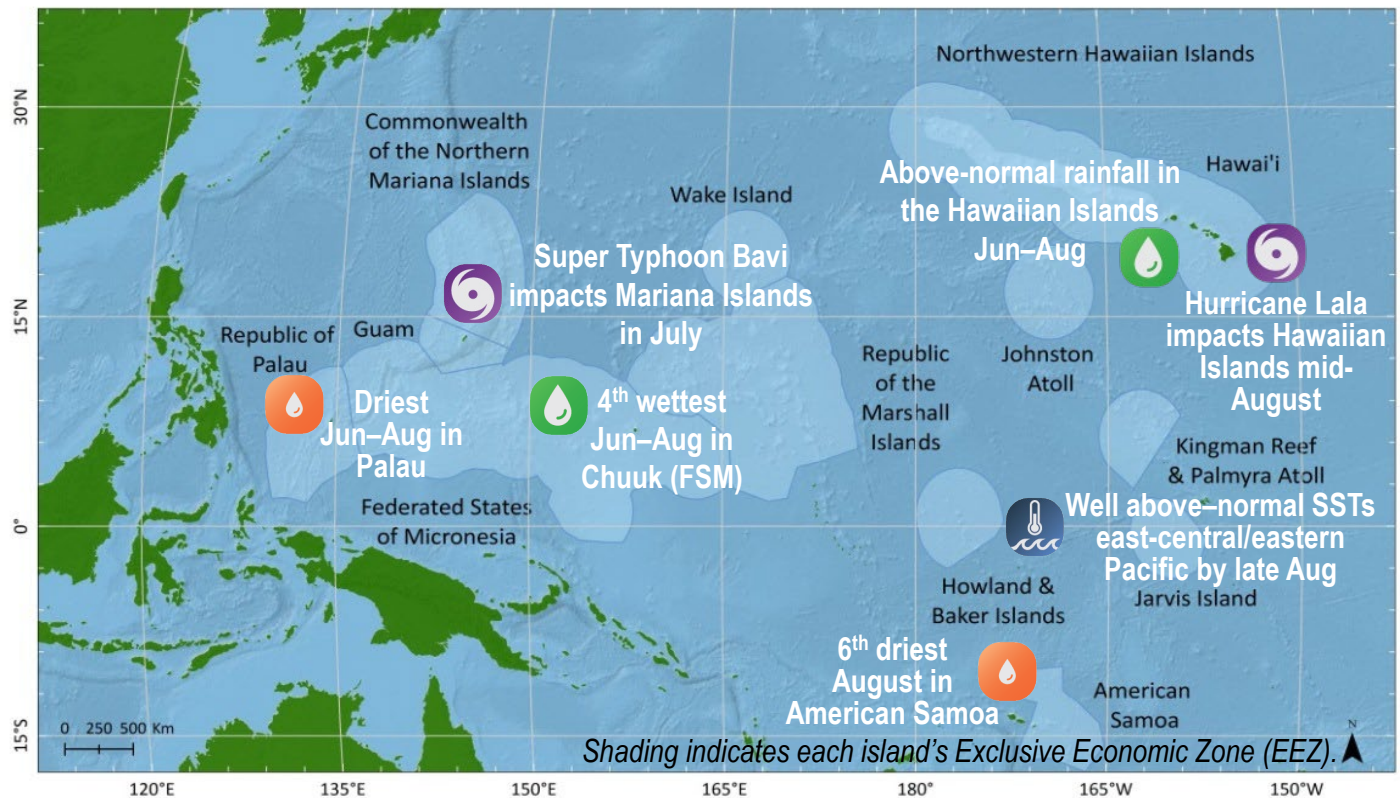


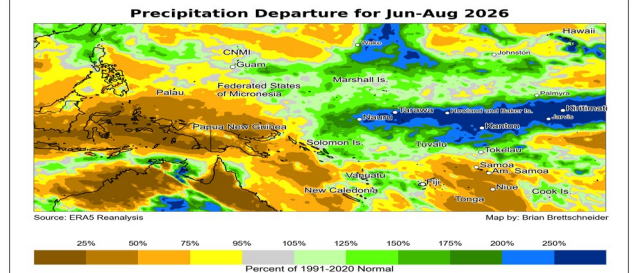
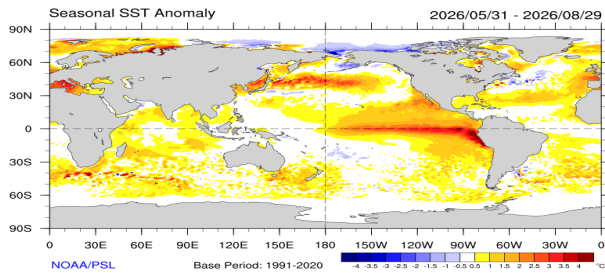
Significant Events – For June 2026–August 2026



Highlights for Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

- During June–August 2026 (JJA), El Niño conditions were present, with the Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI) at $+1.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for JJA. An El Niño Advisory is currently in effect, with the latest weekly Niño 3.4 index at $+1.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño developing during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27, according to the latest NOAA ENSO Diagnostic Discussion update issued September 10, 2026, by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC).
- During JJA, above-normal precipitation was observed across areas of the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), including Guam, much of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), as well as the Hawaiian Islands. Drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in the Republic of Palau (driest JJA on record in Airai), and American Samoa.
- In the Hawaiian Islands, Hurricane Lala brushed the southern tip of the Big Island on August 15 bringing torrential rainfall, severe flooding, damaging winds, debris flows, landslides, widespread power outages, and damage to homes and infrastructure. Impacts were felt not only on the Big Island but across the island chain.
- In the Mariana Islands, Super Typhoon Bavi made landfall on Rota on July 6 as a Category 5 typhoon, with estimated wind gusts of $\sim 180+$ mph, resulting in catastrophic damage to homes and infrastructure. The storm also impacted Saipan and Tinian, which were still recovering from Typhoon Sinlaku in April. Guam experienced torrential rainfall, flash flooding, infrastructure damage, power outages, and transportation disruptions associated with Bavi.

Climate Overview – For June 2026–August 2026



