



Drought Information Statement for the Main Hawaiian Islands

Valid October 12, 2023

Issued By: WFO Honolulu, HI

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

- This product will be updated November 8, 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.



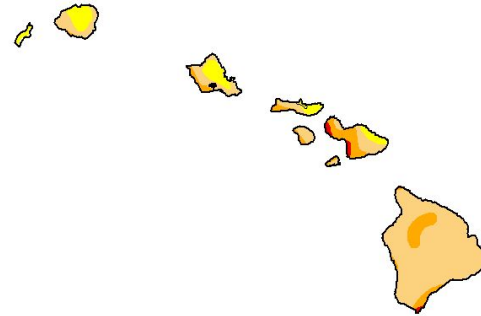


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Extreme drought developed over portions of Maui County and the Big Island.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Leeward Maui and the 'Upolu Pt. and South Pt. regions of the Big Island.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Developed over the lower leeward slopes of Kaua'i and O'ahu. The D2 area on the Big Island increased in the Ka'ū District and along the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea. In Maui County, severe drought remains over the southwestern portion of Moloka'i, the lower leeward slopes of Lāna'i, and most of the leeward slopes on Maui.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Covered more than half of the main Hawaiian Islands, including all of the remaining areas of the Big Island not in D2 or D3.

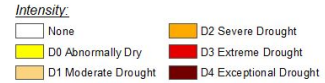
U.S. Drought Monitor Hawaii



October 10, 2023
(Released Thursday, Oct. 12, 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	88.01	16.41	1.39	0.00
Last Week 10-09-2023	0.00	100.00	79.44	15.77	1.39	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-11-2023	46.24	53.76	10.64	0.99	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 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	82.20	15.64	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-11-2022	10.29	89.71	76.01	40.45	3.67	0.24



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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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 2AM HST October 10th.



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: Every county had worsening drought, especially in the leeward areas.
 - Drought Improved: Windward slopes of Maui and portions of central O'ahu.

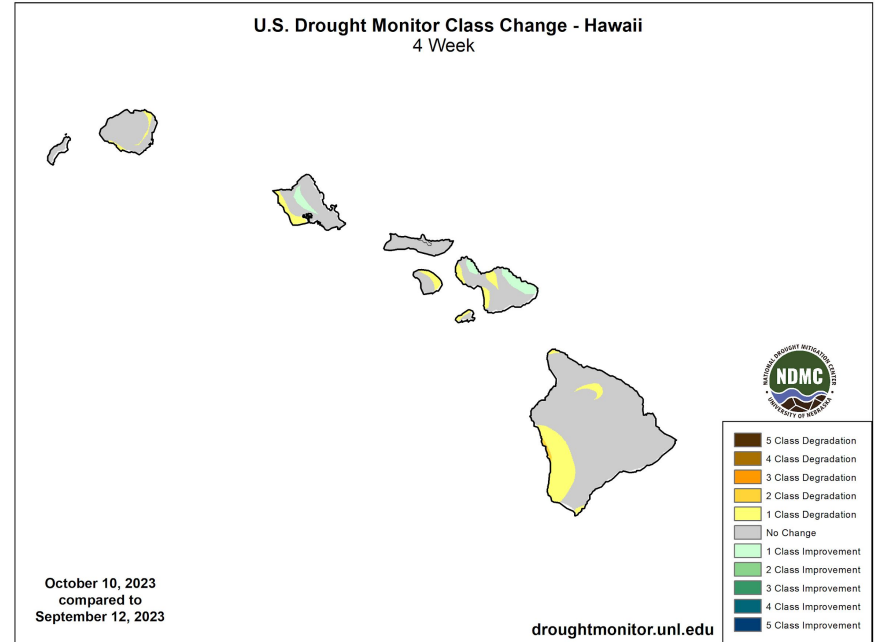


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 2am HST October 10th.





Precipitation

- Near to below average rainfall totals were recorded over most areas of the state in September.
- The lower slopes of the Ka ' ū District of the Big Island, and the leeward areas of Maui County and O ' ahu were well below average.

