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March 2023

Brought to you by Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension, CTAHR, Fire & Ecosystems Program. Partner submissions encouraged!

Weather & Climate Outlook

Currently 90% of Hawai'i is abnormally dry after excessive rainfall events in January and February. **The four-month weather outlook calls for near to above normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation.** La Niña will continue to weaken during the next couple months with a transition to ENSO neutral likely by April. The weakening La Niña will also likely allow stronger MJO events, thus providing better chances for more organized precipitation events across the islands. Enhanced trade winds are likely to occur during the next couple of months as La Niña weakens but is not expected to align with critically dry fuels.

- [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) March - June 2023

- US [Drought Monitor for Hawaii](#) - current conditions
- [US Drought Monitor](#) for Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, Marshalls and American Samoa
- [Hawaii and USAPI Climate Summary](#) - 4th Quarter 2022

Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) Highlights



Fresh off the PFX press! In this month's **Partner Perspectives**, we interviewed Assistant Chief of Operations Darwin Okinaka who started out as a responder for Hawai'i County Fire Department and is now a community liason with landowners and partners after the 2021 Mana Road fire, one of Hawai'i's largest in history. [Read the condensed interview](#) or view his conversation with Melissa Chimera, PFX coordinator [HERE](#) (42 MINS).

Anderson's Talk Story Tuesday, "Informing Contemporary Wildfire Science from Historical Hawaiian Language Newspapers" not to worry! We have it recorded [HERE](#).



Partnerships in Action



Our statewide network of Firewise® USA communities is growing! With support and guidance from the HWMO (in partnership with DOFAW), the **Anekona Subdivision** (greater Waimea area, Hawai'i Island) hosted a roadside Firewise informational table on February 25 to share Firewise and

mascot!). They also promoted the free home assessments that are available from HWMO and generated a contact list for their new Firewise communications. Having met this NFPA Firewise requirement, they are now one step closer to becoming a nationally recognized Firewise® USA community. Go Anekona!



And speaking of partnerships, **Paniolo Hale Firewise community is partnering with the Maui Fire Department and the Molokai Public Library to celebrate Wildfire Awareness Month** by distributing "Take and Make Craft Kits" to keiki that visit the library during the month of May. As always, we are inspired by the forward thinking `ohana-spirit of Molokai in thinking about wildfire prevention and response. What a creative and fun endeavor and partnership!

From Our Partners

- Nā 'Ōiwi o Pu'uanahulu and the Volunteer Firefighters of Company 16 Bravo are hosting a benefit golf tournament on Sunday, April 30 at Makani

- Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. has announced the [Reduced Emissions from Megafires](#) carbon offset protocol which quantifies the change in fire behaviors created by mitigation treatments and allows project proponents to generate offsets based on these emission reductions. The credit can be generated and sold prior to, and in tandem with, mitigation work, making it a truly unique new method for funding fire and ecological restoration types of forest mitigation.

Hometown Heroes





What a beautiful day for West Hawai'i at Spencer Beach Park! On March 4th, the **International Beach Cleanup** hosted **HWMO community wildfire ambassadors** alongside resident **Firewise super troopers** who talked with visitors and others, answering questions, like “When is fire season in Hawai'i?” (Answer: everyday!) and “What is defensible space?” (NOT the answer: The area around the moon monitored by satellites.) A big shout-out to these folks for helping us all spread the wildfire preparedness message, promoting the home assessments, and being amazing human beings: Shelly & Dana Aina (Waikoloa Village), Mary Schramke (Waikoloa Village), Wayne Awai (Waikoloa Village), Mike Mundon (Pu'ukapu Pastoral), and Barbara Torpey (Kamuela View Estates). They make wildfire education so fun and we appreciate them each and every day as they help spread the word among our neighbors and friends. Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo!

Hawaii and Pacific.

Webinars, Research, Reports and News

- 2-day in-person Coalitions and Collaboratives Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices Training courses - March, April, & August 2023. Learn more and apply [HERE](#).
- Effectiveness of Fuel Treatments at the Landscape Scale: the State of Understanding and Key Research Gaps by Southern Rockies Fire Science Network at Apr 5, 2023 at 7:00 am HST. Register [HERE](#).
- 8th International Wildland Fire Conference - May 16 - 19, 2023, Portugal. More information [HERE](#).

National News & Policy

- [Biden-Harris Administration Invests Nearly \\$200M from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Reduce Wildfire Risk to Communities across State, Private and Tribal Lands](#) (USDA press release, March 2023)
- [Record-breaking amount of carbon dioxide emissions from wildfires in 2021](#). (Open-Access Government, March 7, 2023)
- [New study finds humans cause majority of destructive wildfires in the West](#) (Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Feb 23, 2023)

a summary is based on 133 wildland fire incidents gathered at the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center in 2022.

- [Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Releases Strategy to Meet Aerial Firefighting Equipment Needs](#) (Federal Emergency Management Agency Press Release). Read the report [HERE](#).
- The FireGeneration Collaborative (FireGen) is a growing group of young firefighters, fire practitioners, researchers, and organizers who seek to reimagine fire culture, transform decision-making, and promote equitable, proactive, and resilient solutions in fire management. Learn more about their mission by reading our [one pager](#) and visiting our [landing page](#).

National and International Research and Reports

- [Improving wildfire predictions with soil science](#) (USGS) - South Central CASC-supported researchers are looking beyond weather data and towards soil science to better protect lives and property from dangerous wildfires.
- [Multi-Objective Scheduling of Fuel Treatments to Implement a Linear Fuel Break Network](#) (Pedro Belavenutti, Alan A. Ager , Michelle A. Day and Woodam Chung, Fire 2023)
- [Building Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptive Capacity: a Systematic Review of Aspen Ecology and Management in the Southwest](#) (Connor D

- Wildland Fire Management Research, Development & Application (WFM RD&A) [March 2023 Newsletter](#) features important announcements for the wildland fire community and provides significant updates.

National Multimedia: Webinars, Interviews, and Learning through Stories

- Webinar Recording: [Public Health Impacts of Wildfire Smoke, Part I](#). World Forestry Center, February 2023.
- Storymap: [Fires in the Western U.S: Big fires. Big challenges](#) (Joint Fire Science Exchange Network). March 29, 10:00 am (Pacific Time) Fire in the Western U.S. Join the office hour and learn about the diverse inputs and outcomes from six large fires spanning five Joint Fire Science Program Regional Fire Science Exchanges & The Nature Conservancy LANDFIRE. Register [HERE](#).
- [SCIENCE x Fire Week](#): 2/28 - 3/3 U.S. Forest Service Recordings

- [California & Hawaii Climate Change Resource Assistant](#), USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program at either Hilo, HI or Honolulu, HI. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks). June 2023 – February 2024 (Expected Start Date: June 11, 2023). Applications are due by Thursday, March 30, 2023.
- [Extension Specialist, University of Hawai'i Assistant](#), Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Location: Hilo, Hawaii or Honolulu, Hawaii. Deadline: March 31, 2023. Inquiries: Dr. Creighton M. Litton; litton@hawaii.edu
- Climate Change and Invasive Species Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) - Interested applicants must submit their proposals to Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio at conservation@ourmicronesia.org with the subject heading: Climate Change and Invasive Species Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) no later than April 1st, 2023.
- [Field Technician-Temporary](#) (Hilo) - National Ecological Observatory Network, March - November 2023
- [Brown Treesnake project leader](#), Research Corporation University of Guam (open until filled)

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We will feature it in the next newsletter or social media post!

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