



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2020

2019-2020 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii

Summary of October 2019 through April 2020 wet season

- Started the wet season with severe to extreme drought over portions of leeward Maui County and the Big Island, and moderate drought over leeward Oahu.
- Wet season started and ended with ENSO-neutral conditions.
- Wet season forecast called for above average rainfall during the wet season as indicated by climate model consensus and ENSO-neutral tendencies.
- Wet season produced above average rainfall at many locations.
 - Leeward areas of Maui County were drier and had fewer significant rain events compared to the rest of the state.
 - Drought slowly eased through the wet season but was not completely eliminated by the end of April.
 - Moderate drought in leeward Molokai and the leeward sections of the North and South Kohala Districts of the Big Island.

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 11th wettest wet season in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kauai
 - Most rain totals greater than 120% of average.
 - Lihue Airport: 39.40 inches, 5th wettest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years.
- Oahu
 - Leeward mostly 70 to 90% of average.
 - Rest of Oahu mainly greater than 90% of average.
 - Honolulu Airport: 13.75 inches, ranked 11th wettest.
- Maui County
 - Windward Maui County totals mainly greater than 90% of average.
 - Rest of Maui County mainly 60 to 100% of average.
 - Kahului Airport: 12.00 inches, 15th wettest wet season.
- Big Island
 - North and South Kohala Districts mostly 70 to 90% of average.
 - Rest of Big Island mainly greater than 90% of average.
 - Hilo Airport: 92.48 inches, 10th wettest wet season.



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2019-2020 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii - cont'd

Dry season (May through September 2020) outlook

- ENSO-neutral ongoing and expected to continue into the fall.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities favor below normal precipitation through the dry season.
 - Change from recent years where 5 of the last 6 dry seasons had above normal rainfall.
- Existing areas of moderate drought in Maui County and the Big Island expected to worsen and expand.
- New areas of drought expected to develop in the leeward areas of Oahu and Kauai County by mid-summer.

On the Web:

Wet Season Maps

Kauai: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai_1920_hooilo.gif

Oahu: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu_1920_hooilo.gif

Molokai/Lanai: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan_1920_hooilo.gif

Maui: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui_1920_hooilo.gif

Big Island: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis_1920_hooilo.gif

State percent of average:

<https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/Hooilo20HIPctAvg.jpg>

NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu HI: <https://www.weather.gov/hfo/>

NOAA Climate Prediction Center: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>