Sea surface temperature anomalies for May 31–Aug 29, 2026 (left), and 3-month precipitation departures from normal for Jun–Aug 2026 across the central and western tropical Pacific, with warmer colors indicating drier-than-normal conditions and cooler colors indicating wetter-than-normal conditions (right).

Source: NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory (left); ERA5 Reanalysis/B. Brettschneider, National Weather Service (right).

By the end of the JJA period, El Niño conditions were present, with above-average SSTs observed across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. In portions of the western tropical Pacific/USAPI region, SSTs ranged from near normal to below normal, while SSTs in the west-central equatorial Pacific Niño 4 region were near-normal. According to the September 8, 2026, NOAA CPC ENSO: Recent Evolution, Current Status and Predictions update weekly Niño region SST departures were +0.1°C in Niño 4, +1.8°C in Niño 3.4, +2.7°C in Niño 3, and +3.9°C in Niño 1+2.

During June–August 2026, satellite-derived sea-level anomalies showed a strengthening El Niño–type pattern, with positive anomalies intensifying across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific and below-normal sea levels developing across the western tropical Pacific. In the east-central/eastern equatorial Pacific, anomalies increased from +5 to +20 cm in June to +10 to +40 cm by August, with the strongest positive anomalies centered within ~10° of the equator from the east-central Pacific eastward toward the South American coast. By August, sea levels were below normal across tropical Micronesia, generally ranging from -5 to -25 cm and locally approaching -30 cm near portions of FSM, Palau, Guam, and nearby waters. In the Hawaiian Islands, sea levels were near normal to slightly above normal, generally ranging from 0 to +10 cm. These observations are based on the latest available satellite altimetry data from the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Level Center.

