



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2010

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for Hawaii

Summary of dry season

- Statewide: Drought worsened
 - “Exceptional drought” (D4 category in U.S. Drought Monitor) spread to Kau
 - “Moderate drought” (D1 category) went from 50% in May to 74% September
- Leeward Big Island “severe” (D2 category) to “exceptional” drought
 - Worst conditions in South Kohala and south Kau
 - Some improvement in Kona coffee belt from summer rainfall
- Drought broadly affecting agriculture
 - Livestock, orchards, crops, ornamentals affected
- Windward rainfall frequency near normal but daily totals below normal
- Hilo and Kapapala Ranch remain on pace for driest year on record.
 - Hilo: 37.05 inches through September, normal is over 90 inches.
 - Record driest year: 1983, 68.09 inches
 - Kapapala Ranch: 5.41 inches through September, normal is 42 inches.
 - Record driest year: 1998, 13.42 inches

Outlook for wet season

- Climate Prediction Center (CPC): La Nina is the primary influence
 - Drier than normal through November
 - Wetter than normal January through April/May
 - More uncertainty compared to last year’s forecast with El Nino
- Previous wet seasons with moderate/strong La Nina
 - 1999, 2000, 2008 are most recent examples
 - Higher than normal frequency of trades
 - Occasional upper level lows produced heavy rainfall
 - Wet conditions primarily affected windward areas
 - Leeward areas remained dry during 1999 & 2000 events
- Drought recovery more likely on smaller islands (Kauai to Molokai) and over windward slopes of Big Island and Maui
- Possibility of drought to continue through the wet season, especially over leeward areas if conditions similar to 1999 and 2000.



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Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for Hawaii - cont'd

Wet season preparedness

- Clean gutters and drainage ditches
- If you live in a flood-prone area, identify your evacuation routes ahead of time
- Plan for more rainy weather impacts
 - Increased road travel times or possible detours due to flooding
 - Outdoor activities may be postponed, canceled, or adjusted
- Increased potential for lightning strikes
 - Be prepared for possible power outages
 - Move indoors during a thunderstorm
- Do you have a NOAA Weather Radio?

On the Web:

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

Hawaii Dry Season (May – September) Maps

Kauai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/kauai_2010_kau.gif

Oahu: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/oahu_2010_kau.gif

Molokai and Lanai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/molokai_2010_kau.gif

Maui: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/maui_2010_kau.gif

Big Island: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/bigisland_2010_kau.gif