SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL

September - December 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry season continues with widespread Drought conditions.
- Weather Outlook is for near to below avg rainfall September through December, especially the leeward sides.
- La Niña will likely remain during most of next 4 months which means continued possibilities for enhanced Trade Winds & potential delayed start to the rainy season.
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential across portions of all of the Islands, especially along the Leeward Sides September through November and Normal during December.

Discussion: Sea surface temperature (SSTs) anomalies surrounding the Hawai’ian Islands are near to slightly above normal (Fig 1). Average temperatures (Fig 2) during August were near to below normal. Temperature anomalies should be near to above normal during the 4 month period. Precipitation (Fig 3) during August was mixed with mostly drier than normal but wetter than normal observations were found across the leeward side of the Big Island and O’ahu. The 4-month weather outlook calls for near to below normal precipitation although the return to the rainy season should start up sometime during December. Drought conditions (Fig 4) should remain across the majority the islands during the next 3 to 4 months. Enhanced Trade Winds at times should also continue due to La Nina influences (Fig 6) leading to an alignment of critical fire weather and flammable fuel conditions. A few National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings were issued during August and that potential remains the next few months. Significant fire potential is projected to be above normal from September through December, especially impacting the leeward sides of the islands due to cured or curing herbaceous fuels, persistent drought and periods of enhanced Trade Winds.

Webpage: https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm  Contact: redding.fwx@fire.ca.gov  Page 1
Figure 1: SST anomaly - August 30th, 2022

Figure 2: August Temps (Dept from ave.)

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

Figure 4: Drought Monitor August 23rd, 2022

Figure 5: Honolulu KBDI August 27th, 2022

Figure 6: ENSO status and projection

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