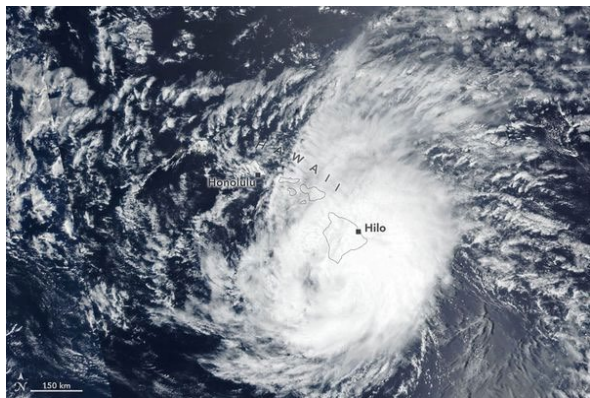
During JJA, most of the USAPI region remained drought-free, except for the development of moderate drought in American Samoa during August, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. For JJA precipitation totals, Airai (Palau) recorded 32.82 in. (74% of normal; driest JJA). In FSM, Yap observed 51.82 in. (124% of normal; 4th wettest Jul–Aug), Kapingamarangi 42.77 in. (123% of normal), Pohnpei 59.46 in. (130% of normal; 2nd wettest Jul–Aug), Lukunor 46.79 in. (158% of normal), Kosrae 49.78 in. (111% of normal; 6th wettest Aug), and Chuuk 56.09 in. (138% of normal; 4th wettest JJA). In the Mariana Islands, Guam recorded 40.23 in. (122% of normal). In the RMI, Majuro observed 35.35 in. (104% of normal), while Kwajalein logged 41.83 in. (156% of normal; 4th wettest JJA). In Pago Pago, American Samoa, JJA precipitation was below normal, with 14.03 in. observed (75% of normal; 6th driest Aug). In the Hawaiian Islands, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed across portions of the island chain during June–July; however, Hurricane/TS Lala (mid-August) brought torrential rainfall to areas of the Big Island, Maui, and O‘ahu, including a two-day total of ~37 inches observed at the Nene Cabin weather station on the southern flank of Mauna Loa in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. For JJA rainfall totals, Hilo observed 43.52 in. (156% of normal; 6th wettest JJA and Aug), Kailua-Kona 2.05 in. (114% of normal), Kahului 2.38 in. (193% of normal; 6th wettest Aug), Moloka‘i 3.27 in. (158% of normal; 2nd wettest Aug), Honolulu 1.25 in. (67% of normal), and Līhu‘e 5.65 in. (96% of normal).

In the Northeast Pacific region east of 180°, the tropical cyclone (TC) activity was above-normal with 15 named storms and a regional Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) Index of 104.1 compared to the 1991–2020 normal of 82.1 as of September 1. In the Northwest Pacific, TC activity was also above normal as of September 1, with an ACE Index of 214.8 (normal: 135), according to the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project.

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Sectoral Impacts – For June 2026–August 2026



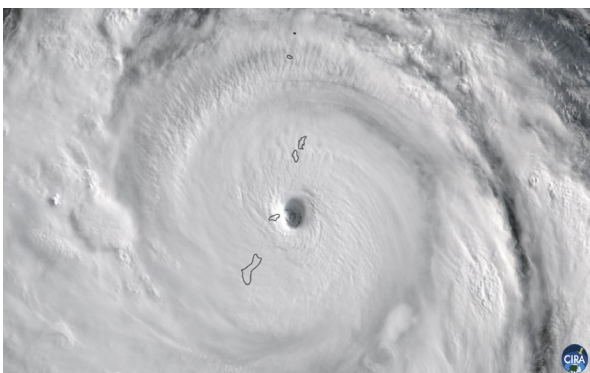
VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) image from the Suomi NPP satellite of Hurricane Lala (Category 1) as it passed south of the Big Island on August 15, 2026, at 1:45 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (23:45 UTC).

Source: NASA Earth Observatory.



Severe damage from flash flooding and debris flows observed in the Ka'u District on Hawaii Island associated with Hurricane Lala.

