



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2017

2016-2017 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii

Summary of October 2016 through April 2017 wet season

- Started the wet season with pockets of drought over leeward areas of Kauai and Maui.
 - Drought mainly affected ranching operations.
- Wet season started with weak La Niña conditions.
- Short-lived La Niña returned to ENSO-neutral by the end of winter.
- Wet season forecast issued in October 2016 called for near to above average rainfall and the elimination of drought on Kauai and Maui.
- Erratic wet season with monthly extremes
 - Dry: November, January, March
 - Wet: December, February, April
 - There were 22 monthly records broken for wet or dry conditions.
 - Kauai and Maui drought eliminated by end of April.
 - Big Island missed out on the February wet conditions resulting in three months of dry conditions.
 - Severe drought (D2 category) developed on the leeward slopes.
 - April rainfall lowered drought to moderate category (D1).

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 14th wettest wet season in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kauai
 - Most rain totals in the range of 50 to 80% of average.
 - Lihue Airport: 15.14 inches, 7th driest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years
 - April rainfall helped abnormal dryness from March.
- Oahu
 - Most rain totals between 50 and 80% of average.
 - Honolulu Airport: 14.85 inches, ranked 11th wettest.
- Maui County
 - Many Maui totals 100+% of average
 - Most Molokai and Lanai totals 60 to 80% of average.
 - Ulupalakua: 32.38 inches, 4th wettest wet season.
- Big Island
 - Most windward sites near average despite erratic wet season.
 - Leeward sites mostly from 60 to 90% of average.
 - Hilo Airport: 76.54 inches, 15th wettest wet season.



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2016-2017 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawaii - cont'd

Dry season (May through September) outlook

- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities favor above normal precipitation during the first half of the dry season.
- Wet conditions will mainly affect the windward slopes and the Kona slopes on the Big Island.
- Leeward areas (other than Kona) forecasted to be seasonally dry.
 - Expecting an expansion of existing drought or the development of new leeward drought areas.
 - Normal brush fire season expected for leeward areas.

On the Web:

Wet Season Maps

Kauai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/kauai_1617_hooilo.gif

Oahu: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/oahu_1617_hooilo.gif

Molokai/Lanai: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/molai_1617_hooilo.gif

Maui: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/maui_1617_hooilo.gif

Big Island: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/hydro/pages/bigis_1617_hooilo.gif

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

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

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