



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2018

2017-2018 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii

Summary of October 2017 through April 2018 wet season

- Started the wet season with drought in every county, including pockets of extreme drought on the Big Island.
- Wet season started with weak La Nina conditions for the 2nd consecutive year.
- Weak La Nina persisted through the wet season.
- Wet season forecast issued in October 2017 called for above average rainfall over the windward areas. Leeward rainfall depended on La Nina strength.
 - Moderate to strong La Nina: dry leeward conditions
 - Weak La Nina: wet leeward conditions
- Another erratic wet season, like 2016-2017
 - October and November: generally wet
 - December and January: generally dry
 - February through April: very wet
 - Record-breaking rainfall produced massive flooding in windward Kauai
 - Possible U.S. record 24-hour rainfall in Waipa (49.69 inches)
 - Drought eased during October and November, then worsened slightly due to December and January dryness. February rainfall eliminated drought
 - First time no drought in Hawaii since end of 2015.

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 5th wettest wet season in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kauai
 - Most rain totals in the range of 110 to 140% of average.
 - Lihue Airport: 29.47 inches, 13th wettest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years
 - Wainiha: 107.58 inches, 2nd wettest Oct – Apr in 30 years, 7th wettest since 1950. Record was in 1969, 145.98 inches
- Oahu
 - Windward sites mostly 120 to 150% of average.
 - Leeward mostly 70 to 100% of average.
 - Honolulu Airport: 14.57 inches, ranked 11th wettest.
- Maui County
 - Many Maui County totals 120 to 150% of average
 - Kahului Airport: 21.84 inches, 7th wettest wet season.
- Big Island
 - Most sites 110 to 140% of average.
 - Hilo Airport: 101.88 inches, 8th wettest wet season.



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2017-2018 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii - cont'd

Dry season (May through September) outlook

- La Nina has ended. ENSO-neutral present and is expected to persist through the dry season.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities favor above normal precipitation through the dry season.
- Wet conditions will mainly affect the windward slopes across the state and the Kona slopes on the Big Island.
- Leeward areas (other than Kona) forecasted to have normal dryness.
 - Large areas of severe drought development not expected.
 - Abundance of fuels may result in above average leeward wildfire activity.

On the Web:

Wet Season Maps

Kauai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/kauai_1718_hooilo.gif

Oahu: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/oahu_1718_hooilo.gif

Molokai/Lanai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/molai_1718_hooilo.gif

Maui: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/maui_1718_hooilo.gif

Big Island: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/bigis_1718_hooilo.gif

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

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

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