Source: University of Hawai'i News.

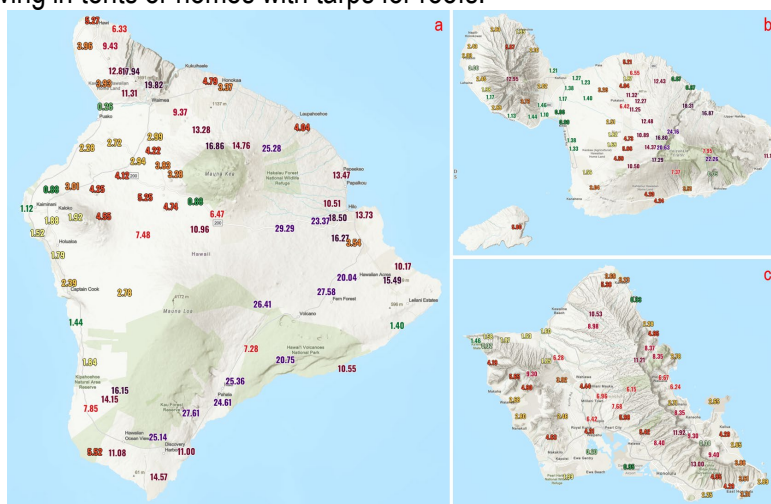


Satellite image of Super Typhoon Bavi as it crossed the Mariana Islands on July 5, 2026.

Source: Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere/Colorado State University; Korea Meteorological Administration; and National Satellite Center.

Facilities and Infrastructure – In the Hawaiian Islands, Governor Green issued multiple emergency proclamations related to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Lala, and President Trump approved Governor Green's request for a presidential emergency declaration following the storm. The storm event (August 14–16) led to widespread severe impacts, including loss of life, significant damage to infrastructure (power, transportation, communications), and private property across the state. The storm delivered torrential rainfall, flash flooding, damaging winds, landslides, and severe damage to communities including Pāhala, Nā'ālehu, and Wai'ōhinu on the Big Island. Precipitation totals generally ranged from ~2–10 inches, with the hardest-hit areas receiving more than 25 inches—primarily along the windward and southern portions of the Big Island.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, Super Typhoon Bavi (Category 5) made direct landfall on Rota (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) on July 6 with maximum wind gusts estimated at more than 150 mph. Bavi caused catastrophic wind damage, flooding, power outages, and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure on Rota. In Guam, Bavi's impacts included very heavy rainfall accumulations (up to 17 inches), damaging winds, hazardous surf, and power outages. In CNMI, Bavi was the second catastrophic typhoon to impact the region within an 83-day period, with wind gusts over 100 mph observed at Saipan International Airport. According to the American Red Cross, Bavi impacted Saipan, forcing many residents to evacuate during a period when thousands of residents were still recovering from Super Typhoon Sinlaku and living in tents or homes with tarps for roofs.



Precipitation totals for a) Hawaii Island, b) Maui and Kaho'olawe, and c) O'ahu, associated with Hurricane/TS Lala (August 14–16, 2026).

Source: NWS Honolulu; Synoptic.

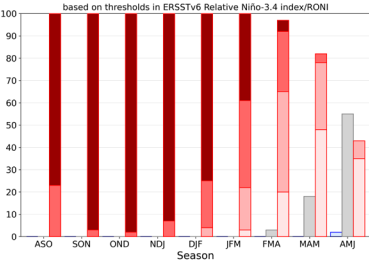
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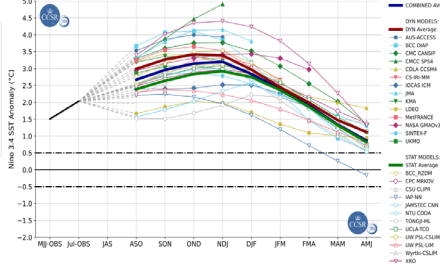
Seasonal Outlook – For Sept–Nov 2026

Regional Partners

NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued September 2026)



