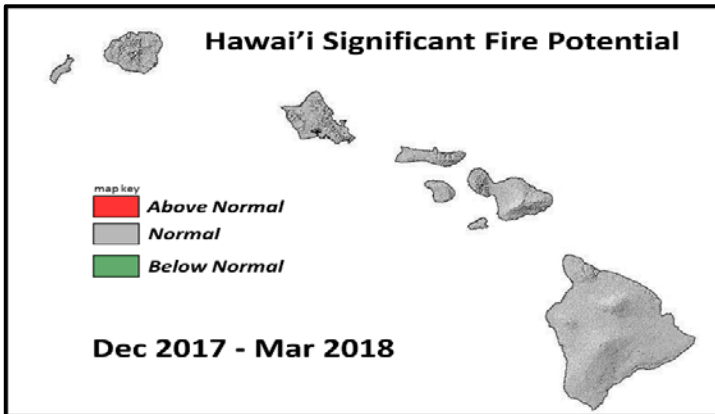




# MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED DECEMBER 1, 2017 VALID DECEMBER 2017 – MARCH 2018



Significant Fire Potential for Dec 2017 - Mar 2018

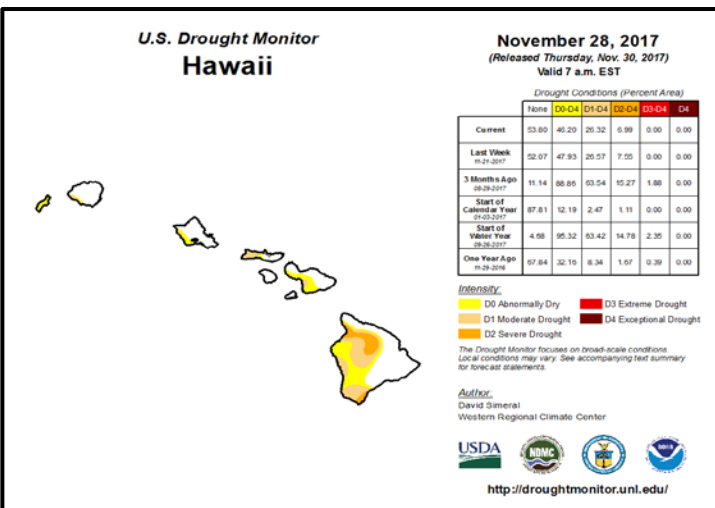


Figure 1: Drought Monitor for Hawai'i

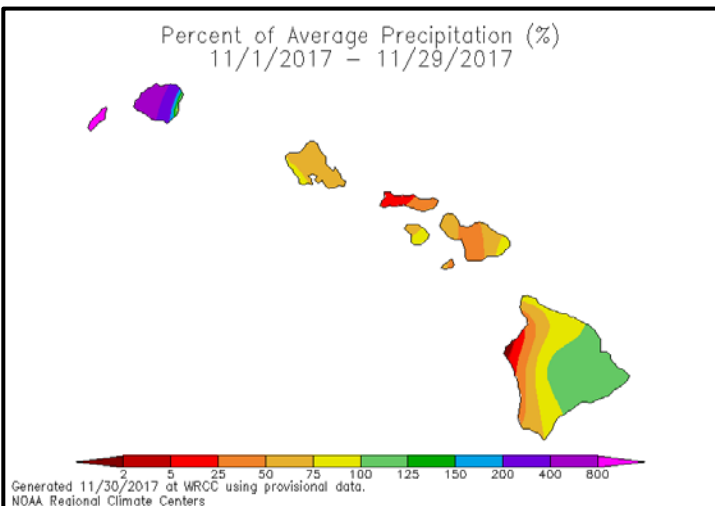


Figure 2: Percent average precip in Nov 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Abnormally Dry to Severe Drought conditions likely to decrease as the rainy season continues
- Slightly above normal temperatures December through March
- Above normal precipitation December through March
- Normal Significant Fire Potential December through March
- La Niña now underway, neutral conditions favored by early spring

## PAST WEATHER

Increasing rainfall at the end of November reduced abnormally dry and drought conditions, especially on the Big Island of Hawai'i (Fig 1). Overall, rainfall in November was still a bit below normal from Oahu to the west side of the Big Island (Fig 2). For the first time in a long time monthly temperatures were mostly below average (Fig 3), likely due to increasing rainfall and sea surface temperatures that trended toward normal (Fig 4 next page).

