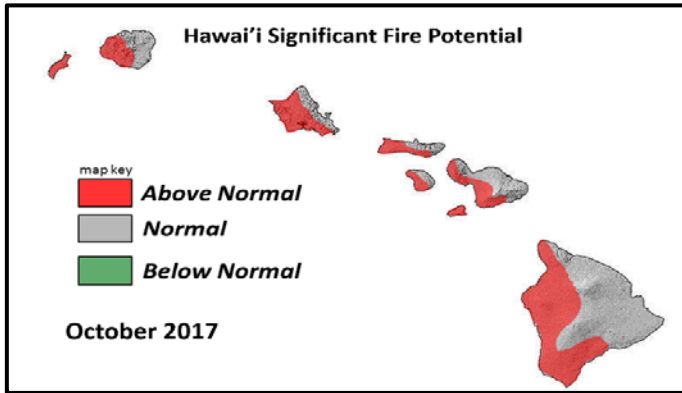




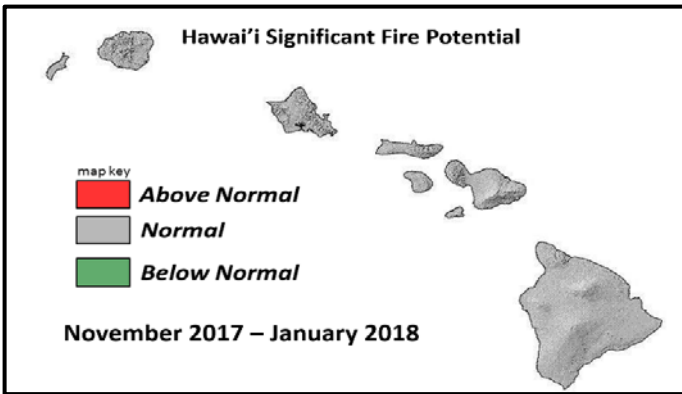
MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED OCTOBER 1, 2017

VALID OCT. 2017 – JAN. 2018



Significant Fire Potential for October 2017



Significant Fire Potential for Nov 2017 - Jan 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Abnormally Dry to Extreme Drought conditions have spread throughout the region due to dry summer weather.
- Above normal temperatures and near normal rainfall expected through Jan.
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential to persist into October lower lee sides of all islands. Elsewhere and otherwise, Normal Significant Fire Potential.
- La Niña now favored this fall, then neutral in early 2018.

WEATHER

Below normal rainfall across most of the region this summer (Fig. 1) has allowed abnormally dry and drought conditions to spread throughout the region (Fig. 2). The lower lee sides of the islands have been the driest. With no significant pattern changes expected in the near future, dry conditions will continue into October. A normal start to the Hawai'ian rainy season is expected in November. Temperatures were above normal across the region in September (Fig 3 next page), and above normal sea surface temperatures (SST) continue in the nearby waters (Fig 4 next page).

