



Beginning and End of the Bomb Exhibition



Photo: Hiroshima and Nagasaki peace bells in Honolulu.

The role of nuclear weapons since 1945 and reducing the threat in the future.



SPRING 2020 EXHIBITION

Monday, March 2 - Thursday, April 30
UH Mānoa, Hamilton Library, Bridge Gallery

FALL 2020 PARTIAL EXHIBITION

Monday, August 3 - Friday, September 25
UH Mānoa, Hamilton Library, Elevator Gallery

EXHIBITION HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 AM - 10 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 6 PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday: 12 PM - 10 PM
Closed on Holidays

EXHIBIT STATEMENT

The false alarm in Hawaii of an incoming missile on 13 January 2018 is a reminder of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. It is also a reminder that we all need to become better informed about the origins, history, and possible solutions to this existential threat. The goal of the “Beginning and End of the Bomb” exhibit is to illustrate the role of nuclear weapons since 1945 and to stimulate critical thinking about reducing the threat in the future.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the development and use of nuclear weapons during World War II. The exhibit originated in 1995 as “Fifty Years with the Bomb” to mark the 50th anniversary of the development and use of nuclear weapons during World War II. It included sections on the first nuclear test in New Mexico in July 1945, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, newspaper reports near war’s end, and nuclear tests on the U.S. mainland, in the Pacific, and near Hawaii. The final section looked to the next fifty years and presented different perspectives. The current exhibit includes most of these materials plus some new features. In particular, it includes an interactive simulation of the effects of a nuclear explosion on Oahu. The partial exhibit in Fall 2020 will feature only newspaper front pages from August 1945 and documents highlighting recent developments.

While the “beginning” of the bomb is clear, the “end” is not. Efforts to bring about nuclear disarmament continue but so do modernizations of existing arsenals. Many important questions remain. Can this threat be ended? Will it continue indefinitely? Will nuclear weapons be used by countries or terrorists? What can people in Hawaii do? We hope this exhibit will be the catalyst for informed dialogue on these questions.