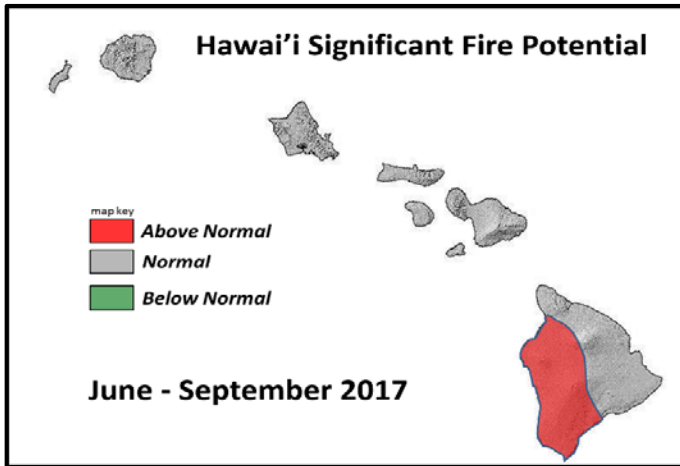




# MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED JUNE 1, 2017

VALID JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2017



Significant Fire Potential for June - September

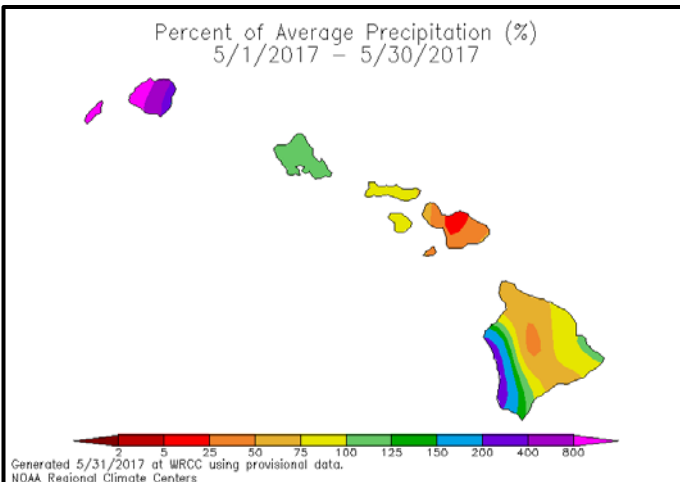


Figure 1: Percent of average precipitation in May

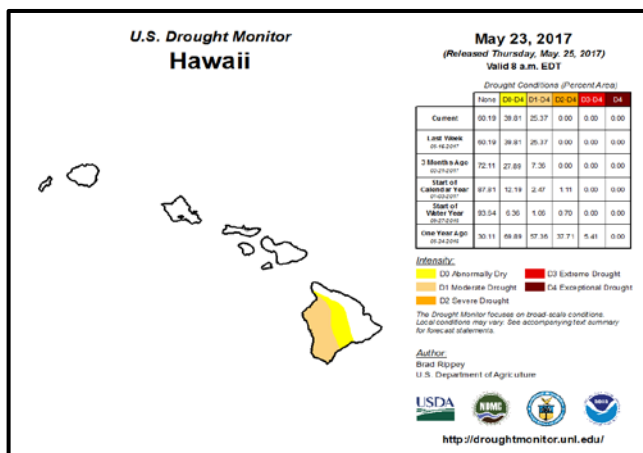


Figure 2: Drought Monitor for Hawai'i

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Abnormally Dry and Moderate Drought categories continue on lee side of Big Island of Hawai'i.
- Above normal temperatures and near normal rainfall expected June - September, at a time when light rainfall totals are typical.
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential lee side of Big Island of Hawai'i. Normal elsewhere.

## PAST WEATHER DISCUSSION

Rainfall was quite variable throughout the Hawai'ian Islands in May (Fig 1), which is a month when monthly rainfall averages are declining toward the summer dry season. Dry areas, such as the lee side of the Big Island, received above normal rainfall, but due to the lower averages this time of year, that area remains in the "Abnormally Dry" to "Moderate Drought" category (Fig 2).

Temperatures were above normal in most of the region during May (Fig 3 next page), with the exception of the higher terrain of the Big Island. The warmer temperatures correlate well with the warmer than normal sea surface temperatures (SST) nearby (Fig 4 next page).

## HAWAI'I OUTLOOK

SSTs in the vicinity of the islands are expected to remain above normal through September, so temperatures throughout the islands will likely remain above normal as well. The equatorial Pacific is expected to remain ENSO-neutral well into the summer (Fig 5 next page), and this will tend to keep rainfall near normal through September. The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for Hawai'i is for normal precipitation through September as well. However, western areas may receive slightly above normal rainfall this summer.

