



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2024

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawai'i

Summary of the dry season (May through September 2024)

- Statewide: Most locations had near to above average rainfall.
 - The forecast called for below average rainfall.
 - The 2024 dry season started late due to an unusually wet May featuring the latest kona low in at least 20 years.
 - Drought developed in June, then spread and intensified through mid-August. Severe drought (D2 category, U.S. Drought Monitor map) in all four counties, and extreme drought (D3 category) on Maui by early August.
 - Increase in brush fire ignitions, especially in July.
 - In late August, Hurricane Hone eliminated drought on the Big Island.
 - Also eased drought in portions of Maui County.
 - Dry September conditions in Maui County, Kaua'i, and leeward O'ahu resulted in an expansion of drought.
 - Windward O'ahu and most of the Big Island had a wet September.
- 9th wettest 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.

Outlook for the wet season (October 2024 through April 2025)

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): La Niña is favored to emerge by the end of November and is expected to persist until spring 2025.
- After a slow start to the wet season, the climate model consensus favors large scale above average rainfall from December 2024 through April 2025.
 - 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 can focus rainfall on the east-facing windward slopes.
 - Weaker La Niña events can have more weather systems that produce significant leeward rainfall.
 - Probabilities favor a weak La Niña event.
- Drought across the state should be eliminated by the end of the wet season.
- Other impacts
 - Probabilities favor above normal temperatures for the state.



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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.
 - Stream levels 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 Climate Prediction Center: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

NWS Multilingual Infographics: <https://www.weather.gov/translate/infographics.html>

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

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency: <https://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/>