

Hawai'i's Historic 14-Day Rainfall in 2026

In March 2026, two back-to-back Kona storms delivered an extraordinary amount of rain across Hawai'i, making it the **third-wettest March since 1920**.

Over a 14-day period, some areas recorded **up to 77 inches of rainfall**, with totals reaching as high as 3,000% of normal for the time of year. The second storm, from **March 19–23**, was especially severe, dropping as much as **61 inches of rain** and triggering devastating flooding on O'ahu's North Shore and throughout Maui County.

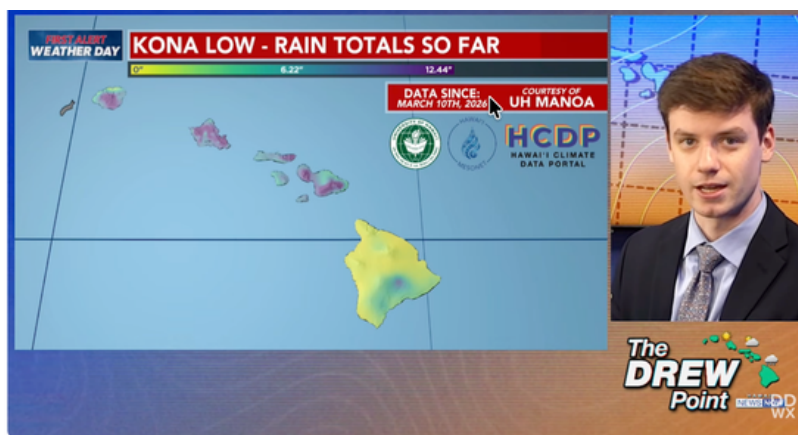
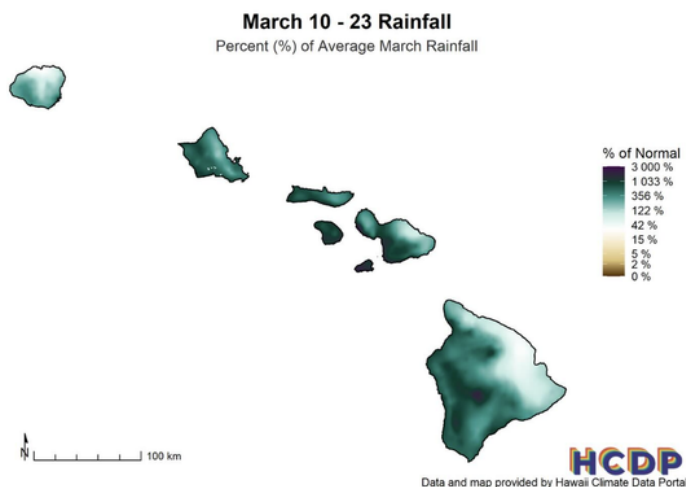
In Mānoa Valley, intense rainfall on **March 23** brought bursts of nearly **8 inches** onto already saturated ground, causing rapid flash flooding.

Across the major Hawaiian Islands, estimates indicate an average of **20.4 inches of rain** fell during the two-week period. That translates to more than **2.3 trillion gallons of water**—roughly the equivalent of **3.5 million Olympic-size swimming pools**—pouring onto the islands.

To help Hawai'i prepare for and respond to these storms, the Change Hawai'i project developed an automated workflow that delivers daily HCDP rainfall maps to **Hawai'i News Now**, formatted specifically for broadcast use. During major storms, the team also provides manually curated, specialized maps. These visualizations are featured periodically on air and daily on the station's YouTube channel, reaching more than 50,000 viewers during peak weather events.



Photo credit: AP Photo/Mengshin Lin



Left: Rainfall map for the 14-day period, showing areas where rainfall reached up to 3,000% of normal. Right: Hawaii News Now shows powerful Kona Storm that brought flooding to parts of Hawai'i