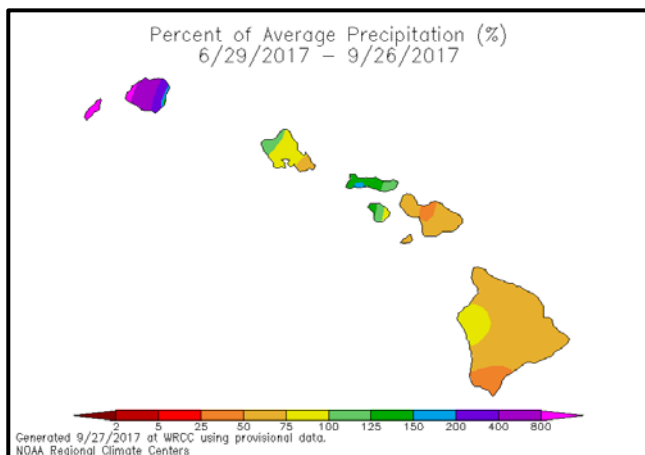


Figure 1: Percent of average precipitation past 90 days

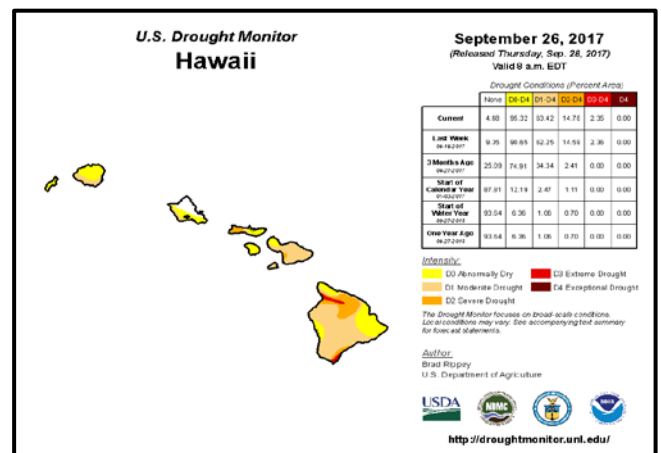


Figure 2: Drought Monitor for Hawai'i

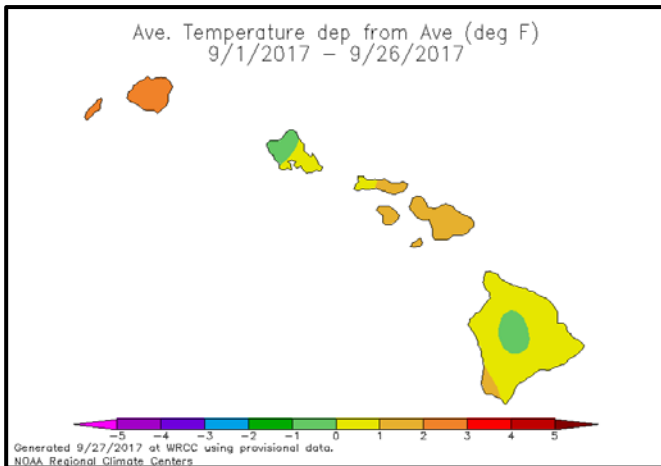


Figure 3: Average temperature (departure from average) in September

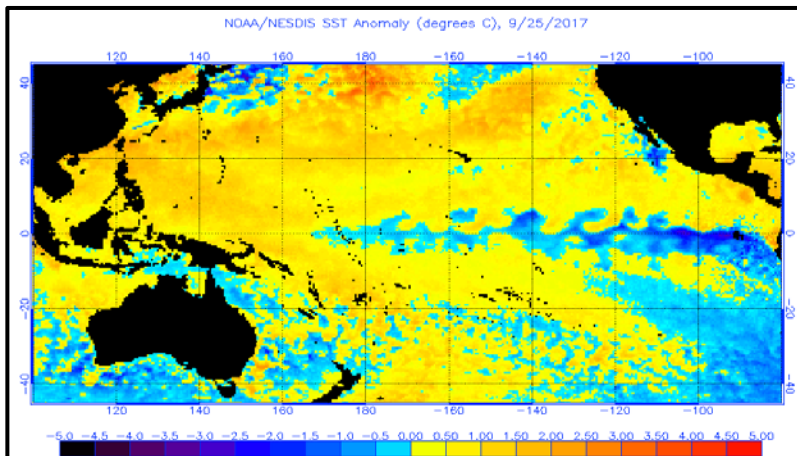


Figure 4: Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) anomaly

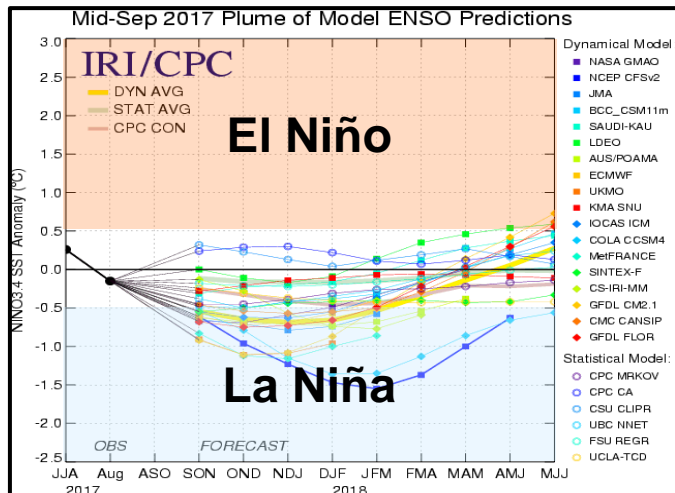


Figure 5: Plume diagram showing ENSO potential of La Niña this fall

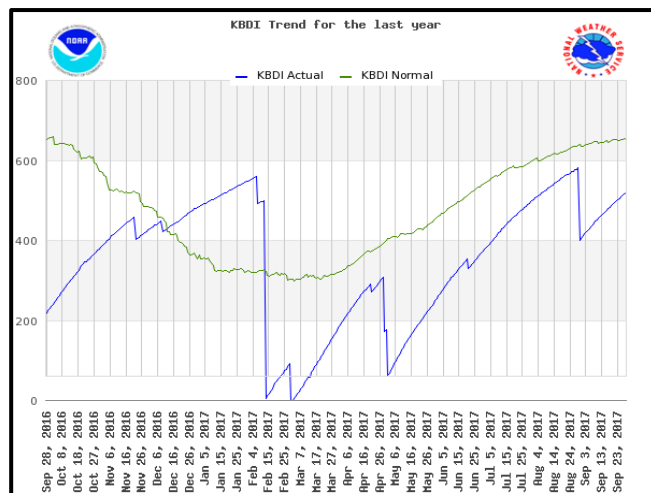


Figure 6: Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) blue = 2017 green = average

HAWAI'I FUELS and FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

Sea surface temperatures (Fig. 4) in the vicinity of the islands are expected to remain above normal through January, which will keep temperatures above normal throughout the islands. The equatorial Pacific is in ENSO-neutral status, but a weak La Niña phase is expected to begin this fall, followed by a return to neutral status by late winter (Fig. 5). Recent research shows that rainfall patterns during a La Niña pattern are quite variable, so at this time, according to NOAA forecasters and the Climate Prediction Center, the Hawai'ian rainy season is expected to begin at the typical time in November, and produce near normal rainfall amounts. Honolulu received heavy rainfall late in August and the Honolulu KBDI chart reflects that (Fig. 6), but this isn't the case over much of the rest of the region where fuels indices continue to show drier than normal conditions. With no significant rainfall events in the forecast, **Significant Fire Potential will remain Above Normal in October for the lower lee sides of the islands. Increasing rainfall starting in November will move these areas back to Normal Nov-Jan. All other areas have Normal Significant Fire Potential Oct-Jan.**