



Drought Information Statement for the Main Hawaiian Islands

Valid September 22, 2023

Issued By: WFO Honolulu, HI

Contact Information: w-hfo.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 12, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/hfo/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



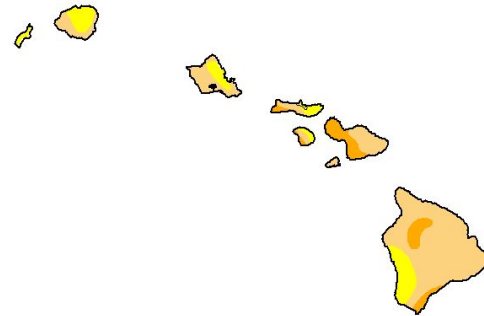


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- Severe drought continues over the Maui County and the Big Island.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Developed on the Big Island in August along the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea and the lower slopes of the Ka'ū District from Punalu'u to South Pt. Severe drought remains over the southwestern portion of Moloka'i, the lower leeward slopes of Lāna'i, and the West Maui Mountains.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Covered most of the remaining areas of the Big Island with the exception of the Kona slopes. Also covered windward Haleakalā, leeward Lāna'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, and the leeward slopes of Moloka'i not in D2.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Covered the rest of the state not in D1 or D2.

U.S. Drought Monitor Hawaii



September 19, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 21, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	81.41	13.11	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-12-2023	0.00	100.00	81.41	13.11	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-20-2023	57.58	42.42	10.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	60.33	39.67	11.40	3.66	0.24	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	2.57	97.43	81.12	51.16	4.32	0.24
One Year Ago 09-20-2022	2.35	97.65	91.13	21.25	4.85	0.24

Intensity:

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 2AM HST September 19th.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Along the windward slopes of the Big Island, Maui, and Kaua'i, and leeward slopes of Mauna Kea. The Big Island's Ka'u District, and the leeward areas of Moloka'i and Lāna'i also worsened by one category.
 - No Change: Leeward areas of the Big Island, Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i.

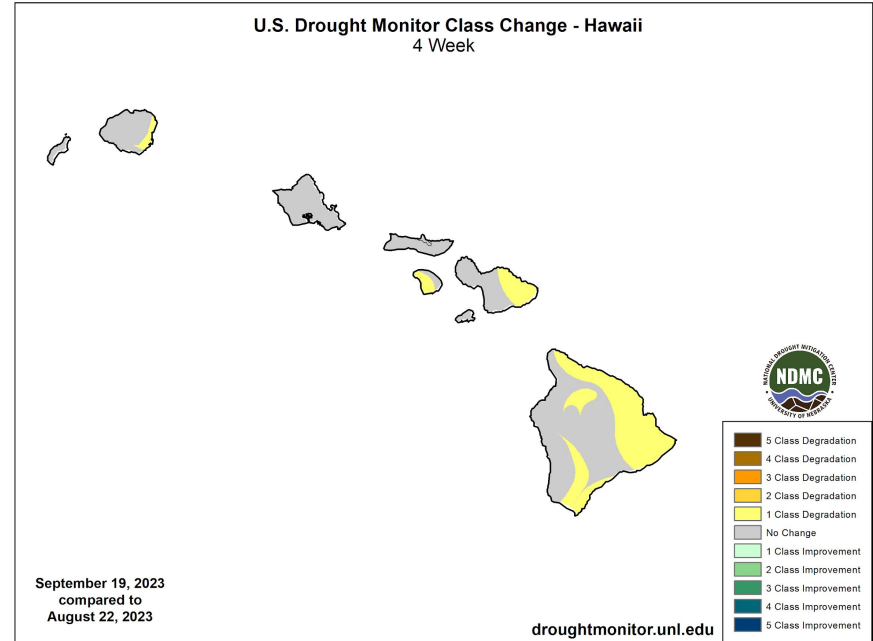


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 2am HST September 19th.





Precipitation

- Near to below average rainfall totals were recorded over most areas of the state.
- Leeward areas of Maui County and O'ahu were especially dry.
- Windward areas of the Big Island had a near average number of days with measurable rain, but the average amount of rainfall per day was below average.

August 2023 Rainfall (% Average)



Image Captions:
Percent of average rainfall from automated rain gages across the state.
Data for August 2023.





