



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2001

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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HAWAII

HIZ003-005>008

Kauai Leeward - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast - Oahu North Shore - Oahu Koolau

01	0000HST	0	0	Drought
31	2359HST			

Maui County

Maui County continued its streak of dryness through the month of March. Gages on the three populated islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai reported below normal rainfall, with three sites (Waikapu, Lahainaluna, and Kihei) reporting amounts less than 10 percent of average. There were no daily totals greater than 1 inch; the highest total for the month was only 3.04 inches at Haiku. Increasing rainfall deficits on Molokai further aggravated agricultural drought conditions, where irrigation reservoirs were at critically low levels.

Island of Hawaii

Rainfall totals for 2001 through the end of March across the eastern half of the Big Island were mostly in the range of 50 to 80 percent of average. Totals at most locations in the western half of the island were in the range of 20 to 40 percent of average

The following list contains rainfall statistics for selected locations from around Maui County and the island of Hawaii where there have been ongoing drought conditions. The first column is the observed rainfall for March. The second column is the 30-year average for each location, while the third column lists the percent of average for the month. The fourth and fifth columns are the year-to-date total and percent of average, respectively

	March 01	Avg.	% Avg.	YTD	YTD % Avg.
Maui					
Kihei	0.19	2.10	9	0.59	7
Lahainaluna	0.05	2.40	2	0.74	8
Kula	0.57	2.80	20	3.57	3 1
Ulupalakua	1.28	4.00	32	2.70	20
Molokai					
Kaunakakai	0.30	1.80	17	1.26	1 6
Kamalo	1.50	3.60	42	4.92	3 8
Lanai					
Lanai City	0.73	3.70	20	2.57	1 8
Island of Hawaii					
Honaunau	2.37	5.10	46	3.73	3 1
Kamuela (Upper)	1.49	6.70	22	6.99	39
Waiaha	1.38	5.20	27	2.27	1 7
Kahua Ranch	1.14	8.80	13	6.58	27
Kealahou	2.17	5.60	39	4.11	30

Recent drought problems have worsened on Molokai. By the end of March, the Maui County mayor was asking the governor to declare a drought emergency on the isle. A declared drought emergency would free up funds to pay for electricity needed to pump well water and deliver it to the 1.4 billion gallon reservoir at Kualapuu in central Molokai. The reservoir, which is normally at 20 feet, had fallen to about 4 feet after an electrical failure halted pumping for about two weeks in the month. More than 200 farmers and Hawaiian homesteaders on Molokai had reduced their water usage by about 30 percent by March 31st

The ongoing drought continues to affect livestock and agricultural producers in the state, especially in Maui County and western parts of the Big Island of Hawaii. The losses in dollar values are not readily available for most sectors, but cattle operations lost around \$9 million in 2000 alone.



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HAWAII

Heavy showers and thunderstorms caused flooding of drainage ditches and streams and ponding of roadways in southeast Kauai. No serious injuries or property damage were reported.

Maui County

**Kualapuu to
13 W Kualapuu**

25	0215HST 0515HST				0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Thunderstorms and heavy rain caused minor stream and drainage ditch flooding and ponding of roadways in central and western parts of Molokai. No serious property damage or injuries were reported.

HIZ004-008

Kauai Mountains - Oahu Koolau

27	1300HST				0	0			High Surf
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A trade wind swell generated surf of 4 to 8 feet on the east- and southeast-facing shores of the island of Hawaii