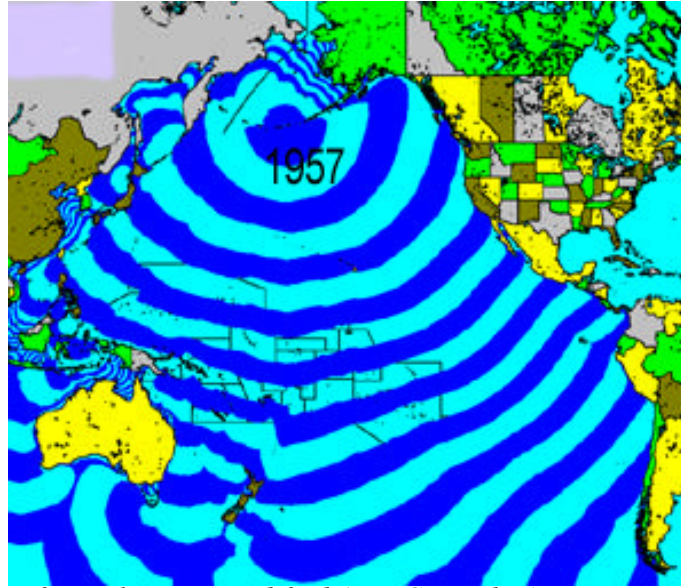


The 9 March 1957 Aleutian Tsunami - On March 9, 1957, a large earthquake with a moment magnitude of 8.3 occurred south of the Andreanof Islands in the Aleutian Islands. The quake generated a Pacific-wide tsunami which caused considerable damage at coastal areas in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California. Near the generating area maximum waves of up to 22.8 meters occurred at the Aleutian island of Umnak, where sheep camps were washed away and docks and a concrete mixer were destroyed. At Atka, another Aleutian island, tsunami waves of up to 9.1 meters destroyed houses and washed away the harbor facility and its oil supply storage tanks. At Chernofski, waves drowned sheep at a sheep ranch. At the island of Adak, waves of about 4 meters destroyed all the structures at the harbor dock.



Travel Time of the 1957 tsunami (each contour represents one hour of travel time. (Modified ATWC graphic)

The Hawaiian Islands suffered by far the greatest damage. Maximum runup and damage occurred at the northern part of the island of Kauai, near Haena point, where the tsunami waves reached heights of 16 m, almost twice the height of the 1946 tsunami. The waves destroyed bridges and sections of Kauai's highways were flooded. Houses were washed out and destroyed at Wainiha and Kalihiwai.



Second photo in a series of three sequential photos show the arrival of a major wave at Laie Point on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii. Photograph Credit: Henry Helbush. Source: National Geophysical Data Center.

The rest of the Hawaiian islands received waves averaging 2 to 3 m. At Hilo, Hawaii, the maximum tsunami run-up was 3.9 m. Numerous buildings along the waterfront were damaged. Coconut Island was covered by 1 m of water and the bridge connecting it to shore, as in 1952, was again destroyed. Total damage in Hawaii was estimated at approximately \$5 million (1957 dollars). Fortunately, no lives were lost.

Automobile abandoned by its driver on Kamemehameha Highway at Waialua Bay, O'ahu, during the 1957 tsunami.



Figure 4.5 Automobile abandoned by its driver on Kamemehameha Highway at Waialua Bay, O'ahu, during the 1957 tsunami.