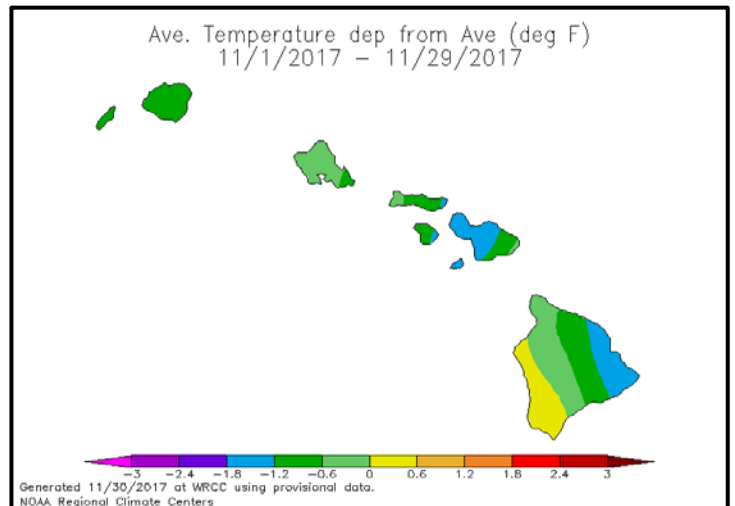


Figure 3: November Average Temperature Departure From Average

# HAWAI'I MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED DECEMBER 1, 2017 VALID DECEMBER 2017 – MARCH 2018

Produced By North Ops

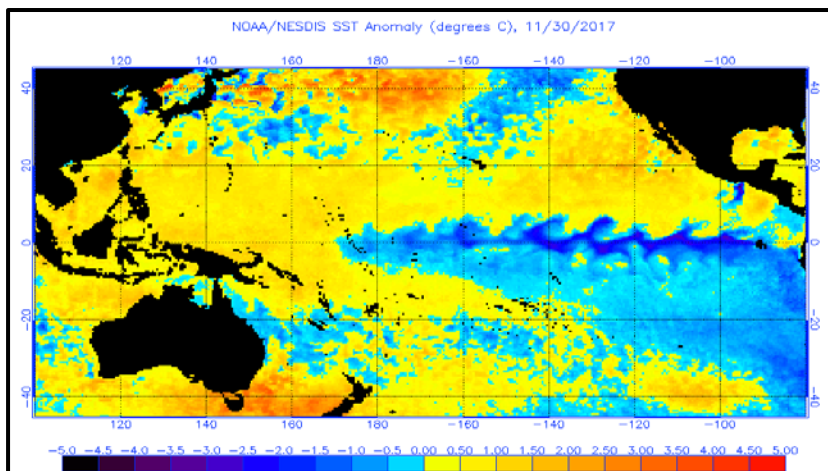


Figure 4: Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) anomaly

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

The Hawai'ian rainy season is well underway and near-term forecasts show cool and wet weather as December begins. NOAA forecasters are calling for above normal rainfall for the period from December through March with slightly warmer than normal temperatures. A La Niña pattern is in place (Fig 5), with a return to neutral conditions by early spring. The effects of this pattern on Hawai'i are not as predictable as an El Niño pattern.

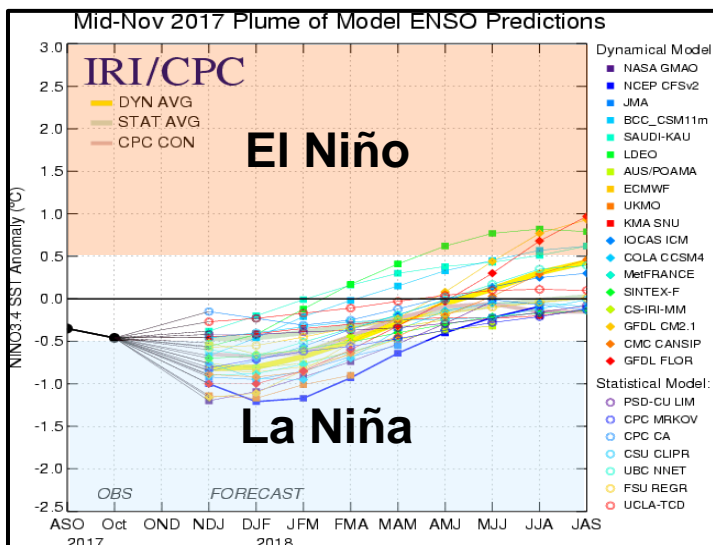


Figure 5: Plume diagram showing ENSO potential of La Niña this fall

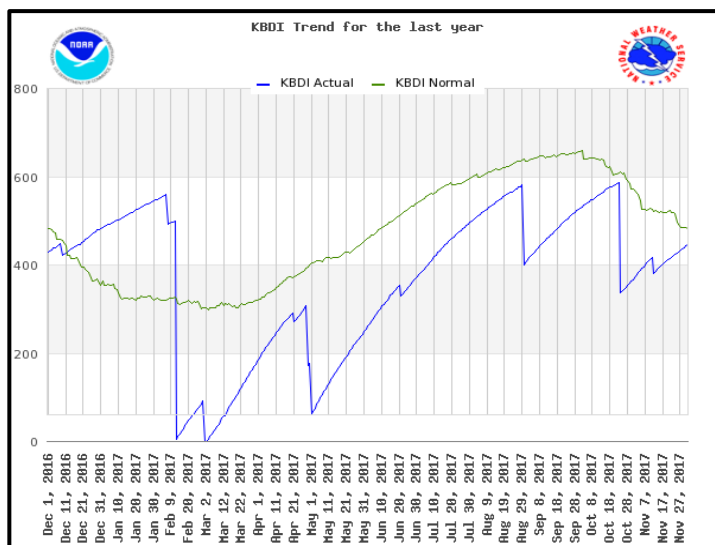


Figure 6: Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) blue = 2017 green = average

## HAWAI'I FUELS and FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

The KBDI has been moving up toward normal values recently (Fig 6), but the expected cool wet weather will likely push it back down again. The expected increase in rainfall over the next few months will help decrease or eliminate the drought conditions and reduce large fire potential. During the Hawai'ian rainy season large fire activity is typically at a minimum. Considering the cool wet weather outlook, the entire region has normal significant fire potential from December through March.