



Hawai'i Ho'ohēkili

Skywarn Weather Spotter Newsletter
National Weather Service, Honolulu, HI



Wet Season Edition, 2011/2012

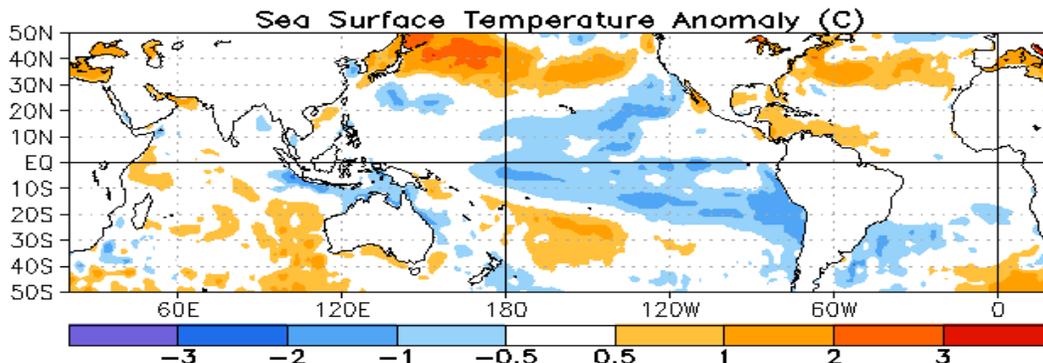
Issued – October 2011

Spotter Newsletter Volume 4

La Niña Returns

According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Niña conditions are expected to gradually strengthen this fall, and continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2011-12. During September 2011, La Niña conditions strengthened

as indicated by increasingly negative sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies across the eastern half of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Roughly one-half of the models predict La Niña to strengthen during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter. Of these models, the majority predict a weak La Niña. Based on the current conditions in the tropical Pacific and on the results from historical studies on the effects of cold episodes (La Niña) – wetter than normal conditions and above normal temperatures are expected over Hawaii this winter.



Dry September Increases Big Island Drought Intensity

- Kevin Kodama, Senior Hydrologist

U.S. Drought Monitor Hawaii

October 11, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.77	95.23	49.11	17.53	2.34	0.00
Last Week (10/04/2011 map)	5.02	94.98	46.27	17.05	2.34	0.00
3 Months Ago (07/12/2011 map)	39.94	60.06	16.14	0.92	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	46.22	53.78	36.40	20.50	2.43	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	5.02	94.98	44.93	14.84	0.85	0.00
One Year Ago (10/05/2010 map)	4.45	95.55	72.17	43.10	28.16	5.11

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



Well below normal rainfall during the warmest time of the year combined to increase drought intensity over the leeward areas of the state. The greatest changes occurred on the Big Island where extreme drought, or D3 Category, has returned. The coverage of D3 is currently along the lower elevations of the South Kohala District, leeward North Kohala District and the southern end of the Kau District. Severe drought, D2, continue to encompass most of the North Kona District, the Pohakuloa region, and eastern Kau. Leeward Haleakala from Kamaole to Ulupalakua Maui county remains under severe drought along the lower leeward slopes of Haleakala. Lanai and west Molokai also remain under moderate drought conditions. Significant dryness over leeward Oahu resulted in the initiation of moderate drought, D1, over the Waianae slopes from Makaha to Ewa.

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

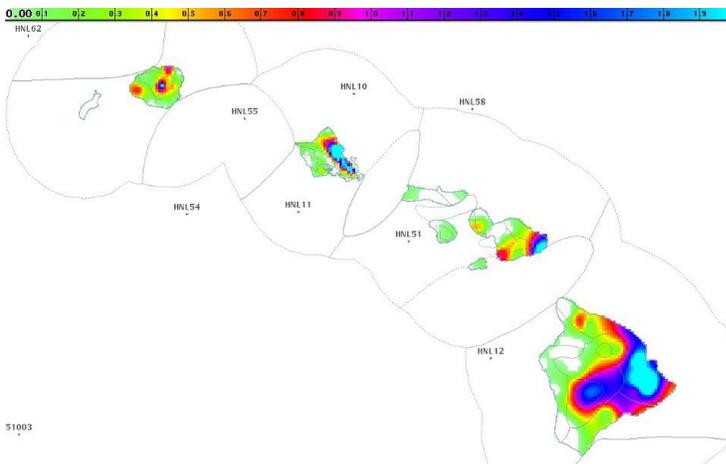
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Rainfall Total Graphics

Our hydrology page now generates rainfall total graphics every 3 hours. Data taken from rain gages across the state are combined in this graphic to give a snapshot of where the rain has been falling, and how much. Graphics can be found at

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/hydrology.php>



Online Spotter Training Available!

We here at the National Weather Service in Honolulu are so grateful for your interest in being a weather spotter and appreciate your timely reports and great information. Contrary to popular belief outside of Hawaii, there is plenty of weather that goes on here, and having your eyes on the sky is a tremendous asset to our operations and mission. While we'd like to hold refresher training with each of you every year, it's not always possible. For this reason we'd like to draw your attention to a new spotter training developed by the National Weather Service that you can find online at: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23



Hurricane Safety Children's Book in a Hawaii Library Near You

- Mike Cantin, Warning Coordination Meteorologist



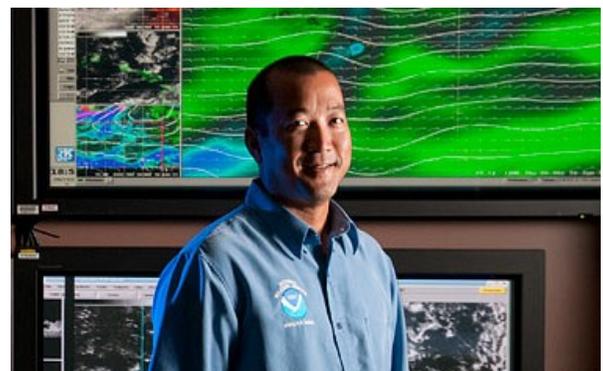
As part of her senior project, Keri Kodama, the daughter of NWS Honolulu's Service Hydrologist Kevin Kodama, wrote and illustrated a unique children's book entitled *The 3 I'o Brothers and the Big Bad Hurricane*. The book was published with help from NOAA's Sea Grant program and the University of Hawaii and became available in early 2011.

Since being published the book has been distributed to each elementary school and state library in Hawaii. NWS Honolulu staff members have begun traveling to schools and libraries to read and discuss the book around the state, with visits on Maui and the Big Island so far. The book has been very well received, and many future visits are planned.

If you're looking for a good way to help introduce hurricane safety and preparedness topics to your children, school, or youth group, we encourage you to go check out the book.

New Meteorologist-In-Charge(MIC) at the NWS Honolulu Forecast Office

After a long tenure by now retired MIC James Weyman, Raymond Tanabe takes over the helm as the MIC at the NWS Honolulu office. After internships and training positions in Maryland, Honolulu and Los Angeles, Ray joined the NWS Oxnard CA office as a general forecaster in 2000. He returned to Honolulu in 2003 moving up the ranks from general forecaster, senior forecaster, warning coordination meteorologist, and director of operations in 2010. His goal is to establish the office as one of the premier sources of weather information in the Pacific and lead the office into the next generation of weather forecasting and decision support services.



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