



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

### HAWAII

HIZ003>004

**Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains**

**01 0000HST 0 0 Drought**  
**31 2359HST**

Well below average precipitation occurred statewide, with all first order and automated rain gauges receiving less than average rainfall in January. Sixty-three of the 73 rain gauges in the state of Hawaii reported less than 50 percent of average rainfall for the month, while 36 received less than 25 percent of average. This continued the three to four month trend of drier than usual conditions for the entire state.

January weather patterns were dominated by multiple upper level ridges over and to the west of the islands. These strong upper level ridge patterns responsible for the paucity of rainfall are indicative of the effects that the El Nino phenomenon has on weather in this part of the world. This is normally the wet season for the islands, and January precipitation is usually associated with synoptic scale weather systems or trade wind regimes. However, with the weather pattern dominated by upper level ridging for much of January 1998, few synoptic scale systems affected the island chain and trade winds were generally weak or nonexistent.

The following are rainfall statistics for selected locations on the Island of Hawaii and in Maui for January 1998. For comparison, the average for the month and percent of average are listed for each site in the next two columns. The following two columns represent the rainfall totals and the average rainfall totals for the three-month period November-January. The last column shows rainfall totals from January 1983, which was another El Nino-influenced time period.

	Jan. 98	Avg.	% Avg.	3 Month	Avg. for 3 Months	Jan. 83
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>						
Hilo	0.14	9.9	1	17.10	25.6	0.9 0
Pahala	0.15	7.7	2	2.54	18.6	1.6 5
Honaunau (Captain Cook)	0.82	3.7	22	3.22	10.4	1.0 8
Kamuela	1.74	6.6	26	20.14	19.7	0.24
Laupahoehoe	0.36	13.5	3	22.73	41.9	1.9 9
<b>Maui</b>						
Kahului	0.36	4.1	9	5.21	9.9	0.58
Hana	0.73	9.5	8	7.78	24.3	2.6 9
Kihei	0.64	4.1	16	1.57	8.0	0.28
Lahainaluna	0.21	4.4	5	1.59	9.8	0.06
Wailuku	0.55	5.2	11	8.56	12.4	0.94

Water restrictions were looming for Island of Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and other residents. About 15,000 homeowners who rely on rooftop catchment systems were warned that dry conditions could last at least through March. A Parker Ranch representative, headquartered in Waimea, said streams in the South Kohala District were no longer flowing, and pasture lands on the west side of Mauna Kea at Waikii and Keamuku were beginning to show stress.

On Maui, the East Maui Irrigation Co. reported no rainfall since the 1st, and flows in the Wailoa ditch had dropped to 25 percent of capacity.

**Honolulu County**

**Kahaluu to  
Kaaawa**

**01 0230HST 0 0 Urban/Sml Stream Fld**  
**0900HST**



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

### HAWAII

Heavy showers caused minor flooding of roads and low-lying places in the Waikane area from Kahaluu to Kualoa. Several motorists stalled out in waters as deep as 2 feet on Kamehameha Highway. Three bridges were flooded: one over the Waihole Valley Road, another over the Waikane Valley Road, and one near Kamaha Place

**HIZ001>006**

**Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast**

<b>01</b>	1000HST				0	0			<b>High Surf</b>
<b>03</b>	0500HST								

A developed storm low far northeast of the Hawaiian Islands produced surf of 8 to 12 feet along the northwest and north facing shores and 6 to 10 feet along northeast facing shores of the islands. All beach parks in the vicinity of Hilo on the Island of Hawaii were closed on the 1st.

**HIZ001>006**

**Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast**

<b>04</b>	1200HST				0	0			<b>High Surf</b>
<b>08</b>	0200HST								

A gale low centered about 500 miles to the north of the Hawaiian Islands caused surf of 8 to 12 feet along northwest and north facing shores of the islands.

**HIZ004**

**Kauai Mountains**

<b>05</b>	0400HST				0	0			<b>High Wind (78)</b>
<b>08</b>	0100HST								

Westerly winds of 70 to 90 mph were recorded near the summit of Mauna Kea. Light snow created slick conditions on the road to the mountain summit, closing the road on the 6th.

**HIZ003**

**Kauai Leeward**

<b>05</b>	0400HST				0	0			<b>High Wind (52)</b>
<b>06</b>	1600HST								

Westerly winds were in the range of 40 to 60 mph near the summit of Haleakala.

A cold front, moving from the northwest to the southeast, passed through the islands from the 5th to the 7th.

**Honolulu County**

**Honolulu**

<b>05</b>	1400HST				0	0			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	1700HST								

Isolated heavy showers produced minor flooding of roads and low-lying areas in and around Ala Moana Park.

**HIZ001>006**

**Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast**

<b>10</b>	1000HST				0	0			<b>High Surf</b>
<b>14</b>	0500HST								

A strong storm low far northwest of the Hawaiian Islands generated surf of 12 to 18 feet along northwest and north facing shores of all the islands.

**HIZ001>006**

**Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast**

<b>20</b>	1600HST				0	0			<b>High Surf</b>
<b>22</b>	0200HST								

A deep storm low far northwest of the Hawaiian Islands caused surf of 8 to 15 feet along the northwest and north facing shores of the islands.

**HIZ001>006**

**Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast**

<b>23</b>	0100HST				0	0	20K		<b>High Surf</b>
<b>31</b>	2359HST								

A series of developed storm lows far northwest of the Hawaiian Islands produced surf that eventually built to 25 to 40 feet (on the 28th) along northwest and north facing shores and 15 to 20 feet along western facing shores of all the islands. The high surf caused damage to two units of the Ke Iki Hale apartment complex on the North Shore of Oahu. This event also closed all North Shore beaches on the 28th, and the surf was deemed too dangerous to hold the Quiksilver Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational surfing competition--which requires at least 20-foot waves to be held in the first place. Waves also occasionally crossed roadways along western and northern shorelines on Oahu, depositing sand and other debris on the road surfaces. On the Island of Hawaii, Keokaha and other Hilo District beaches were closed on the 28th.



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

**HAWAII**

<b>HIZ004</b>	<b>Kauai Mountains</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>High Wind (70)</b>
---------------	------------------------	--	--	--	----------	----------	--	--	-----------------------

West to northwest winds of 60 to 80 mph were recorded near the summit of Mauna Kea.

<b>HIZ003</b>	<b>Kauai Leeward</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>High Wind (52)</b>
---------------	----------------------	--	--	--	----------	----------	--	--	-----------------------

West to northwest winds of 40 to 60 mph occurred near the summit of Haleakala.