



## MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 25, 2023

### **2022-2023 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawai'i**

Summary of October 2022 through April 2023 wet season

- Started the wet season with severe or extreme drought in portions of all four counties statewide.
- La Niña was in place during all of 2022 and into early 2023, and affected a third consecutive Hawaiian Islands wet season.
- Wet season forecast called for above average rainfall, especially from December 2022 through April 2023.
- Wet season produced near to above average rainfall at most locations.
  - October and November: Slow start to the wet season with mostly near to below average totals.
  - December and January: Wet conditions from mid-December cold fronts, then dry from late December through mid-January.
  - February through April: Near to above average rainfall at many locations.
- All drought in the state eliminated by mid-February.
- Localized moderate drought briefly returned to Maui and the Big Island in April and early May.

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 9<sup>th</sup> wettest in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kaua'i
  - Most rain totals 120 to 150% of average.
  - Līhu'e Airport: 32.77 inches, 8<sup>th</sup> wettest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years.
- O'ahu
  - Most O'ahu totals 80 to 110% of average.
  - Honolulu Airport: 11.59 inches, 16<sup>th</sup> wettest.
- Maui County
  - Maui County totals mostly 90 to 120% of average.
  - Kahului Airport: 13.96 inches, 13<sup>th</sup> wettest.
  - Moloka'i Airport: 25.68 inches, 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest.
- Big Island
  - Most windward totals 80 to 120% of average.
  - Most Kohala/Hāmākua totals 60 to 80% of average.
  - Rest of the island totals 130 to 170% of average.
  - Hilo Airport: 87.29 inches, 11<sup>th</sup> wettest.



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### 2022-2023 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawai'i - cont'd

Dry season (May through September 2023) outlook

- Probabilities strongly favor El Niño development during the summer.
  - El Niño expected to persist into 2024.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities and climate model consensus favor below average precipitation through the dry season and into the 2023 – 2024 wet season.
- Below average dry season precipitation is not typical for the summer months of an El Niño onset year, but has happened in the past.
  - Most recently in 2009 (9<sup>th</sup> driest dry season in 30 years).
- Drought expected to develop by early summer and progressively worsen through the dry season.
- Severe drought (D2 category), and possibly extreme drought (D3 category), expected to develop by the end of the dry season.
  - Highest likelihood is in the leeward areas, especially in Maui County and the Big Island.
- Impacts are expected to be the worst for non-irrigated agriculture, water systems dependent on surface water diversions, and residents relying on rainfall catchment.
- Due to late wet season rainfall, significant wildfire risk is expected to develop later than the normal late-July to early-August time frame.
  - Fuels from wet season growth will be abundant.
  - Leeward areas will have the highest risk.

On the Web:

Wet Season Maps

Kaua'i: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai\\_2223\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai_2223_hooilo.gif)

O'ahu: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu\\_2223\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu_2223_hooilo.gif)

Moloka'i/Lāna'i: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan\\_2223\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan_2223_hooilo.gif)

Maui: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui\\_2223\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui_2223_hooilo.gif)

Big Island: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis\\_2223\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis_2223_hooilo.gif)

State percent of average:

<https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/Hooilo23HIPctAvg.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/>