

Significant Fire Potential for Feb - May 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Wet weather as February begins.
- Overall, wetter than normal Feb-April, then near normal in May.
- Temperatures near normal in February then slightly above normal Mar-May.
- Normal Significant Fire Potential February through May.
- La Niña expected to end by early spring then neutral through the summer.

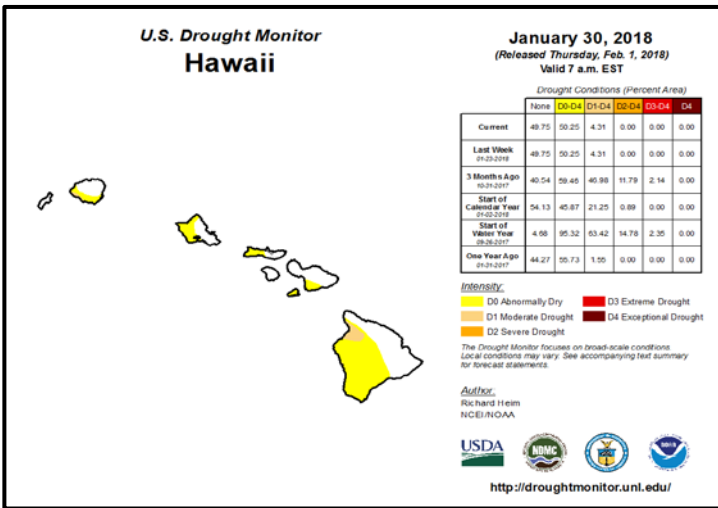


Figure 1: Drought Monitor for Hawai'i

### PAST WEATHER

Rainfall was below normal across much of Hawai'i in January, with only the windward side of the Big Island seeing above normal rainfall (Fig 2). Many locations, however, received enough rainfall during the first week of the month to keep drought conditions about the same as last month (Fig 1). Temperatures throughout the region averaged slightly above normal (Fig 3). This was likely due to moderating of sea surface temperatures in the region (Fig 4 next page).

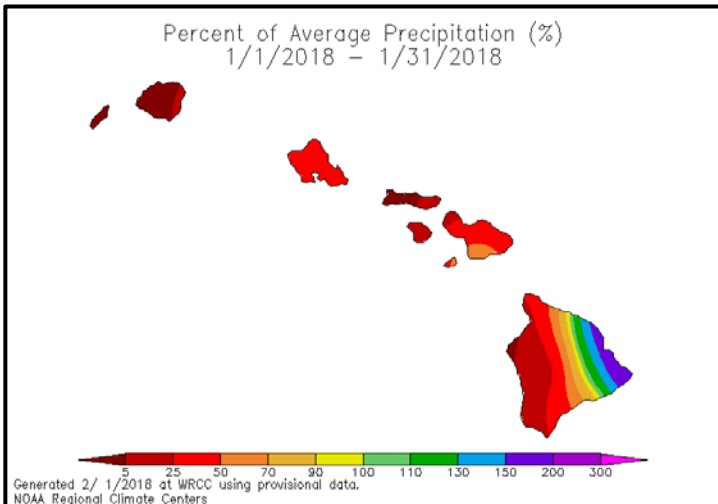


Figure 2: Percent average precip in Jan 2018

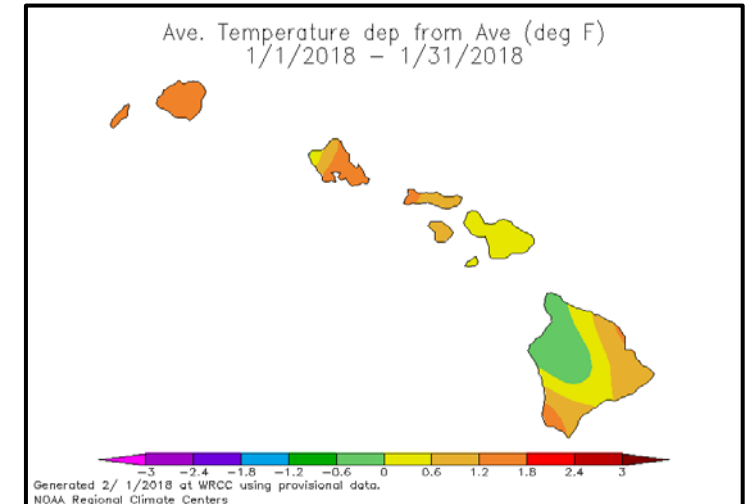


Figure 3: January Average Temperature Departure From Average

# HAWAI'I MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

VALID FEBRUARY - MAY 2018

Produced By North Ops



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

The Hawai'iian rainy season is well underway and near-term forecasts show wet weather at the start of February, followed by a drier stretch in mid February. NOAA forecasters are calling for above normal rainfall for the period from Feb-April, followed by near normal rainfall in May. A La Niña pattern is in place (**Fig 5**), with a return to neutral conditions by early spring. Temperatures throughout the region are expected to be near normal in February and a bit above normal Mar-May.

