



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 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

HIZ002>005

Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu South Shore

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 01 | 0000HST | 0 | 0 | Drought |
| 31 | 2359HST | | | |

The drought in Hawaii continued through May, but conditions did improve in some areas

Below average precipitation occurred across parts of the state in May. However, many locales, especially on the islands of Kauai and Hawaii, received above average rainfall amounts for the month. On the other hand, Oahu and Maui were drier than average, with only a few locations receiving average or above average rainfall. Though a long term deficit of precipitation continued over the state, many areas that are dependent on catchment systems for their water supply have been receiving some rain. This has lessened the drought conditions in those areas.

May is a month that is a transition from spring weather to a more summer, and drier, pattern. However, moisture carried by the trade winds was sufficient enough to sustain windward and mauka showers across the state for much of the month. Most leeward areas, though, continued to be much drier than average.

The following are rainfall statistics and comparative data (in inches) for selected locations around the state. The island and station name are listed with the May 1998 rainfall total. For comparison, the average for the month and percent of average are listed for each station in the following two columns.

| | May 98 | Avg. | %Avg. |
|-------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| Oahu | | | |
| Honolulu | 0.16 | 1.1 | 15 |
| Waianae | 0.01 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Hawaii Kai | 0.19 | 1.1 | 17 |
| Manoa Lyon A. | 12.54 | 12.2 | 101 |
| Waialua | 0.59 | 1.7 | 35 |
| Ahuimanu (windward) | 2.48 | 5.6 | 44 |
| Maui | | | |
| Kahului | 0.45 | 0.8 | 56 |
| Hana | 1.26 | 6.2 | 20 |
| Kihei | 0.00 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Lahainaluna | 0.10 | 0.7 | 14 |
| Wailuka | 0.30 | 1.2 | 25 |
| Island of Hawaii | | | |
| Hilo | 15.65 | 9.9 | 158 |
| Pahala | 0.58 | 3.8 | 15 |
| Honaunau (Captain Cook) | 2.41 | 7.0 | 34 |
| Kamuela | 8.11 | 4.0 | 203 |
| Kamuela (Higher Elev.) | 11.74 | 3.9 | 301 |
| Laupahoehoe | 17.19 | 11.7 | 147 |
| Molokai | | | |
| Kaunakakai | 0.33 | 0.9 | 37 |

The drought, although less severe on the Island of Hawaii over the last two months than it had been in the previous four, is nonetheless expected to cause the loss of as much as 40 percent of flower growers' income in 1998 because of lost production. It has also hit coffee and macadamia nut producers very hard. The full impact that the drought has had on farmers, however, will not be known until sometime in 1999.



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|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
| | | | | | Killed | Injured | Property | Crops | |

HAWAII

Hawaii County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Kamuela to Pahala | 01 31 | 0000HST 2359HST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Wild/Forest Fire |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------------|

Honolulu County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Pacific Palisades to Waianae | 01 31 | 0000HST 2359HST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Wild/Forest Fire |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------------|

An area of about 1700 acres burned near the 15-mile marker on the Mamalahoa Highway in the North Kona District during the second week of May. This was one of the 167 brush fires that scorched parts of the Island of Hawaii during the first five months of 1998. These fires had burned more than 14,000 acres through the end of May. As a comparison, over the same time frame last year, the Big Island had had 183 fires that affected only 820 acres. More land was burned in 1998 because of the combination of drought conditions from El Nino and an abundance of overgrowth and underbrush that acted as fuel for the fires. It has cost Hawaii County more than \$3 million to fight the blazes so far this year.

At the same time, brush fires seared hundreds of acres on Oahu as well. From the central parts of the island to the western shores, 452 fires occurred in the first five months of this year. This is compared to 124 fires over the same time period in 1997. Cost figures for fighting the blazes on Oahu are not yet complete, but the Department of Land and Natural Resources has spent about \$269 thousand just to contend with 12 upper-elevation wild fires since the beginning of January.

HIZ001>006

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|------------------|
| 13 | | 1000HST 2000HST | | | 0 | 0 | | | High Surf |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|------------------|

Strong storm low in the Southern Hemisphere produced surf of 4 to 6 feet on the southern shores of all the Hawaiian Islands.

Hawaii County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|---------------------|
| Kamuela | 19 | 1500HST 1530HST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Funnel Cloud |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|---------------------|

Funnel clouds were sighted near Kamuela (Waimea) and on the north side of Mauna Kea.

Hawaii County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Hilo | 19 | 2030HST 2330HST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Urban/Sml Stream Fld |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-----------------------------|

Heavy rain fell in the windward sections of the Big Island, including parts of the Hamakua, North and South Hilo, and Puna Districts.