



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Kevin Kodama
Kevin.Kodama@noaa.gov
808-973-5276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2011

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for Hawaii

Summary of dry season

- 2010-2011 La Nina event ended in late spring
 - Helped extend the wet season into early June
- Dry season had a late start but hit hard in August and September
- Statewide: Drought worsened after spring improvement
- Big Island: "Extreme drought" (D3 category in U.S. Drought Monitor) returns to leeward Kohala and southern Kau District
 - Mainly affecting livestock and some fruit orchards
- Maui County: "Severe drought" (D2 category) returns to leeward Haleakala
- Kauai and Oahu: "Moderate drought" (D1 category) developed in late September and early October
 - Lihue Airport: Driest September since 1975
- Windward rainfall frequency near normal but daily totals are below normal
- "Severe drought" has affected portions of the State of Hawaii continuously since June 2008

Outlook for wet season (October through April)

- Climate Prediction Center (CPC): La Nina has returned but forecasted to be weaker in 2011-2012 than the 2010-2011 event
 - Drier than normal through October
 - Wetter than normal January through April/May
- La Nina precipitation forecasts have considerable uncertainty
- Recent wet seasons with weak La Nina
 - 1995-1996 and 2000-2001 are most recent examples
 - 1995-1996: Near median overall precipitation
 - 2000-2001: Drier than normal overall
- Drought recovery more likely on Kauai and Oahu.
- Some drought recovery expected on the Big Island and Maui County but full recovery may be elusive due to intensity and longevity of existing drought conditions



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Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for Hawaii - cont'd

Wet season preparedness

- Clean gutters and drainage ditches
- If you live in a flood-prone area, identify your evacuation routes ahead of time
- Plan for more rainy weather impacts
 - Increased road travel times or possible detours due to flooding
 - Outdoor activities may be postponed, canceled, or adjusted
- The wet season always brings increased potential for lightning strikes
 - Be prepared for possible power outages
 - Move indoors during a thunderstorm
 - June 4, 2011 storm produced more than 22,000 lightning flashes in 30-hours over and near the main Hawaiian Islands
- Monitor media, NOAA Weather Radio, Internet sources for changes in weather conditions

On the Web:

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/>