



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 12, 2018

### **Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii**

#### **Summary of the dry season (May through September 2018)**

- Statewide: Most locations had above average rainfall.
  - Drought developed in the early summer in Maui County, then spread to the leeward areas of the Big Island and Oahu.
  - Reached severe levels (D2 category in U.S. Drought Monitor map) in small portions of the Big Island and Maui.
    - Mainly affected ranching operations and contributed to an increase in brush fires.
- Tropical cyclone activity and other weather systems produced record-breaking wet conditions in August and September.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
  - 2003 dry season was the driest in the last 30 years.
- Drought eliminated in early October following vegetation recovery.

#### **Outlook for the wet season (October 2018 through April 2019)**

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): The current ENSO-neutral conditions are likely transitioning to an El Niño state (warm phase). There is a 70 to 75 percent chance of El Niño developing during the next couple of months.
  - CPC issued an "El Niño Watch" on June 14, 2018.
- After development, El Niño is forecast to persist until the spring when conditions may transition back to an ENSO-neutral state.
- Climate model consensus favors a weak strength for this El Niño episode.
  - A weak El Niño usually allows some heavy rain events to affect the state.
- Probabilities favor above average rainfall early in the wet season.
- Probabilities favor below average rainfall starting December 2018 and persisting into the spring months of 2019.
  - Below average rainfall expected statewide during the winter, but not as dry as 2009-2010.
- Some drought development expected by the end of February.
  - Mainly moderate intensity (D1 category), with small areas of severe drought (D2 category) possible along lower leeward slopes.
  - Main impacts to agriculture and homes on rainfall catchment.



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 12, 2018

### 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/>