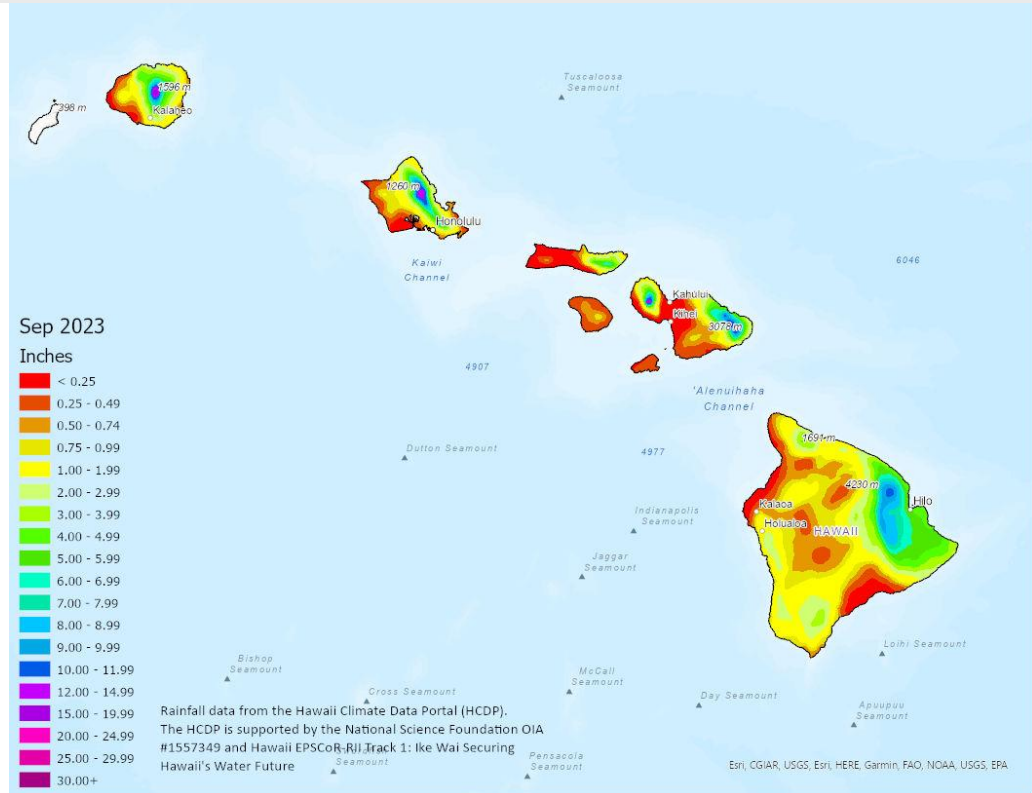


Image Captions: September 2023 rainfall totals (in inches) from the Hawai'i Climate Data Portal.





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 on Maui along the leeward slopes of Haleakalā, and on the Big Island along the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea and the lower slopes of the Ka ' ū District. Producers reported weaning calves early, supplementing food with bales of grass and mineral tubs due to insufficient forage, and hauling water.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Vegetation conditions, especially in the leeward areas of the state remain very dry. Abundant fuel loads, due to growth from the October through April wet season, remain in many areas. On September 24, a brush fire ignited near Dillingham Airfield on O ' ahu and was contained several hours later.

Mitigation Actions

- The State Dept. of Transportation has been assisting with dry vegetation clearance in west O ' ahu to mitigate fire risk.
- The Hawai ' i County Dept. of Water Supply asked residents to conserve water due to the expected persistence of the existing drought well into 2024.





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 similar number of sites in the below normal range.

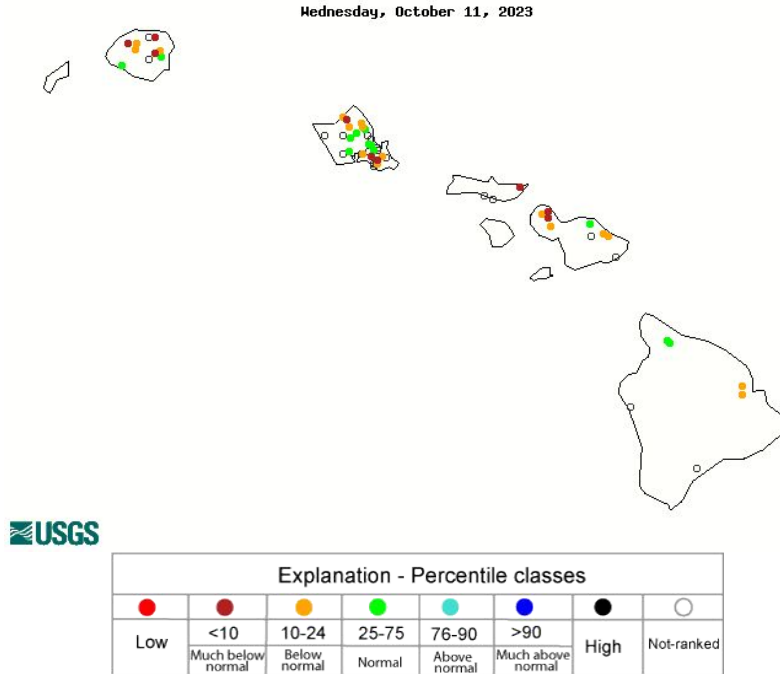


Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid October 11, 2023





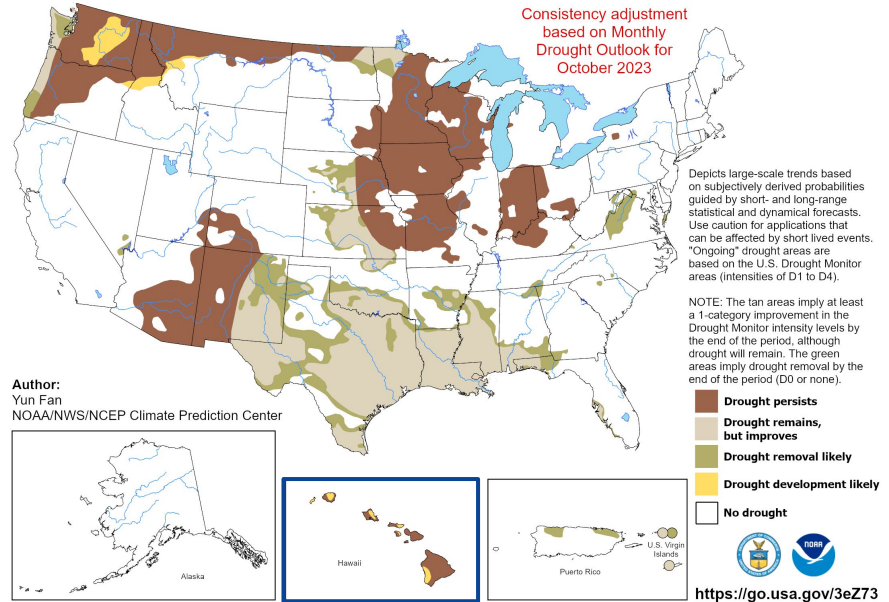
Drought Outlook

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 well into 2024.

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

Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2023
Released September 30, 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 30, 2023 valid for Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2023

