

THE 1700 CASCADIA TSUNAMI AND ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL BENCHMARKS IN HAWAII AND OREGON

Richard W. Rogers
Pialoha Consultants
Haleiwa, Hawaii
Email: plialoha@hula.net

ABSTRACT

While the tsunami of January 27, 1700 is found in an extensive set of documents in Japan, the historic record of this event in Hawaii and Oregon is less well documented. In the Hawaiian islands, oral tradition speaks of incidents of rising waters with lethal consequences. These events can be placed into a historical as well as traditional context, and yield a date comparable to that reported in Oregon and Japan. Additionally, along the Oregon Coast, the distribution of the remains of an early 18th century shipwreck is also being examined in the context of the "lay of the land" at the time of the 1700 Cascadia tsunami. The dynamics of the event in question seems to eliminate the possibility of the shipwreck in question come to rest ashore before the tsunami of 1700.

This paper will discuss these two historic waterfront incidents and explore ways in which we might learn more about the tsunami of 1700 from them.