CCSR/IRI Model Predictions of ENSO from Aug 2026

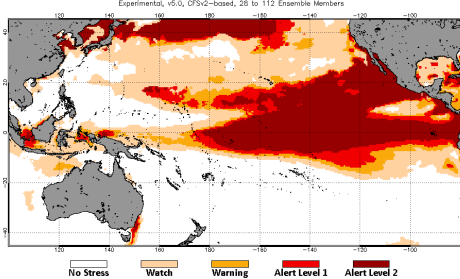


Official NOAA CPC ENSO strength probabilities. Bars show the chance of El Niño (red), ENSO-Neutral (grey), and La Niña (blue) provided for 9 upcoming, overlapping 3-month season. Color shading within bars indicates the chances of each category of El Niño or La Niña strength (weak, moderate, strong, very strong) (left); and ENSO forecast model predictions (right). Source: NOAA CPC (left); Columbia IRI (right).

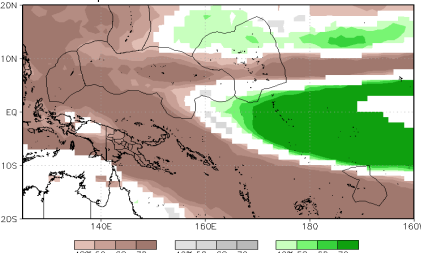
According to the latest NOAA CPC ENSO Diagnostic Discussion, an El Niño Advisory is in effect, with El Niño having strengthened further over the past month and a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño event developing during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026–27 (above left). During the October–December 2026 period, there is a 75% chance of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950 (+2.5°C or more for a 3-month RONI value). Moreover, current subsurface temperatures continue to be significantly above average, with widespread anomalies exceeding +10.0°C at depth.

The NOAA Coral Reef Watch four-month Coral Bleaching Heat Stress Outlook (Sep–Dec 2026; below left) indicates a high probability (90%) of widespread high heat stress (Alert Level 1–2) expected across much of the west-central, central, and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

2026 Aug 25 NOAA Coral Reef Watch 80% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Sep–Dec 2026



USAPI NMME prob fcst Prate IC=202609 for lead 0 2026 SON



NOAA Coral Reef Watch 90% probability coral reef heat stress outlook for September–November 2026 (left); and NOAA North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) USAPI seasonal precipitation forecast for September–November 2026 (right). Source: NOAA NESDIS (left); NOAA CPC (right).

For the September–November (SON) 2026 precipitation forecast, below-normal rainfall is favored for the Mariana Islands, Palau, much of FSM, central RMI, and American Samoa, while above-normal rainfall is expected in northern RMI. For the Hawaiian Islands, NOAA CPC's Long-Lead Hawaiian Islands Seasonal Forecast Discussion indicates for equal chances of above-normal, near-normal, and below-normal precipitation for Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and the Big Island during SON 2026, due to weaker signals in the forecast tools.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch:

<https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/>

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information:

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/pacific-islands-fisheries-science-center>

NOAA NWS Weather Forecast Offices Honolulu, Guam, & Pago Pago:

<https://www.weather.gov/hfo/>

<https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

<https://www.weather.gov/ppg/>

NOAA OceanWatch - Central Pacific Node:

<https://oceanwatch.pifsc.noaa.gov/index.html>

NPS Pacific Island Inventory & Monitoring Network:

<https://www.nps.gov/im/pacn/index.htm>

University of Guam - Water and Environmental Research Institute:

<https://weri.uog.edu/>

University of Hawaii - Asia Pacific Data Research Center (APDRC):

<https://apdrc.soest.hawaii.edu/>

University of Hawaii – Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Research:

<https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/jimar/index.htm>

University of Hawaii - Sea Level Center:

<https://uhscl.soest.hawaii.edu/>

USGS Science Center - Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center:

<https://www.usgs.gov/pacific-coastal-and-marine-science-center>

USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center:

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/pacific-islands-water-science-center>

Western Regional Climate Center:

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/>



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