



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2017

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii

Summary of the dry season (May through September 2017)

- Statewide: Most locations had near to below average rainfall.
 - Drought present on the Big Island at the start of the dry season.
 - Spread to the other three counties and intensified during the summer.
 - Mainly affecting ranching operations and localized water service areas on Maui and the Big Island.
- 13th driest 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.
 - 2003 dry season was the driest in the last 30 years.
 - Expected wet conditions for windward slopes did not occur.
- Unlike 2015 and 2016, below average tropical cyclone activity in 2017 did not provide a boost in rainfall during the summer months.

Outlook for the wet season (October 2017 through April 2018)

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): The current ENSO-neutral conditions are likely transitioning to a La Nina state (cool phase) with a 55 to 60 percent chance of La Nina developing during the fall.
 - CPC issued a "La Nina Watch" on September 14, 2017.
- After development, La Nina is forecast to persist until the spring when conditions may transition back to ENSO-neutral.
- There is uncertainty in the eventual strength of this La Nina episode.
- Probabilities favor above average rainfall through the wet season.
 - Above average rainfall is reflected in the climate model consensus predictions which captures large scale conditions but not Hawaii's microclimates.
 - Wet seasons during recent moderate to strong La Nina events have had wet conditions over the windward slopes but dry conditions over leeward areas.
 - Weaker La Nina events had more rainfall make it to leeward areas.
- Recovery from existing drought probable for windward Big Island and Maui.
- Existing drought may persist or worsen in some of the leeward areas, especially on the Big Island and Maui County.



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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 when you hear thunder.
- 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.weather.gov/wrn/>

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/>