



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Board of Directors

Craig D. Comartin, *President*
Thalia Anagnos, *President-Elect*
Farzad Naeim, *Vice President*
Marshall Lew, *Secretary/Treasurer*

John L. Aho
Jonathan D. Bray
Richard Eisner

Polat Gülkan
Laurie A. Johnson

Executive Director
Susan K. Tubbesing

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 18, 2006

EERI Contact: Susan K. Tubbesing, 510-451-0905

EERI Seeks to Identify Lessons from the Kona, Hawaii Earthquake: The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), an Oakland-based professional association dedicated to reducing earthquake risk, is carrying out a field reconnaissance investigation to gather preliminary lessons from Sunday's M 6.7 earthquake offshore of the island of Hawaii. EERI members and other earthquake professionals based in Hawaii are documenting the earthquake's effects on structures, including hospitals and schools, roads and highways, and the electric power system, and will also document the geologic, seismologic, and geotechnical engineering aspects of the event. Gary Chock, a structural engineer and president of Martin Chock Inc. in Honolulu is coordinating the investigation into structural impacts. Professor Peter Nicholson, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is coordinating information on geotechnical effects.

Also contributing to the investigation are Professors Ian Robertson and Horst Brandes from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Hawaii Manoa and Dr. Edmund Medley of GeoSyntec Consultants in Oakland, California. Drs. Nicholson and Medley's contributions are supported by the Geo-Engineering Earthquake Reconnaissance (GEER) Association, with funding from the US National Science Foundation.

In addition to professionals in Hawaii, several California engineering and risk management firms, including Degenkolb Engineers and Risk Management Solutions, have sent investigators to document the earthquake's effects. These engineers will also coordinate with FEMA inspection teams in the field.

For over thirty years, with funding from the National Science Foundation, EERI has managed the Learning from Earthquakes Program, and has sent researchers to investigate damaging earthquakes around the world. The research teams have brought back valuable observations that hold lessons for U.S. engineering practitioners and researchers as they strive to reduce earthquake hazards. In recent events, EERI and GEER have shared resources to strengthen field investigations and resulting reconnaissance reports.

After the field investigation is complete, findings will be published as a special supplement in the *EERI Newsletter* and posted on EERI's website. Images from the various investigators will also be posted on the website and visible through Google Earth. Further information is available by contacting the EERI office at 510-451-0905 or eeri@eeri.org, EERI President Craig Comartin of CDComartin Inc at (209) 472-1221, William Holmes, Chair of EERI's Learning from Earthquakes Advisory Committee and structural engineer with Rutherford & Chekene at (415) 568-4403, or Jonathan Bray GEER Chair at UC Berkeley (510) 642-9843. Information on EERI is available at www.eeri.org and on GEER at <http://gees.usc.edu/GEER/>

499 14TH Street, Suite 320, Oakland, California 94612-1934

☎ (510) 451-0905 FAX (510) 451-5411 eeri@eeri.org <http://www.eeri.org>

a nonprofit corporation