



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama
Kevin.Kodama@noaa.gov
808-973-5276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2019

2018-2019 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii

Summary of October 2018 through April 2019 wet season

- Started the wet season with very little drought.
 - Small areas of moderate drought leeward Big Island and Maui.
- Wet season started with a developing weak El Nino.
- Weak El Nino matured in early 2019 and is still present.
- Wet season forecast called for above average rainfall early in the wet season, followed by below average rainfall from December 2018 through Spring 2019.
 - A weak El Nino would allow some heavy rain events to affect the state.
 - Moderate (D1 category in U.S. Drought Monitor) to severe (D2 category) drought expected along the lower leeward slopes.
- Wet season was erratic but generally followed the forecast.
 - October: generally wet across the state.
 - November and December: Wet windward, dry leeward.
 - January and March: Dry.
 - February: Wet, except dry leeward Kauai.
 - April: Wet windward, dry leeward.
 - Drought developed and spread in January to early February, then eased in late February to early March.
 - Leeward drought worsened in late March through April.
 - Pockets of severe leeward drought currently on Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island.

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 15th wettest wet season in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kauai
 - Most rain totals in the range of 40 to 80% of average.
 - Lihue Airport: 19.47 inches, 12th driest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years
- Oahu
 - Windward sites mostly 80 to 110% of average.
 - Leeward mostly 30 to 70% of average.
 - Honolulu Airport: 8.34 inches, ranked 10th driest.
- Maui County
 - Many Maui County totals 70 to 100% of average
 - Kahului Airport: 12.40 inches, 15th wettest wet season.
- Big Island
 - Most sites 70 to 110% of average.
 - Hilo Airport: 70.33 inches, 13th driest wet season.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama
Kevin.Kodama@noaa.gov
808-973-5276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2019

2018-2019 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii - cont'd

Dry season (May through September) outlook

- El Nino ongoing and expected to continue through summer.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities favor above normal precipitation through the dry season for the Big Island and Maui County, and below normal for Oahu and Kauai.
- Wet conditions for the Big Island and Maui County will mainly affect the windward and Kona slopes.
- Leeward areas (other than Kona) forecasted to have below normal rainfall.
 - Existing areas of moderate and severe drought development likely to expand.
 - Above average leeward wildfire activity possible due to early onset of dry conditions.

On the Web:

Wet Season Maps

Kauai: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai_1819_hooilo.gif

Oahu: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu_1819_hooilo.gif

Molokai/Lanai: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan_1819_hooilo.gif

Maui: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui_1819_hooilo.gif

Big Island: https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis_1819_hooilo.gif

State percent of average:

<https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/Hooilo19PctAvg.jpg>

Or try the ArcGIS Online web story at: <https://arcg.is/01KL5W>

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/>