



# Hawai'i Ho'ohēkili

Skywarn Weather Spotter Newsletter  
National Weather Service, Honolulu, HI



Wet Season Edition, 2014/2015

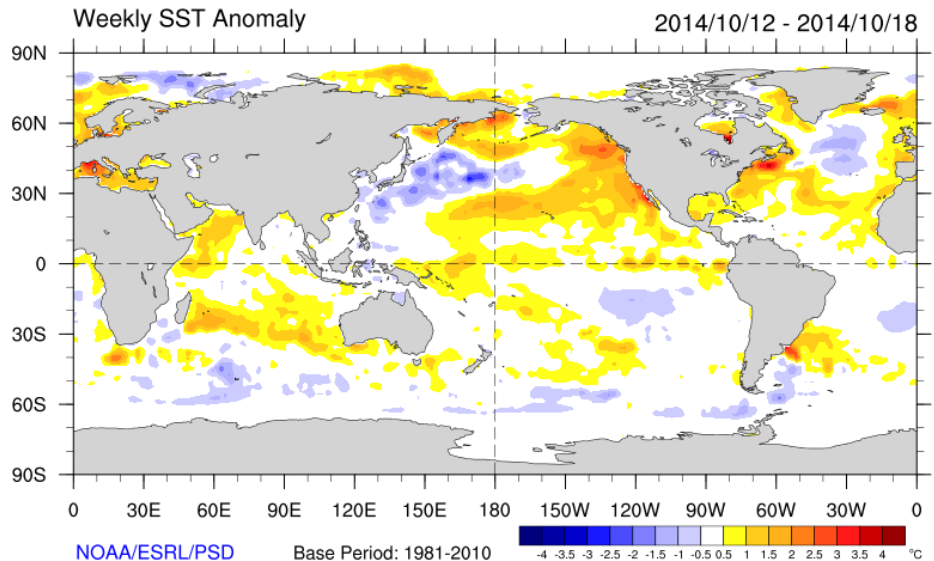
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**Inside this edition: El Nino watch continues! Wet Season begins! A review of the Central Pacific Hurricane Season. And more!!!**

## El Nino Watch!

ENSO neutral conditions persist, but indicators are pointing toward an El Nino event later this year. Sea surface temperatures (SST) are above average across the equatorial Pacific (see fig) - with continued above average SST, El Nino is likely to form. Climate models predict above normal air temperatures for Hawaii through the rest of 2014.



Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii

— Kevin Kodama, Service Hydrologist

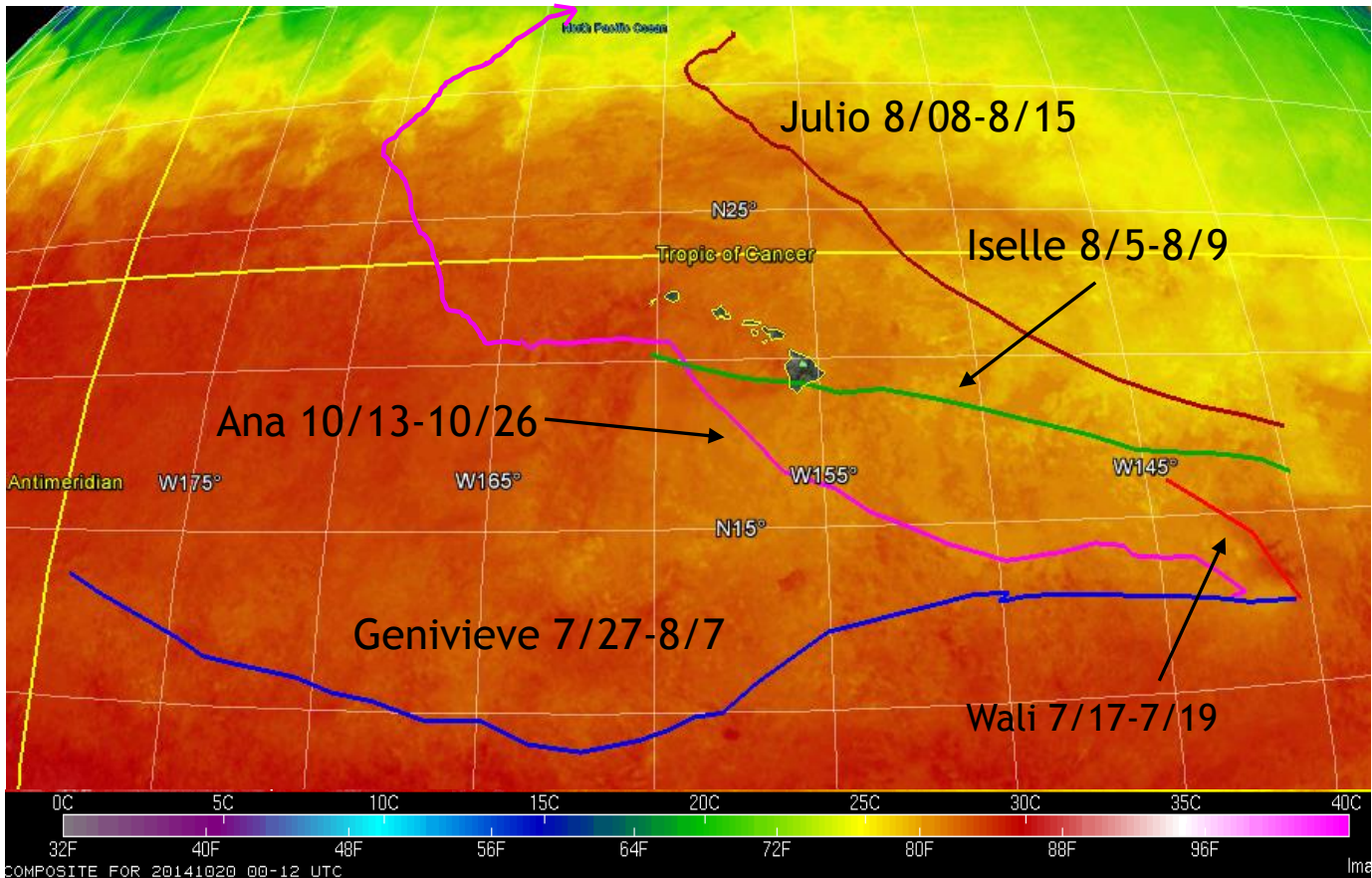
## October 2014 through April 2015

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): El Nino still expected to develop by the end of 2014.
  - 55 to 60 percent probability of forming (lower probability than initially forecasted)
  - Projected to be weak.
- Probabilities favor below average rainfall through spring 2015, but not as dry as the 2009–2010 and 1997-1998 El Nino wet seasons.
- A weak El Nino usually allows some heavy rain events to impact the state.
- Some drought development is expected by early 2015, mainly affecting agriculture sector and those sensitive to short term rainfall shortages (e.g. catchment systems).
- Extreme drought conditions are not expected this season.

## It's been a busy Hurricane Season in the Central Pacific!!

Since the last newsletter, we have had 5 tropical cyclones pass through the Central Pacific. We still have the rest of November before the end of hurricane season. Not to say we have not had

tropical systems in the off-season but it becomes more and more environmentally unlikely. Iselle was the first landfalling tropical cyclone to hit the islands since Iniki in 1992, and the first to directly impact the Big Island since the Kohala Cyclone in 1871. Two of our storms have formed in the Central Pacific and had Hawaiian names—Wali and Ana - while the other 3 formed in the East Pacific.



## What are some of the environmental factors causing our active tropical season?

Check out the graphic above. The background image depicts the sea surface temperature across the Central Pacific (imagery courtesy of SPORT/NASA) at the end of October. Water temperatures were well above normal around the islands (see SST anomalies, page 1) and maintained temperatures above 80 degrees F all the way up to 30 N latitude. The warmer ocean temperatures provide a much kinder environment to tropical cyclones than normal, with increased surface dew points and higher moisture content. The higher SST's also contributed to the muggy conditions that plagued the state during September and October.

Tropical Cyclone Ana turned out to be the longest lived system to form and dissipate in the Central Pacific basin, lasting for 52 advisories, or in other words, 14 days.





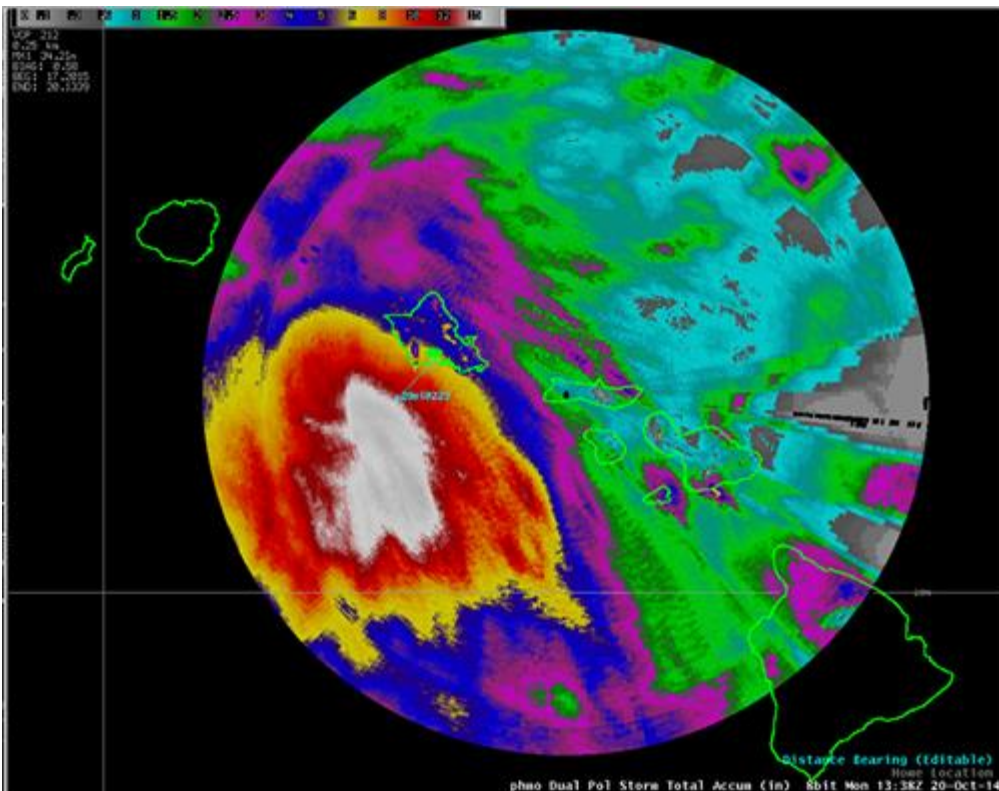
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## Hurricane Ana was a near miss for dramatic flooding!!

This image shows radar estimated rainfall as Hurricane Ana passed south of the state over two days. The band of white southwest of Oahu is estimated rainfall over 15 inches, with maximum amounts over 30 inches. Oahu received widespread 5-7 inches of rain with localized areas up to 11 inches. However, if Hurricane Ana had tracked only 20 miles farther northeast, Oahu rainfall would have more than doubled.



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