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Agricultural Impacts

- Pasture conditions were poor in the leeward portions of the state. The worst conditions were along the leeward slopes of Haleakalā on Maui, the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea, and the lower slopes of the Ka'ū District on the Big Island.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Drought conditions, especially along the leeward areas of the state, have dried out the abundant grasses that grew during the last wet season. Following the devastating Maui fires on August 8, additional wildfires ignited near Wahiawā (O'ahu) on August 17, Pu'uanahulu (Big Island) on August 18, and South Point (Big Island) on August 19.

Mitigation Actions

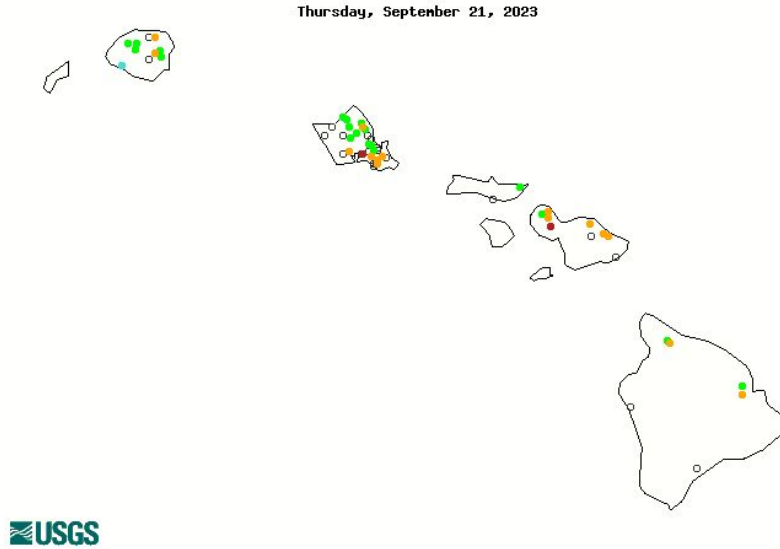
- The Hawai'i State Drought Council met on August 30 to hear about ongoing impacts and preparedness activities from key stakeholders, and to discuss potential avenues for coordination and collaboration for mitigation, preparedness, and outreach activities.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Several of the gages across the state indicated below normal 14-day average flow levels.
- The 28-day average flow levels had a greater number of sites in the below normal range.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid Sept 21, 2023





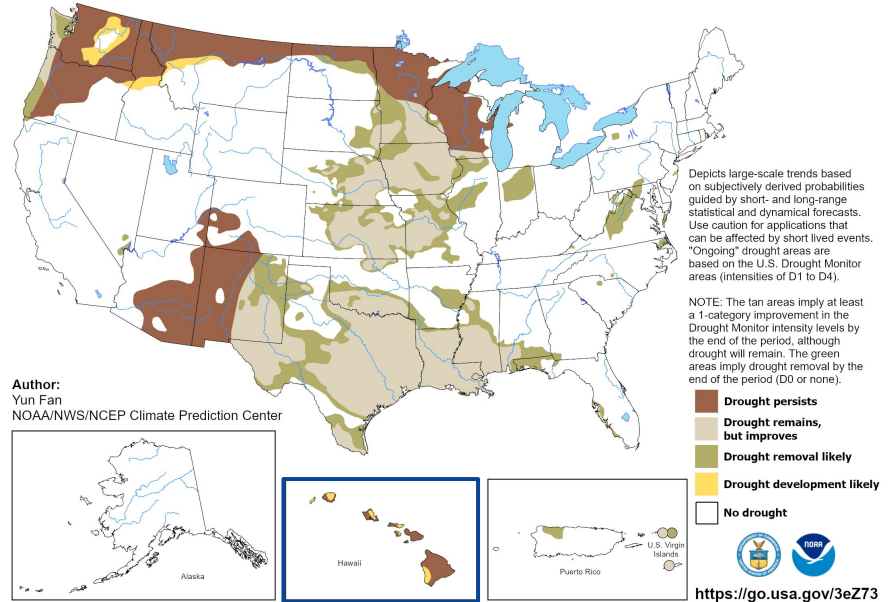
Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Over the next 3 months, drought is expected to develop or persist over the entire State of Hawai'i.
- The ongoing El Niño will likely result in below normal precipitation across the main Hawaiian Islands into spring 2024.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023



Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released Sep 21, 2023 valid for Sep 21 - Dec 31, 2023

