

## 'We were skin-diving, not paying any attention' to 1957 tsunami

Robin Bond was diving with intermediate school friends in Hanauma Bay in 1957 when he felt the current "go one way, then come back up and go back down."

"I figured that's not right," he said. I looked at the keyhole area of the bay. Water was coming out. It had dropped below the level of the reef and was pouring out of the inside reef.

"You couldn't hear any of the alarms," recalled Bond, now 65. "We were skin-diving, going up and down, not paying any attention."

But they knew it was a tsunami, he said. "When it hit, we just took off running. We grabbed our stuff and went to the top of the lookout where it is now and watched the waves."

The 1957 tsunami was generated by an earthquake in the Aleutian Islands and caused extensive damage on Kauai.

Bond said he grew up on Portlock Road and remembers many times when his father would get them into a truck to go to the top of Koko Head and wait until there was an all-clear.

"My dad was a smart guy, especially when it came to the ocean. He said, 'Never go back and look. Don't go near it. Get away.'"

Bond, who worked 15 years for the Parks and Recreation Department, said he does a lot of diving and fishing.

AIO 4-1-07 HSB  
**TSUNAMI AWARENESS  
MONTH ACTIVITIES**

### HONOLULU

- >> **April 1-30:** Tsunami display window at Borders Books, Waikale. "Science of Tsunamis and Safety Information."
- >> **April 17:** Bishop Museum lecture, 6 p.m., Gerard Fryer, geophysicist, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, "Tsunamis: Waves of Destruction."
- >> **May 17:** Hanauma Bay lecture, 6:30 p.m., Gerard Fryer, "Tsunamis: The Great Waves."

### HILO

- >> **Today:** Pacific Tsunami Museum Talk Story Day: "A Taste of Mamo Street," 6 p.m., Sangha Hall.
- >> **Thursday:** Remembrance Day, 9 a.m., Laupahoehoe Park.
- >> **Friday:** Pacific Tsunami Museum private ceremony with Dr. Ronald Yamaoka.
- >> **April 20:** 19th annual Earth Day Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hawaii Community College, with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration booths, displays, tsunami information.
- >> **April 28:** Ocean Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., University of Hawaii-Hilo.

For more information, visit [www.tsunami.org/events.html](http://www.tsunami.org/events.html)

"A lot of guys I've grown up with, they brag about running down (to the beach) looking for fish (after a tsunami alert). I just shake my head. I know when it hits, you better be out of there, because if not, you're gonna get whacked."

— Helen Altton, *Star-Bulletin*