

WEATHER & CLIMATE

*One of the most remarkably stable
and consistently pleasant climates on earth.*

HIGHLIGHTS

Hawaii is famous for its gorgeous weather, and Kauai is no exception. A common misconception is that it "rains all the time" on Kauai, probably because Mt. Waialeale is known as the wettest spot on earth. While it's true that Mt. Waialeale, the dormant volcano crater in the center of the island, does receive over 400 inches of rain a year, a look at the Average Precipitation chart shows that rainfall is radically less elsewhere on the island. The Garden Island enjoys one of the most remarkably stable and consistently pleasant climates on earth.

Kauai owes its near-perfect climate to its location near the equator (about 22N latitude and 159W longitude), the lack of influence by a continental landmass, the absorption of the sun's energy by the ocean, the consistent length of days, and prevailing trade winds. The average high temperature during January is 78 degrees (F.) and the average high temperature during August is 85 degrees. Humidity percentages are normally in the 60s and low 70s. Kauai's weather is almost always pleasant. The West Side is a little drier and warmer; the North Shore is a little wetter and cooler. Surface water temperatures range from about 73 degrees in February to 80 degrees in October—just about perfect for swimming any time of the year.

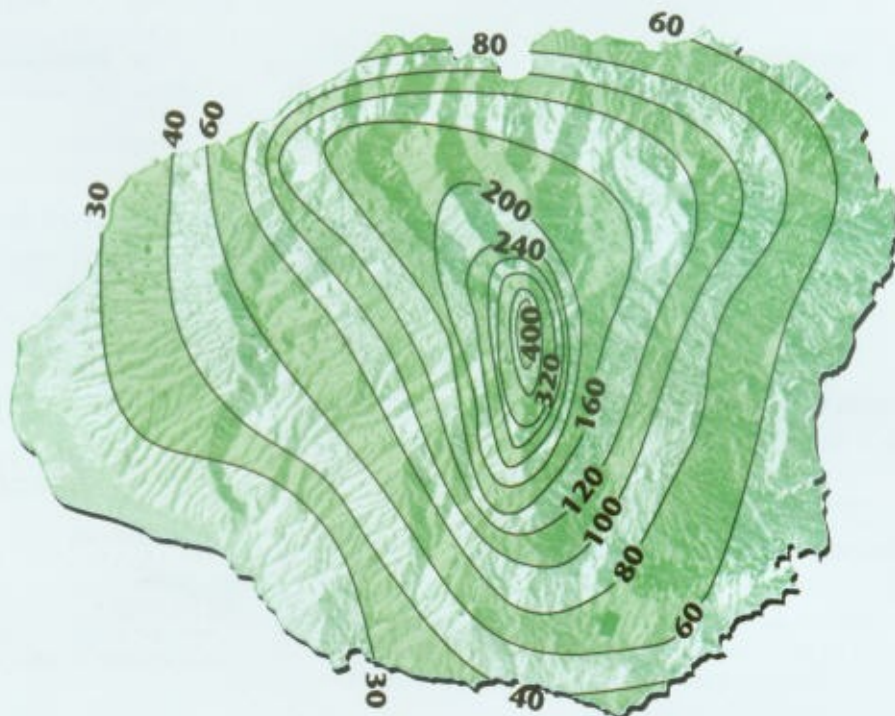
Hurricanes do occur in Hawaii. The last one on Kauai was Hurricane Iniki in 1992.

The storm gave the island a good pruning and can be thought of as Mother Nature's way of cleaning house. The State of Hawaii has an elaborate warning system against disasters including sirens atop

poles to warn of storms, earthquakes and tsunami. As a consequence, loss of life has been minimal. If there is a price to paradise, a near-perfect climate makes up for most of it. ♦

		AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (Fahrenheit)					
		Jan.	Mar.	May	Jun.	Sept.	Nov.
HANAPEPE	high	79	80	81	84	82	80
	low	60	60	61	65	62	61
LIHUE	high	79	79	79	82	82	80
	low	60	60	65	70	68	65
KILAUEA	high	79	79	80	82	82	80
	low	62	64	66	68	69	65

AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION - INCHES



Source: Juvik & Juvik, Atlas of Hawaii, 3rd Ed., University of Hawaii Press, 1998.

RESOURCES

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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WESTERN REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512 (775) 674-7010. www.wrcc.dri.edu

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Hawaiian Waters Forecast (808) 245-3564

SURF NEWS NETWORK www.surfnewsnetwork.com/kauai-face.php