

MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

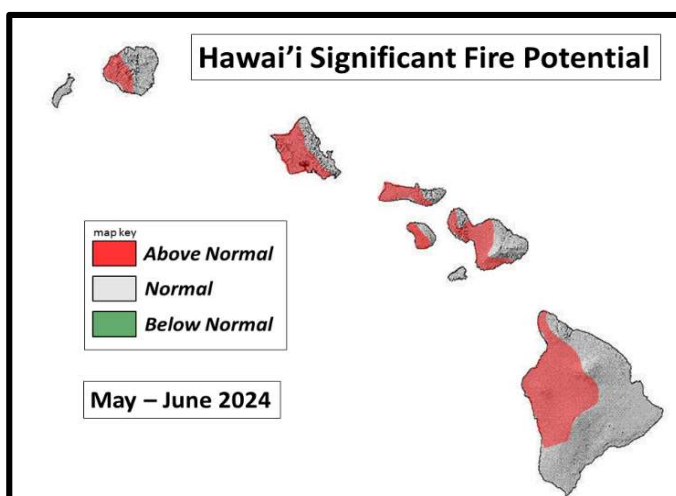
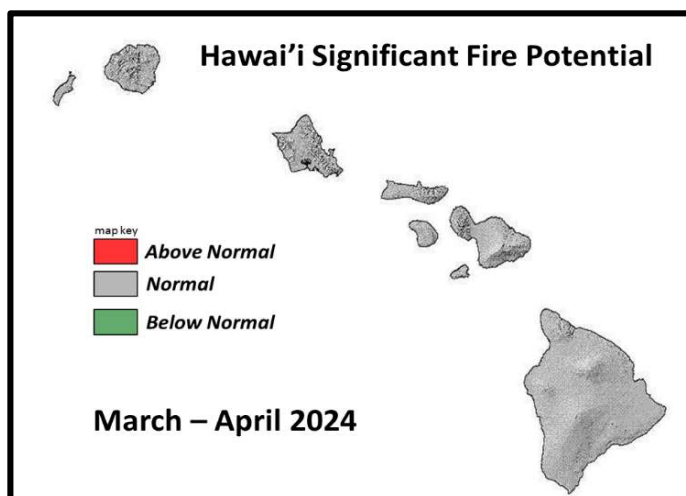
ISSUED MARCH 1, 2024

VALID MARCH - JUNE 2024

SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL

March - June 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- *Precipitation during the rest of the wet season should generally be below normal.*
- *Drought will likely fluctuate but progressively get worse between the transition from the wet to dry season.*
- *Herbaceous fuels should cure a bit quicker during May and June across the leeward areas and increase the potential for significant fire spread.*
- *Normal Significant Fire Potential is projected for March-April and above normal for May-June*



Discussion: Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies surrounding the Hawaiian Islands are generally near normal (**Fig 1**) with some areas of slightly above and below normal. Average temperature anomalies (**Fig 2**) during February were normal with some below and above normal areas. Precipitation anomalies (**Fig 3**) were below to well below normal and helped to exasperate dryness across the island chain. Despite the dryness drought coverage (**Fig 4**) didn't increase but the amount of abnormally dry areas increased setting the stage for future drought expansion. Several gusty wind periods due to enhanced Trade Winds or drier cold frontal passages occurred throughout February but no Red Flag Warnings were issued. El Nino conditions (**Fig 6**) are likely to quickly weaken and transition to an ENSO Neutral state by the end of the outlook period. Average temperatures should be above normal while precipitation should be near to below normal. Drought intensities will likely to fluctuate some but ultimately grow in intensity during the next 4 months. The herbaceous fuels should begin to noticeably cure during the start of the dry season, especially impacting the months of May and June and lead to increasing potential across the leeward areas. Wind events will be a key wildcard variable during the outlook period. Either timely moisture events and/or greener herbaceous fuels should keep the potential lower during March and April. Normal significant fire potential is projected for March and April while above normal for May and June across the leeward areas.

