



Hawai'i Ho'ohēkili

Skywarn Weather Spotter Newsletter
National Weather Service, Honolulu, HI

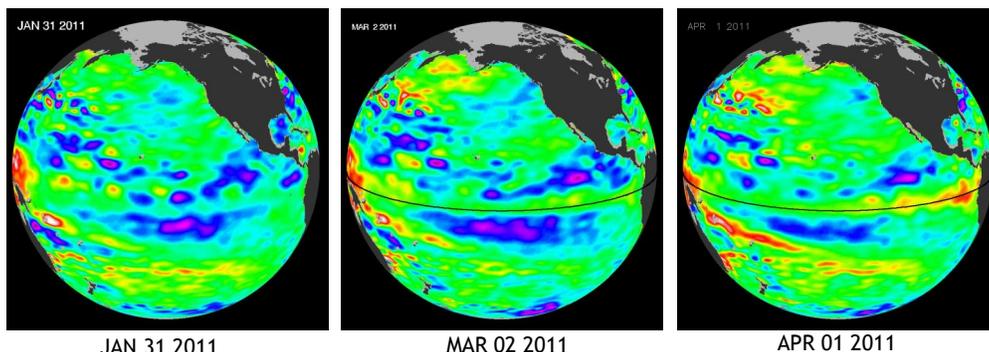


Dry Season Edition — Spring 2011

Spotter Newsletter Volume 3

Weakening La Niña

According to the NOAA Climate Prediction Center, La Niña weakened for the third consecutive month, as reflected by increasing surface and subsurface ocean temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Nearly all of the ENSO models predict La Niña to continue weakening in the coming months, and the majority of models indicate a return to ENSO-neutral by May-June-July 2011. While there is confidence in ENSO-neutral conditions by June 2011, the forecasts for the late summer and beyond remain highly uncertain. NCEP models predict a tendency for above normal temperatures and above median rainfall for Hawaii for May-June-July 2011.



These images are from the OSTM/Jason-2 satellite. Colors indicate sea surface height which correlates with heating and cooling of the ocean below. The images show the waters along the equatorial Pacific warming from JAN 31 to APR 01 with near neutral conditions near Hawaii.

Trade Wind Showers Remove Windward Big Island Drought

- Kevin Kodama, Senior Hydrologist

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 19, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Hawaii Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.42	57.58	45.76	7.59	1.00	0.00
Last Week (04/12/2011 map)	42.42	57.58	45.76	8.14	1.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (01/18/2011 map)	44.34	55.66	35.99	13.68	2.43	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 (09/28/2010 map)	2.19	97.81	73.89	46.79	31.55	5.11
One Year Ago (04/13/2010 map)	31.70	68.30	50.23	41.15	23.71	3.07

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



Frequent trade wind showers, especially during the latter half of march, eliminated moderate drought over the windward slopes of the Big Island. However, most of the existing leeward drought areas received very little rainfall during march. Thus, a small pocket of extreme drought, or D3 conditions, remains in the Pohakuloa area of the Big Island with a surrounding areas of severe drought, D2, extending to Waikola and over the north facing slope of Mauna Loa.

Moderate drought also continues over leeward Kohala, the Kau District, and portions of the North and South Kona Districts. In Maui county, severe drought conditions in western Molokai eased to moderate levels in early march. However, severe drought persists over a small area near Kihei from Kaonoulu to Kamaole. Moderate drought continues to affect leeward West Maui.

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

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



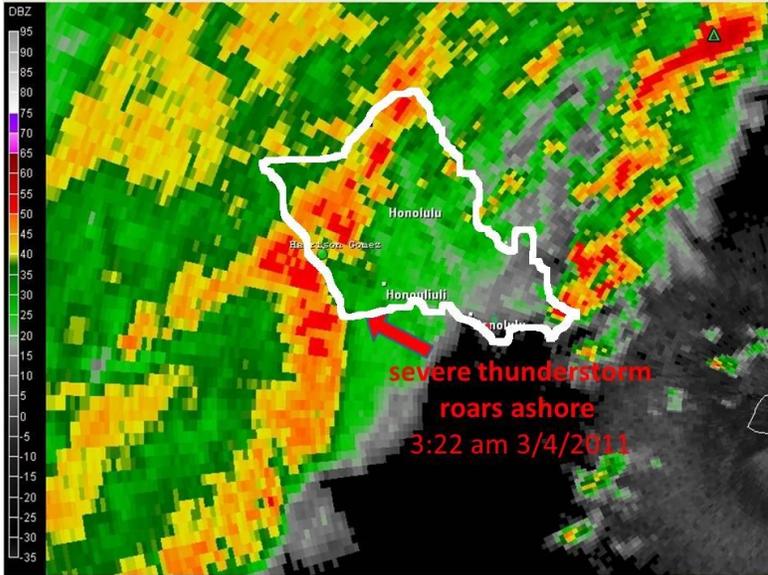
Released Thursday, April 21, 2011
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

The National Weather Service is now Monitoring Twitter for Weather Reports

Effective April 15 2010, the NWS began monitoring the micro-blogging service Twitter for user-posts that contain significant weather information. Users can tweet weather events, such as surf reports or weather conditions, but we are most interested in significant events. If you would like to use this service to input weather reports please go to <http://www.weather.gov/stormreports> to get more information.

Aloha Hawaii Weather Spotters!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are on our list of trained spotters. If you have new contact information, please contact our Spotter Coordinator, Ian Morrison, at ian.morrison@noaa.gov. Recently, we have been sending out a 'heads-up' email before potential hazardous weather events to our Spotters. If you are not receiving these emails, please send your email information to ian.morrison@noaa.gov so I can add you to our Skywarn email list.



Damaging Thunderstorm Winds Strike Oahu

- Robert Ballard, Science Operations Officer

During the predawn hours of March 4, 2011, a severe thunderstorm roared onto the southwest shore of Oahu, knocking down trees and powerlines, and smashing windshields. The severe thunderstorm then swept rapidly across the southern half of Oahu. Winds gusted to over 50 mph at weather stations located in Kalaeloa and Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, and radar showed some areas probably had winds even stronger than that. While severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are not uncommon in Hawaii, they are not unheard of, as this event reminds us. We rely on your real time reports, both during, and immediately after a fast-breaking event to give us ground truth about what is going on that the radar can't give us. Remember, your timely report of severe winds, damage, or flash flooding could help save someone's life!

Hurricane Season is Fast Approaching

Hurricane season begins June 1st! It's time to start thinking about re-stocking your hurricane kit and making sure all of your emergency supplies are in working order. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu will issue their official 2011 Seasonal Outlook in the third week of May 2011.



We are on the web at
www.weather.gov/hawaii

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