



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 21, 2024

### **2023-2024 Wet Season Rainfall Summary for Hawai'i**

Summary of October 2023 through April 2024 wet season

- Started the wet season with severe drought in portions of all four counties statewide, and extreme drought in localized areas of Maui and the Big Island.
- The wet season was influenced by a strong El Niño event that peaked in late 2023 and weakened during spring 2024.
- Wet season forecast called for below average rainfall through the wet season.
- Rainfall totals for the season were near to below average at most locations and conditions were not as dry as anticipated.
  - October: Slow start to the wet season with mostly near to below average totals.
  - November through January: Several rain events helped ease drought across the state.
  - February through March: Severe drought returns to Maui and the Big Island due to below average rainfall.
  - April: Wet from Kaua'i to Moloka'i, but dry in the leeward areas of Maui and the Big Island.

Wet season statistics

- Overall: 10<sup>th</sup> driest in the last 30 years (average rankings from 8 sites)
- Kaua'i
  - Most rain totals 110 to 150% of average.
  - Līhu'e Airport: 27.89 inches, 14<sup>th</sup> wettest Oct – Apr in the last 30 years.
- O'ahu
  - Most O'ahu totals 60 to 90% of average.
  - Honolulu Airport: 8.18 inches, 10<sup>th</sup> driest.
- Maui County
  - Maui County totals mostly 70 to 100% of average.
  - Kahului Airport: 10.34 inches, 11<sup>th</sup> driest.
  - Moloka'i Airport: 11.60 inches, 7<sup>th</sup> driest.
- Big Island
  - Most windward totals 50 to 80% of average.
  - Rest of the island totals 30 to 60% of average.
  - Hilo Airport: 58.63 inches, 7<sup>th</sup> driest.



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### Dry season (May through September 2024) outlook

- Probabilities favor La Niña development during the summer.
  - La Niña expected to persist into 2025.
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center's forecast probabilities and climate model consensus favor below average precipitation through the rest of the dry season and into the start of the 2024 – 2025 wet season.
  - Note: Dry season totals will be skewed by the unusual May kona low.
  - May rainfall at Honolulu AP (4.90" as of May 20) already exceeded its dry season average (3.56").
- Below average dry season precipitation typical for the summer months of a La Niña onset year.
- For many areas of the state, April and May rainfall will help delay onset of significant drought, possibly until mid- to late-summer.
  - Exceptions are the leeward slopes of Haleakalā on Maui, and the Humu'ula Saddle region of the Big Island. These areas have not been able to recover due to less rainfall than other areas.
- Impacts, once they start to occur, are expected to be the worst for non-irrigated agriculture, water systems dependent on surface water diversions, and residents relying on rainfall catchment.
- Due to late wet season rainfall, significant wildfire risk is expected to develop later than the normal late-July to early-August time frame.
  - Similar to significant drought potential, exceptions are the leeward slopes of Haleakalā on Maui, and the Humu'ula Saddle region of the Big Island.

### On the Web:

#### Wet Season Maps

Kaua'i: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai\\_2324\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/kauai_2324_hooilo.gif)

O'ahu: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu\\_2324\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/oahu_2324_hooilo.gif)

Moloka'i/Lāna'i: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan\\_2324\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/molan_2324_hooilo.gif)

Maui: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui\\_2324\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/maui_2324_hooilo.gif)

Big Island: [https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis\\_2324\\_hooilo.gif](https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/bigis_2324_hooilo.gif)

State percent of average:

<https://www.weather.gov/images/hfo/hydrosum/Hooilo2324PctAvg.jpg>

NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu HI: <https://www.weather.gov/hfo/>

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

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