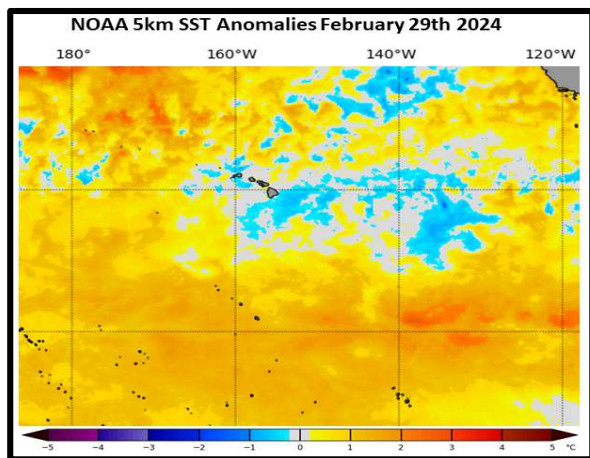


Figure 1: SST anomaly - February 29th

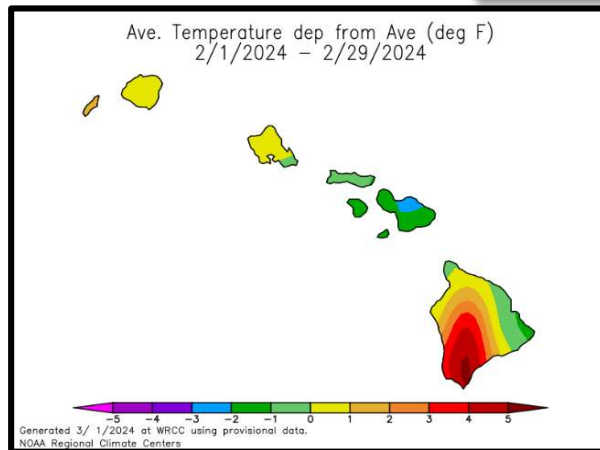


Figure 2: February Avg. Temps (Dep from avg.)

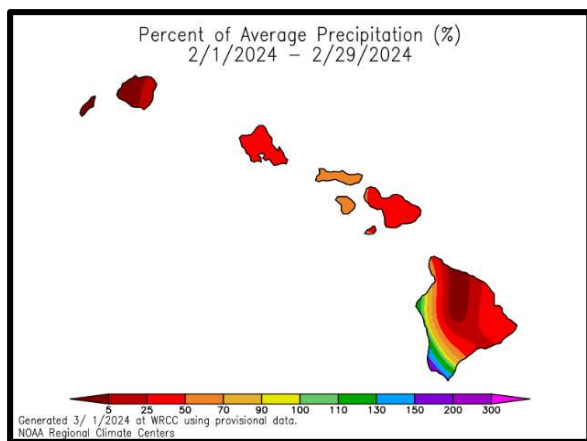


Figure 3: Rainfall during February (% of avg.)

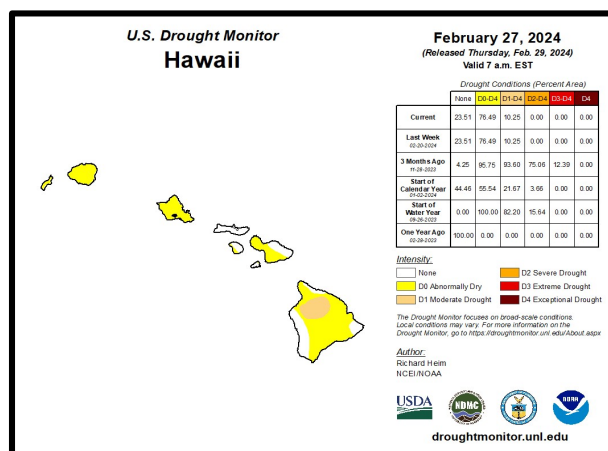


Figure 4: Drought Monitor February X

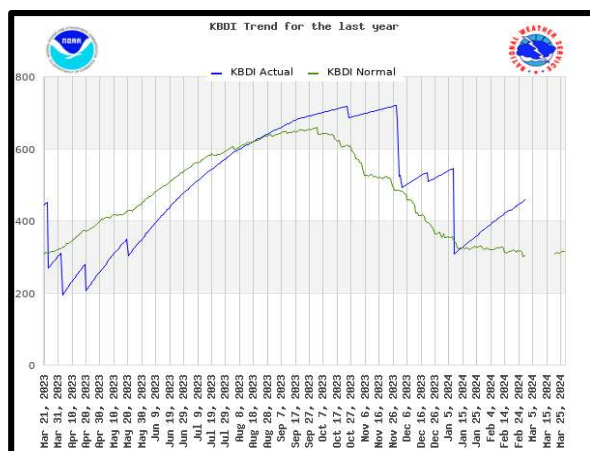


Figure 5: Honolulu KBDI February 29th

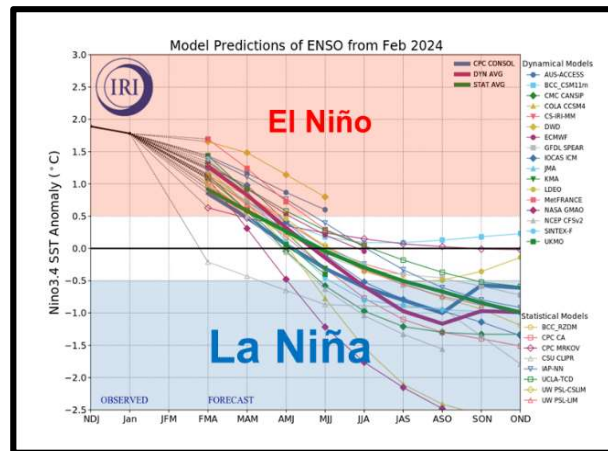


Figure 6: ENSO status and projection

This product made possible by important scientific contributions from personnel from:
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