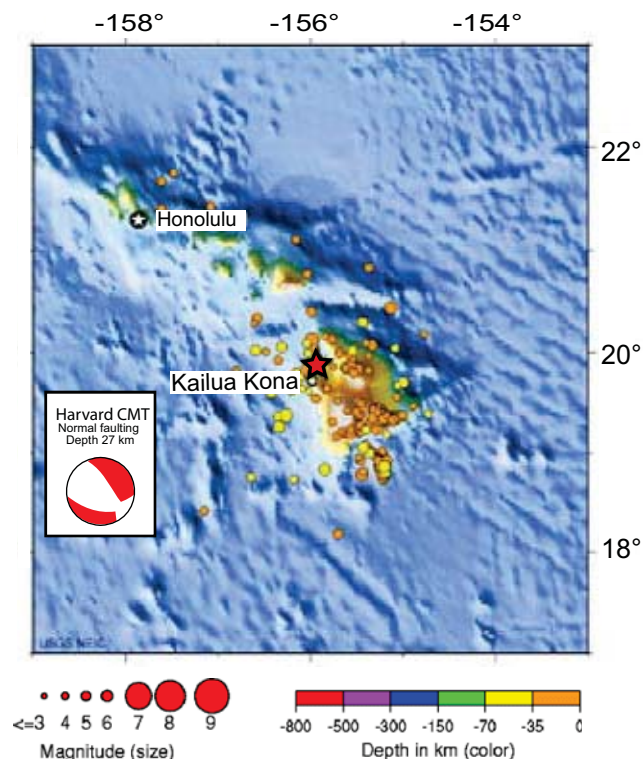


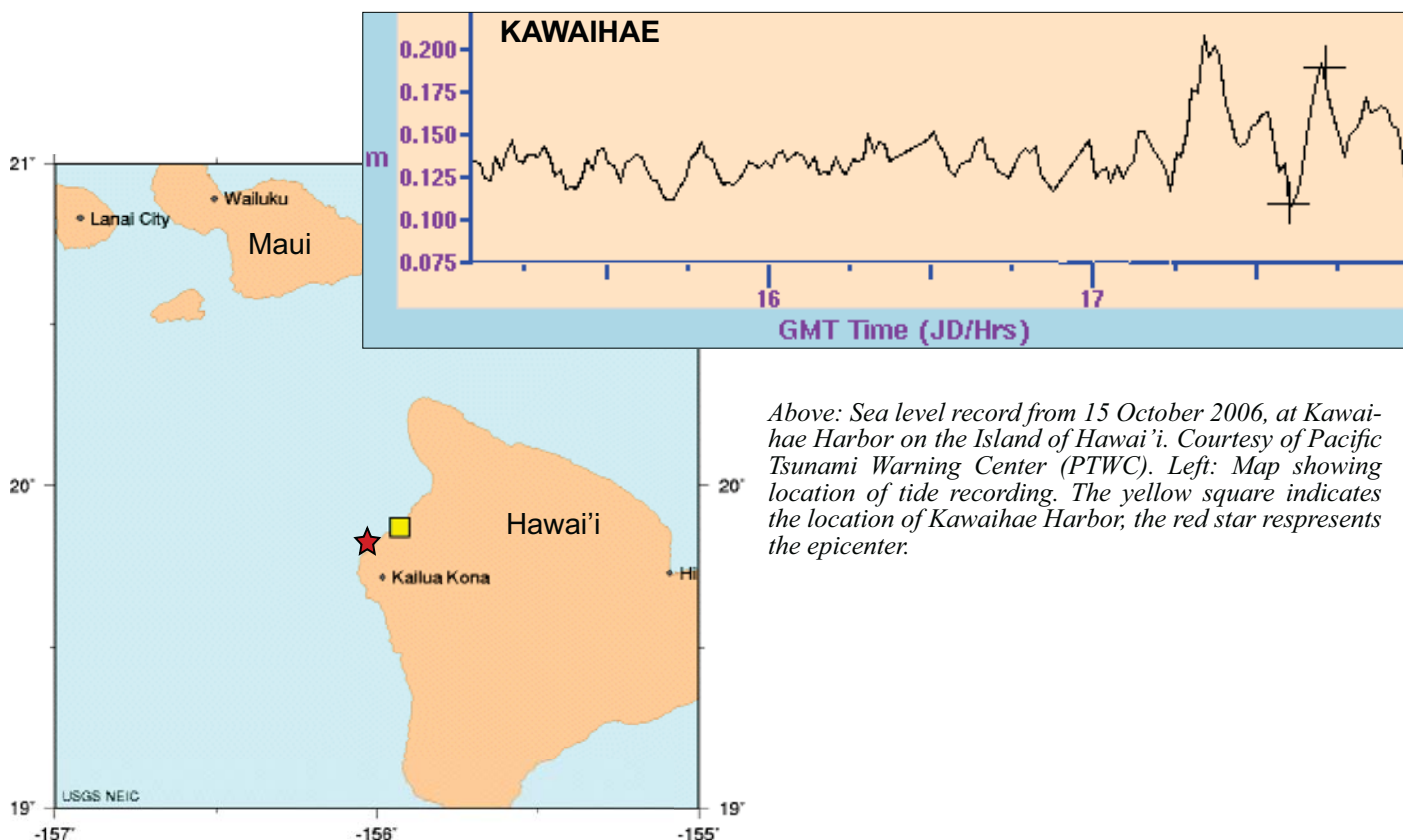
ISLAND OF HAWAII, 15 October 2006, 17:08 UTC, $M_w=6.5$

A strong earthquake occurred about 15 km north-north-west of Kailua Kona or 100 km west of Hilo, Hawaii at 17:08 UTC 15 October 2006 (07:08 local, Hawaiian Standard Time). Numerous people suffered minor injuries, at least 1,173 buildings were damaged, roads damaged and landslides blocked roads on the island of Hawaii. Power outages occurred throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Damage was estimated at \$73 million US. According to the United States Geological Survey, National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), the earthquake was felt (VII-VIII Mercalli scale) in northern and western Hawaii and (V-VI) in eastern and southern Hawaii. Also felt (VI) on Maui; (V) on Lanai, Molokai and Oahu and (IV) on Kauai. A tsunami with a wave height of 10 cm was recorded at Kawaihae Harbor, near the epicenter.

Earthquakes on the volcanic Island of Hawaii are not rare. The largest on record was the magnitude 7.9 1868 earthquake near the south coast which triggered a tsunami that drowned 46 people and which spawned numerous landslides that resulted in 31 deaths. A magnitude 6.9 tremor on 21 August 1951, damaged scores of homes on the Kona coast and triggered numerous damaging landslides.



Map showing historical seismicity from 1900 to the present and location of epicentre (courtesy of USGS NEIC). The red star indicates current earthquake.



Above: Sea level record from 15 October 2006, at Kawaihae Harbor on the Island of Hawai'i. Courtesy of Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC). Left: Map showing location of tide recording. The yellow square indicates the location of Kawaihae Harbor, the red star represents the epicenter.