



Dry Weather Dominates 2006 Except for First Quarter

Dry weather across the State prevailed during most of 2006 with over half of the rainfall coming in the months of February, March, and October. Seven of the fourteen stations with complete rainfall records for the year reported above normal rainfall. Sporadic rainfall across the State brought some relief to the persistent drought conditions. Crop conditions varied with the lower precipitation. Dry conditions allowed for more fieldwork and increased the need for irrigation.

January-March

January was mostly dry with only the Hilo station reporting above normal rainfall. Brisk trade winds and cool temperatures were reported much of the month. Rainfall picked up in February with a heavy, almost continuous, rain event that carried on into March. Seven of the reporting stations reported above normal rainfall in February and twelve had above normal rainfall in March. Rains were often heavy during this period with widespread flooding and crop damage. Strong winds and cool temperatures prevailed during this period. The heavy rainfall during February through March filled reservoirs and saturated top soil across the State.

April-June

Drier weather prevailed in early April. Moderate trade winds with mostly sunny conditions dominated. Favorable weather conditions continued through the rest of the month. Most locations were dry with some isolated showers and moderate trade winds. None of the primary weather stations reported above

normal rainfall for April. Early May saw some heavy rain on the Big Island, but the rest of the State remained relatively dry. Mid-May saw warm, dry conditions with moderate trade winds across the islands. Mostly warm, sunny conditions with isolated showers and light winds occurred at the end of May. Seven of the stations reported above normal rainfall for the month of May. June weather began with warm and dry conditions with isolated showers in windward and mountain areas. Some areas received moderate rainfall while others were primarily sunny, warm, and dry. None of the sixteen weather stations recorded above average rainfall for June.

July-September

Warm and dry with light showers in windward and mountain areas was the prevailing weather condition in early July. Warm temperatures, gusty winds, and dry conditions prevailed in mid-July. Mostly dry, sunny conditions prevailed at the end of July. Hurricane David passed south of the islands in late July, which disrupted the trade winds and dropped some light showers. One station reported above normal rainfall in July. Tropical Storm Fabio passed north of the islands in early August, bringing passing showers to several areas. Moderate trade winds with sunny, dry conditions dominated in mid-August. Isolated showers were limited to windward and mountain areas. August finished with warm, dry conditions, sunshine, and light winds. Only two stations reported above normal rainfall for August. Moderate rainfall fell on the Big Island in early September while the

rest of the State had warm temperatures and dry conditions. Mid-September was mixed with mostly dry, sunny conditions and isolated showers. September ended with continued warm temperatures and isolated precipitation. Five of the sixteen weather stations experienced above normal rainfall in September and none had above normal rainfall for the third quarter.

October-December

Light winds, warm temperatures, cloud cover, and scattered precipitation prevailed in early October. Favorable weather conditions prevailed in mid-October, but a 6.6 magnitude earthquake shook the State causing some structural damage to buildings, bridges, and water causeways. Intermittent wet weather came in late October with heavy rainfall in many areas. Crop and pasture conditions improved in many areas due to the precipitation, but flooding and excess moisture were a problem in others. Ten of the stations reported above normal rainfall for October. November started with favorable temperatures and dry conditions across most of the State. Variable weather prevailed in mid-November with warm, dry conditions at the end of the month. Two stations had above normal rainfall in November. December started out with sunny skies and scattered showers. Cool and dry conditions prevailed in mid-December. Late December saw continued dry conditions and light winds. None of the sixteen weather stations reported above normal rainfall for December.