



Contact: Ray Tanabe  
808-973-5275

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### **NOAA Prepares Citizens for Possible El Niño Impacts in Hawaii and the Pacific**

NOAA climate experts say the strengthening El Niño could mean a greater chance of late-season tropical cyclone development in the central Pacific, more high surf and less rainfall for the Hawaiian Islands during the upcoming wet season, which normally runs from October through April.

“Following the hurricane season, the presence of El Niño is expected to bring drier than normal conditions for the remainder of the wet season,” said Kevin Kodama, senior service hydrologist at NOAA’s Honolulu Forecast Office. “Drier than normal conditions will worsen existing severe to extreme drought over portions of the State if early wet season rainfall in October and November does not materialize.”

Current sea surface temperatures and computer models point to a continued strengthening of El Niño conditions through the upcoming winter season. Buoy and satellite data indicate sea surface temperatures were at least 1.0 degree Celsius above average across much of the central and east-central equatorial Pacific.

The central Pacific has already seen an above average number of tropical cyclones during this year’s hurricane season. An El Niño has the potential to create conditions that are ripe for tropical systems to develop near the end of the hurricane season. Hurricane Iwa devastated parts of Hawaii in late November 1982, an El Niño year.

“There is always the possibility for a late season tropical cyclone during an El Niño period,” said Jim Weyman, director of NOAA’s Central Pacific Hurricane Center. “We urge everyone in the State of Hawaii to remain prepared throughout the year.”

The Territories of Guam and American Samoa and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands are also subject to weather extremes during El Niño.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

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