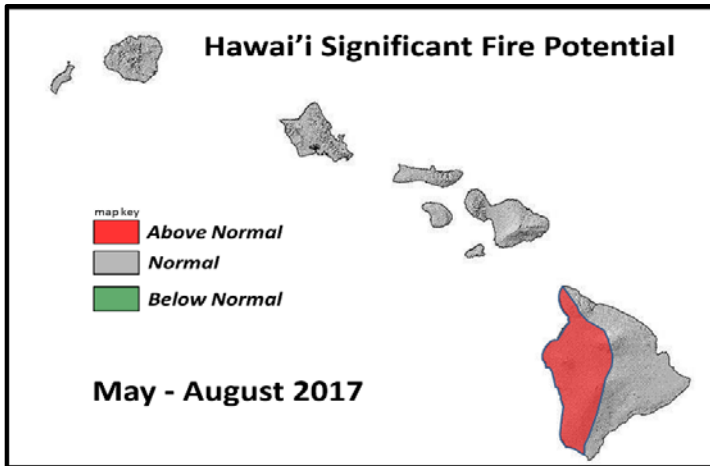




# MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED MAY 1, 2017

VALID MAY – AUGUST 2017



Significant Fire Potential for May - August

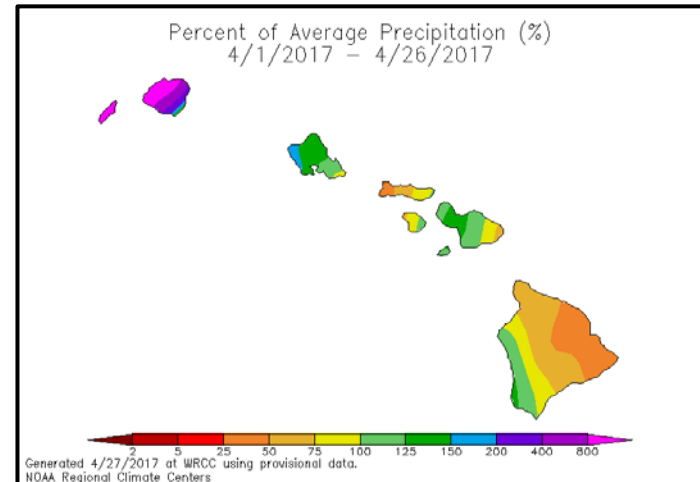


Figure 1: Percent of average precipitation in April

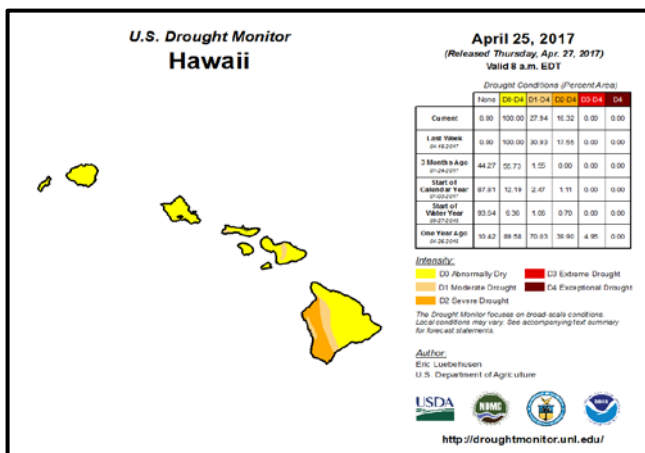


Figure 2: Drought Monitor for Hawai'i

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Abnormally dry all areas, with Moderate to Severe Drought lee side of Big Island of Hawai'i.
- Above normal temperatures and near normal rainfall expected May - August, at a time when its normal for rainfall to decrease.
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential lee side of Big Island of Hawai'i. Normal elsewhere.

## PAST WEATHER DISCUSSION

Rainfall throughout the region increased in April, especially toward the end of the month, but some central and eastern areas were drier than normal (Fig 1).

The lee side of the Big Island and a small part of Maui are the only areas in drought, although the entire region as of late April is considered to be "Abnormally Dry" (Fig 2).

Temperatures were well above normal throughout the region during April (Fig 3 next page), and this correlates well with the warmer than normal sea surface temperatures (SST) in the region (Fig 4 next page).

## HAWAI'I OUTLOOK

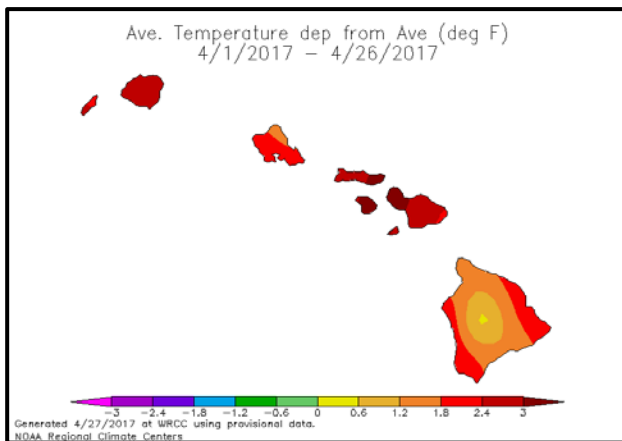
SSTs in the vicinity of the islands are expected to remain above normal through August, so temperatures throughout the islands will likely remain above normal as well. The equatorial Pacific is expected to remain ENSO-neutral well into the summer (Fig 5 next page), and this will tend to keep rainfall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