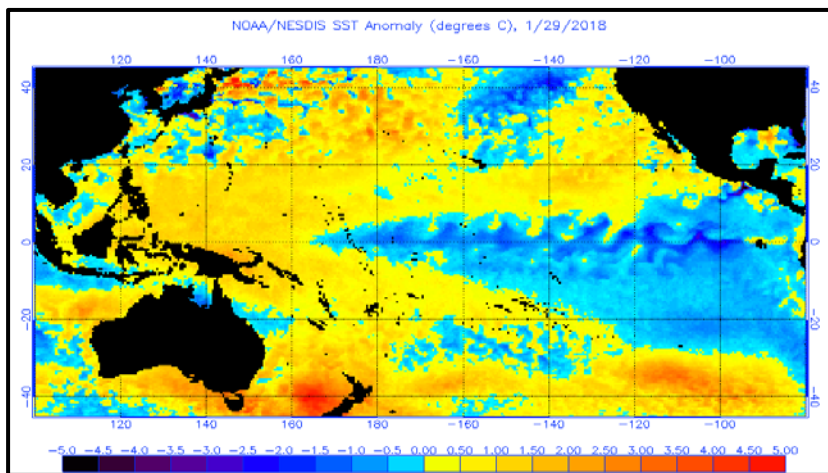


Figure 4: Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) anomaly

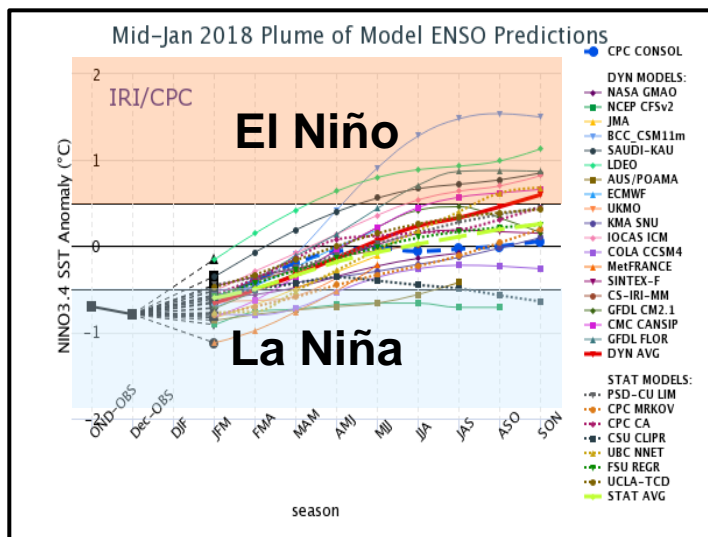


Figure 5: Plume diagram showing La Niña ending by spring

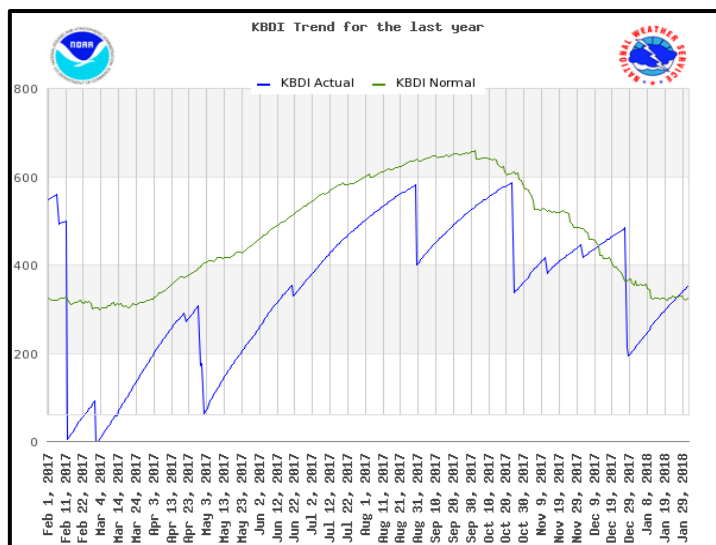


Figure 6: Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
blue = 2017 green = average

## HAWAI'I FUELS and FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

The KBDI (**Fig 6**) has moved back above normal values due to the recent dry weather across much of Hawai'i. The expected wet weather in the near term should push the KBDI well below normal, and the outlook for wetter than normal weather from February through April should keep it below normal. This is the wetter part of the year for Hawai'i, with little to no large fire occurrence. Considering the latest weather outlook, **the entire region has normal significant fire potential from February through May.**