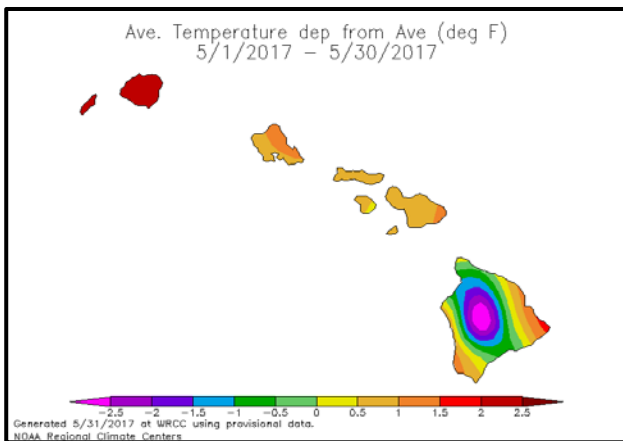


Figure 3: Average temperature (departure from average) in May

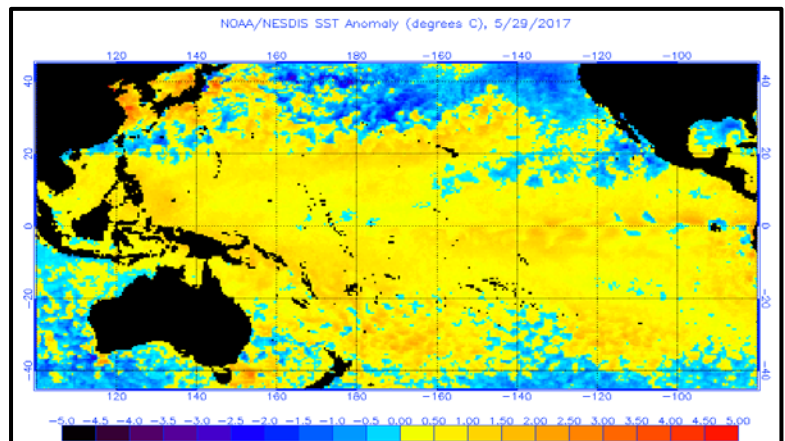


Figure 4: Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) anomaly

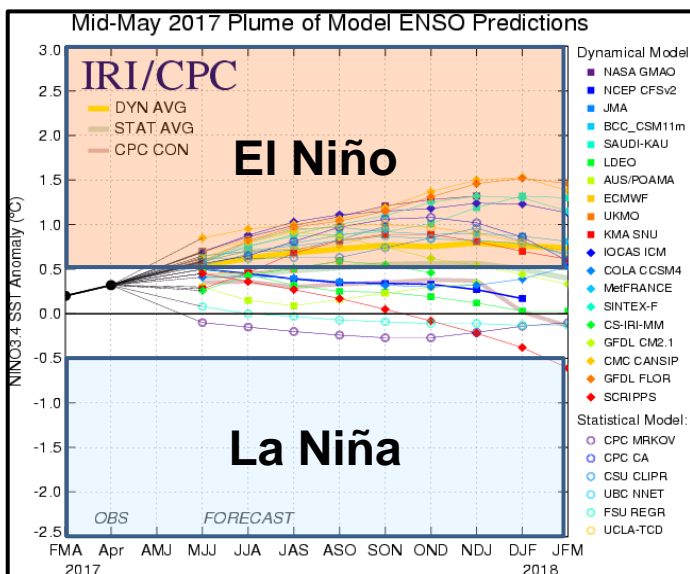


Figure 5: Current ENSO conditions are neutral, but El Niño is expected by late summer

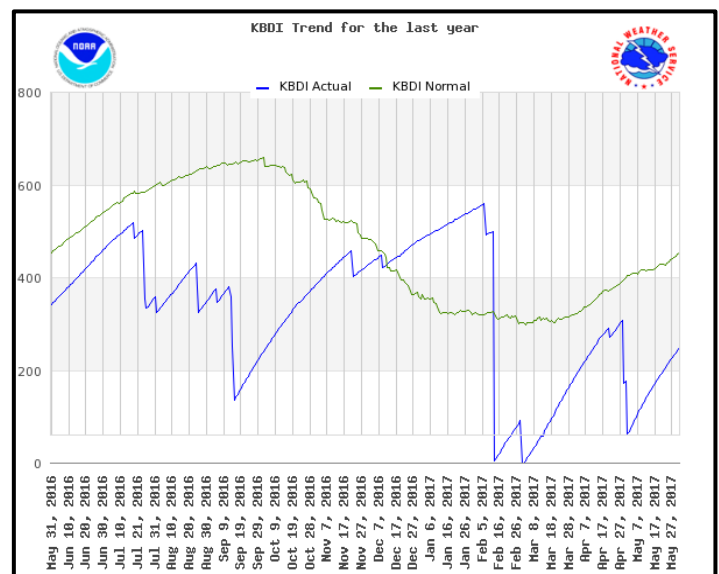


Figure 6: Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) blue = 2017 green = average

## HAWAI'I OUTLOOK (cont'd)

The Honolulu KBDI reading is below normal for late May (Fig 6), but the anticipated drier weather that comes during a typical summer will allow the KBDI to move up toward the normal curve. This chart likely does not represent the drier conditions on the lee side of the Big Island. If normal rainfall patterns develop over the next four months, as expected, the KBDI will likely approach normal values during the middle or latter parts of summer. On the lee side of the Big Island KBDI values are likely greater than normal, and normal rainfall would allow values to also move toward normal values, but from above. Therefore, **Significant Fire Potential is Above Normal from June through September for the lee side of the Big Island, with the possibility of closer to normal conditions late in the summer. Significant Fire Potential is normal for all other areas from June through September.**