



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1999

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
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HAWAII

HIZ003-007>008

Kauai Leeward - Oahu North Shore - Oahu Koolau

01	0000HST	0	0	Drought
31	2359HST			

A trade wind pattern persisted throughout August, though its strength during the first three days of the month was weak enough to allow local land and sea breezes. Otherwise, intensities were mainly within the moderate to fresh range, with rain bands primarily affecting windward areas. The passage of Hurricane Dora about 210 statute miles south of the island of Hawaii brought a slight increase in shower activity on 15 August. These showers were not able to affect the drought-stricken leeward areas on the isles of Maui and Hawaii.

Maui County

Drought conditions continue for the Upcountry areas of Maui, with the gages at Kula and Ulupalakua reporting August totals at 21 and 28 percent of average, respectively. Over the past three months, the Ulupalakua totals were at 21 percent of average, while the Kula totals were only 15 percent of average. The leeward side of West Maui also remained very dry as the gage at Lahainaluna reported only 0.04 of an inch of rain, or 7 percent of average for August. These observations are in contrast with the data coming in from the windward sites. For example, the gage at Kahakuloa (windward West Maui) measured 2.02 inches (119 percent of average) and the gage at Haiku (East Maui) saw 5.63 inches (128 percent of average).

The gage at Kaunakakai Mauka in Molokai reported an August total of 0.37 of an inch, but since the average for the site is only 0.10 of an inch, this monthly total shows up being 370 percent of average. The other Molokai gage (Kamalo) and the Lanai City gage both reflected continuing dry conditions, with observations of only 0.21 of an inch and 0.51 of an inch, respectively. For the year, both Molokai gages and the Lanai City gage remained below 50 percent of average.

Island of Hawaii

The rains returned somewhat to the windward side of the island of Hawaii, where totals over the past three months were around 50 percent of average. For August, four sites (Upolu Point, Kamuela Upper, Hilo Airport, and Glenwood) recorded amounts greater than average. Hilo Airport is a particularly interesting case, having just come off its driest July on record (3.53 inches) with an August total of 10.14 inches, or 108 percent of average. The remaining windward Hawaii sites were mainly between 60 and 80 percent of average. As mentioned previously, the passage of Hurricane Dora to the south of the island contributed to some of the rainfall by dropping between 0.50 to 1.50 inches across the windward areas. Unfortunately, these rains did not make it to the areas that need it most. The gages in Kau, Kona, and leeward Kohala all reported below average totals. The two Kau sites at Kapapala and Pahala were very dry, with totals only 10 and 2 percent of average, respectively. Another noteworthy dry area is leeward Kohala. The gage in this area (Kamakoa) recored only 0.02 of an inch (2 percent of average) in August and has not seen more than one inch of rain in a month since June 1998. This area is at high risk for wildfires.

The following list contains rainfall statistics for selected locations from around the state. The first column is the observed rainfall for August. The second column is the 30-year average for that location, while the third column lists the percent of average rainfall for the month of August. The fourth and fifth columns are the year-to-date total and the year-to-date percent of average, respectively.

	Aug 99	Avg.	%Avg.	YTD	YTD %Avg.
Maui					
Kahalui Airport	0.31	0.5	62	6.89	5 1
Hana	2.87	5.6	51	N/A	N/ A
Haiku	5.63	4.4	128	N/A	N/ A
Kihei	0.18	0.2	90	2.31	23
Lahainaluna	0.04	0.6	7	4.16	32
Wailuku	0.43	0.7	61	7.82	4 2
Island of Hawaii					
Hilo Airport	10.14	9.4	108	82.17	9 7
Pahala	0.06	3.3	2	12.44	34
Honaunau	1.69	6.5	26	15.40	34
Kamuela (Upper)	6.51	4.4	148	43.14	10 6
Glenwood	12.81	11.4	112	140.84	127
Laupahoehoe	7.34	12.4	59	71.97	68



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Hawaii County

2.5 N Hilo

01	1810HST 1815HST				0	0			Waterspout
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A spotter sighted a waterspout about half a mile east of Honolii Beach in Hilo Bay, or 2.5 miles north of the city of Hilo. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

Hawaii County

1 N Puuanahulu to
Puuanahulu

04 07	1300HST 1600HST				0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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A brush fire scorched 10,000 acres of dry pastures and forest in the South Kohala and North Kona districts, including sections of the Parker Ranch and the Puu Waawaa hunting area. The fire also swept through Kipuka Kalawamauna, an area fenced off to protect rare native Hawaiian plants in the Pohakuloa Training Area. Winds gusting to 30 mph hindered firefighters in getting this blaze under control.

Hawaii County

5.5 SSW Pahala

04 07	1600HST 1300HST				0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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This 500-acre Kau fire was near Punaluu, a small resort and golf course between Pahala and Naalehu. However, the blaze did not affect developed properties. Winds of 30 to 35 mph caused severe problems for firefighters in trying to bring the fire under control.

HIZ004-008

Kauai Mountains - Oahu Koolau

14 16	1600HST 0800HST				0	0			High Surf
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Hurricane Dora, which passed about 210 miles south of the Big Island on 15 August, generated an open-ocean swell that produced surf of 8 to 20 feet along the east and southeast shores of the Big Island. Government officials on the island of Hawaii closed all county beaches in the Puna and Kau districts, along with campsites and backcountry trails in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Saturday and Sunday, the 14th and 15th, because of the dangerous surf conditions.

HIZ001>003-005>006-008 Niihau - Kauai Windward - Kauai Leeward - Oahu South Shore - Waianae Coast - Oahu Koolau

31	1000HST 2359HST				0	0			High Surf
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A deep storm low east of New Zealand generated surf of 6 to 10 feet along the south shores of all Hawaiian islands.

HIZ003>004-007>008 Kauai Leeward - Kauai Mountains - Oahu North Shore - Oahu Koolau

31	1700HST 2359HST				0	0			Wind Advisory
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Winds gusted between 35 and 55 mph in the central valley of Maui and exposed and downslope areas of the Big Island as high pressure intensified to the north and northeast of the isles. There were no reports of injuries or significant property damage.