



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama
Kevin.Kodama@noaa.gov
808-973-5276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2016

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii

Summary of the dry season (May through September 2016)

- Statewide: Most locations had near to above average rainfall.
 - Most areas drought-free except for small sections of leeward Maui near Kihei, and leeward Kauai near Hanapepe.
 - Drought is mainly affecting ranching operations.
- 2nd wettest dry season in the last 30 years (based on rankings from 8 key sites).
 - 2015 dry season was the wettest in the last 30 years.
 - 2016 dry season had monthly rainfall records broken at several locations in July, August, and September.
 - Many leeward areas wetter than expected in the May dry season outlook.
- Above average tropical cyclone activity near Hawaii and above average sea surface temperatures have helped increase rainfall.
 - Tropical cyclones and other tropical weather features bring associated rain bands over the islands and enhanced moisture from the deep tropics to fuel intense rainfall.
 - Tropical Storm Darby made landfall on the Big Island in July and its trailing rain band produced damaging flash floods on Oahu.
 - Enhanced moisture from a weak tropical disturbance contributed to severe flash flooding in Wailuku River on Maui in September.

Outlook for the wet season (October 2016 through April 2017)

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): The current ENSO-neutral conditions are transitioning to a La Nina state (cool phase).
 - CPC issued a "La Nina Watch" on October 13, 2016.
- While La Nina is favored to develop during the fall, it may not be long-lived and is only slightly favored (55% chance) to persist through the winter.
- Probabilities favor near to above average rainfall through spring 2017.
 - Above average rainfall also reflected in the climate model consensus predictions.
 - Prior wet seasons during weak La Nina events have had near average rainfall in the Hawaiian Islands.
 - Prior wet seasons during ENSO-neutral events tend to have above average rainfall in the Hawaiian Islands.
- Drought recovery probable for remaining areas on Kauai and Maui.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama
Kevin.Kodama@noaa.gov
808-973-5276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2016

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii - cont'd

Wet season preparedness reminders

- Do not drive on roads with fast-flowing water.
 - Just 2 feet of fast-flowing water can sweep most vehicles off a road.
 - Road may also be severely undercut.
- Do not walk across flooded streams.
 - If you're hiking and get stranded, wait for the water to recede.
 - Streams in Hawaii generally recede quickly.
- Expect more rainy weather impacts.
 - Increased road travel times
 - Possible detours or road closures due to flooding or landslides.
 - Outdoor activities may be postponed, canceled, or adjusted.
- The wet season brings increased potential for lightning strikes.
 - Be prepared for power outages.
 - Move indoors during a thunderstorm.
- If you travel through a flood-prone area, identify alternate routes ahead of time.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, have an evacuation plan in case flood waters quickly threaten your home.
- Stay informed of conditions that could change rapidly
 - Sunny skies can turn cloudy with intense rainfall in less than an hour.
 - Check out the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and advisories via the media, NOAA Weather Radio, the Internet, or one of several weather mobile phone apps.
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on mobile phones notify you that you're in a flash flood warning area.

On the Web:

NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu HI: <http://www.weather.gov/hawaii/>

NOAA Weather Ready Nation: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

NOAA Climate Prediction Center: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

FEMA Flood Preparedness Information: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency: <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

State of Hawaii-DLNR National Flood Insurance Page: <http://dlnreng.hawaii.gov/nfip/>

U.S. Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>