# HAWAI'I MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

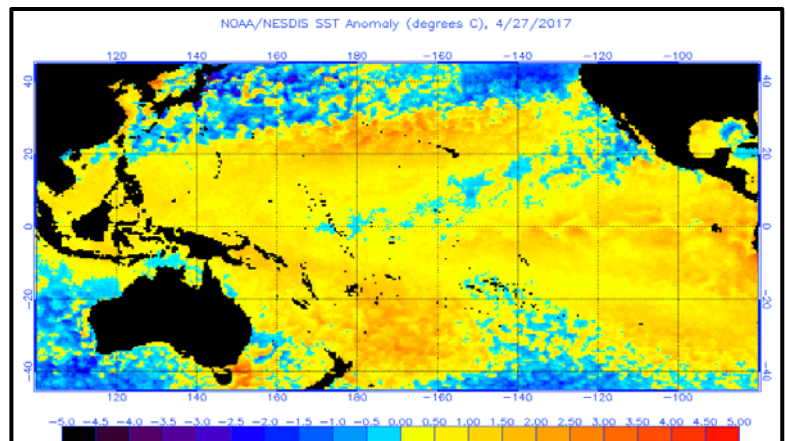
ISSUED MAY 1, 2017

VALID MAY – AUGUST 2017

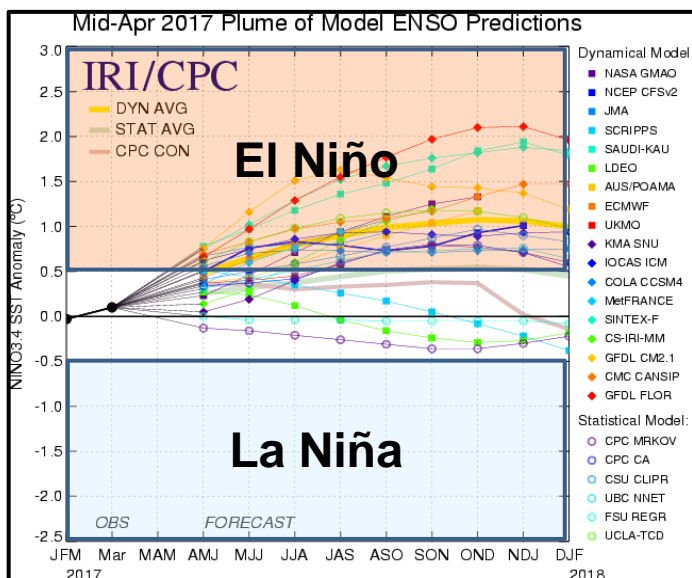
Produced By North Ops



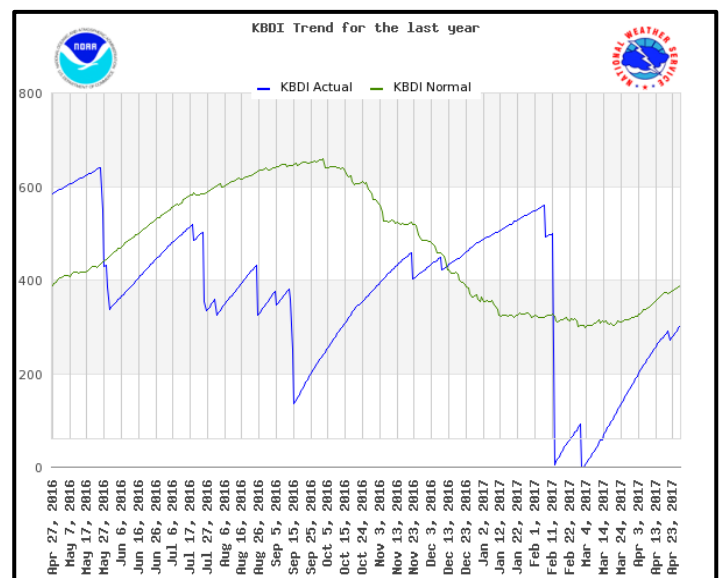
**Figure 3: Average temperature (departure from average) in April**



**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 Con't

The Honolulu KBDI reading is below normal for late April (Fig 6), but drier than normal weather since early March has allowed it to increase more rapidly than normal. As of late April it was less than 100 points below the normal value. 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 increase at about the same rate as the normal curve, while staying a bit below the normal curve. On the lee side of the Big Island KBDI values are likely greater than normal, and normal rainfall would allow values to remain above normal. Therefore, **Significant Fire Potential is Above Normal from May through August for the lee side of the Big Island, and normal for all other areas.**