



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 17, 2019

### **Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii**

#### **Summary of the dry season (May through September 2019)**

- Statewide: Many locations had above average rainfall.
  - Early start to the dry season due to the effects of El Nino in early 2019.
    - Moderate to severe drought in all four counties in early May.
  - Unusual June storm removed drought from Kauai to west Maui.
  - Dry conditions in Maui County from July through September brought drought back quickly.
  - Reached extreme levels (D3 category in U.S. Drought Monitor map) in small portions of the Big Island and Maui.
    - Mainly affected ranching operations and contributed to an increase in brush fires.
- 7<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - 2003 dry season was the driest in the last 30 years.

#### **Outlook for the wet season (October 2019 through April 2020)**

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): The current ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to continue through spring 2020.
- In the last 30 years, 8 out of the top 10 rainiest wet seasons have had ENSO-neutral conditions.
- Consensus of climate models favor above average rainfall through the wet season.
  - Projected pattern suggests possibility of cutoff low pressure systems that can produce intense rainfall, especially when combined with expected above average sea surface temperatures.
- Existing drought expected to be eliminated by the end of the wet season.



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### **Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii - cont'd**

#### **Wet season preparedness reminders**

- Do not drive on roads with fast-flowing water.
  - Just 2 feet of fast-flowing water can sweep most vehicles off a road.
  - Road 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 Hawaii 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.
  - Move indoors when you hear thunder.
- Clear debris from gutters and drainage ditches to ensure water can flow freely.
- 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 flash flood warning area.

#### On the Web:

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

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

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

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

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency: <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

State of Hawaii-DLNR National Flood Insurance Page: <http://dlnreng.hawaii.gov/nfip/>

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