

Climate and Health Resources: HAWAII



Climate change poses risks to human health. [Already in the United States](#), we are seeing rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of some types of extreme weather, sea level rise, and other changes in weather and climate patterns. We are all vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. However, these climate and health risks vary across the country.

Since the 1950s, sea surface temperatures around Hawaii have increased. This and other climate impacts, like decreased rainfall, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Hawaii residents include:

- **Climate change will make coastal floods worse.** These floods can cause injuries, deaths, and mental health impacts. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Plan and practice your evacuation route. Evacuate when advised to do so.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

- **Extreme weather events can disrupt important infrastructure** (such as utilities and roads). Pacific Islanders rely on ports and airports that are vulnerable to storms and sea level rise to receive food and other supplies. [Learn how you can take action to manage infrastructure disruptions](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such boiling water before use.
 - **Respond:** Avoid fallen power lines.

- **Increasing drought threatens traditional food sources** such as taro and breadfruit. [Learn how you can take action to protect against droughts](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Reduce water use. For example, use low-flow faucets.
 - **Prepare:** Be aware that droughts may reduce the quality of drinking water from private wells.

Learn more in the [USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment](#).

The examples of risks and actions provided in this document are not a comprehensive list. They provide users with illustrative impacts and resources for further information. Examples were selected based on relevance to the state or region and representation of a diversity of health threats. Selection does not imply ranking of severity of impacts nor prioritization of actions. The examples of impacts are based on "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," available at <https://health2016.globalchange.gov>, as well as the National Climate Assessment at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

RESOURCES FOR HAWAII RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn more: What Climate Change Means for Hawaii	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn more: National Climate Assessment: Hawaii and Pacific Islands	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program	State of Hawaii
	Explore Actions: A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii, 2009	State of Hawaii
	Find Resources: EPA Region 9 (Pacific Southwest)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Hawaii Department of Health	State of Hawaii
	Find Resources: Hawaii Emergency Management Agency	State of Hawaii