



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 19, 2022

### **Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawai'i**

#### **Summary of the dry season (May through September 2022)**

- Statewide: Most locations had near to below average rainfall.
  - The 2022 dry season started early. Extreme drought (D3 category, U.S. Drought Monitor map) already on the Big Island and Maui by mid-May.
  - Drought became extreme to exceptional (D3 to D4 category) in Maui County in early August.
  - Extreme drought developed on Kaua'i in early August, then on O'ahu in mid-August.
  - Worst impacts were in Maui County and the Big Island.
    - Significant brush fires on the Big Island and Maui County.
    - Drought contributed to severe crop and pasture losses from axis deer in Maui County.
    - Water conservation requested for Upcountry and West Maui.
  - Kona slopes on the Big Island had only a short period of drought in September and has since improved.
- 16<sup>th</sup> driest dry season in the last 30 years (based on rankings from 8 key sites).
  - 2015 dry season was the wettest in the last 30 years.
  - 2010 dry season was the driest in the last 30 years.
  - Record dry June and August at several sites on O'ahu and the Big Island.

#### **Outlook for the wet season (October 2022 through April 2023)**

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): La Niña has persisted through 2022 so far and is expected to continue into spring 2023.
- Climate model consensus favors large scale above average rainfall for the wet season, especially from December 2022 through April 2023.
  - Rainfall distribution can be influenced by the strength of La Niña.
    - Stronger La Niña events can have a higher than normal trade wind frequency which will focus rainfall on windward areas.
    - Weaker La Niña events tend to have more weather systems that produce significant leeward rainfall.
    - A weak to moderate event is favored.
  - Heavy rainfall may focus primarily on the windward slopes while leeward areas remain dry.
  - Similar to 2021-2022, drought recovery is more likely on Kaua'i and O'ahu.
  - Possibility of drought to continue through the wet season, especially over the leeward areas of Maui County and the Big Island.



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### Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawai'i - cont'd

#### Wet season preparedness reminders

- Do not drive on roads with fast-flowing water.
  - Just 1 to 2 feet of fast-flowing water can sweep most vehicles off a road.
  - Roads may also be severely undercut.
- Do not walk across flooded streams.
  - If you're hiking and get stranded, wait for the water to recede.
  - Streams in Hawai'i generally recede quickly.
- Expect more rainy weather impacts.
  - Increased road travel times
  - Possible detours or road closures due to flooding or landslides.
  - Outdoor activities may be postponed, canceled, or adjusted.
- The wet season brings increased potential for lightning strikes.
  - Be prepared for power outages, especially when thunderstorms are forecast.
  - Move indoors when you hear thunder or see a flash of lightning.
  - Lightning strikes can occur even in areas where it is not raining.
- Although rare, thunderstorms occasionally produce damaging winds, large hail, and tornadoes in Hawai'i.
- If you travel through a flood-prone area, identify alternate routes ahead of time.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, have an evacuation plan in case flood waters quickly threaten your home.
- Stay informed of conditions that could change rapidly
  - Sunny skies can turn cloudy with intense rainfall in less than an hour.
  - Check out the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and advisories via the media, NOAA Weather Radio, the Internet, or one of several weather mobile phone apps.
  - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on mobile phones notify you that you're in a significant, life-threatening flash flood warning area.

#### On the Web:

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

NOAA Weather Ready Nation: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/>

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

FEMA Flood Preparedness Information: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency: <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

State of Hawai'i-DLNR National Flood Insurance Page: <https://dlnreng.hawaii.gov/nfip/>

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