

= Hurricane Gil (1983) =

Hurricane Gil was the first of several tropical cyclones to affect Hawaii during the 1983 Pacific hurricane season . Gil originated from a tropical depression that developed near Clipperton Island on July 23 . Steadily intensifying , it attained tropical storm status six hours later and was upgraded to a hurricane on July 26 . After attaining peak intensity on July 27 , Gil encountered cooler sea surface temperatures and began to weaken . Moving west @-@ northwest , the weakening system also accelerated and on July 31 , was downgraded to a tropical depression . However , Gil began to re @-@ intensify on August 1 , becoming a tropical storm again later that day . Initially expected to veer north of Hawaii , it continued west @-@ northwest and began to approach the Hawaiian group on August 3 . While passing through the island group , Gil reached its secondary peak intensity . Subsequently , Gil began to weaken once again as it threatened the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands . After passing through the islands , Gil was downgraded to a tropical depression on August 5 . Several hours later , the storm dissipated . The remnants of the storm moved into the West Pacific late on August 6 and were last noted the next morning while passing south of Midway Island .

Due to fears of a repeat of Hurricane Iwa , which devastated the island group the previous year , officials issued many tropical cyclone warnings and watches while seven shelters were opened , though few people actually used these shelters . On Oahu , a power outage was reported , affecting 2 @, @ 400 customers . Jellyfish also stung 50 people . Locally heavy rainfall and rough seas led to minor damage while strong winds lead to extensive damage on the north side of the island . On Maui and Kauai , minor flooding , as well , though damage was minimal . Offshore , one person is presumed to have died in a shipwreck . In a separate shipping incident , three crewmen were slightly injured . The remnants of Gil later affected the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands , where near @-@ gale force winds were measured . Throughout the state , damage was minimal .

= = Meteorological history = =

The seventh tropical cyclone of the season originated from a tropical depression that developed during the afternoon hours of July 23 about 200 mi (320 km) north of Clipperton Island . Due to light wind shear and warm ocean temperatures , the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center (EPHC) upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Gil at 0000 UTC on July 24 . Gil was briefly expected to re @-@ curve and approach Baja California Sur , but this never materialized . Gil subsequently began to intensify ; on 0000 UTC July 25 , the EPHC reported that Gil had intensified into a strong tropical storm , with winds of 70 mph (115 km / h) . Roughly 24 hours later , the storm was upgraded into a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale . Early on July 27 , the storm attained its peak intensity of 90 mph (145 km / h) . Despite turning west @-@ northwest , Hurricane Gil maintained hurricane intensity until 1200 UTC July 29 when the storm began to encounter cooler waters . By 0000 UTC July 31 , Gil was downgraded a tropical depression .

Despite a well @-@ defined atmospheric circulation , Gil was still a tropical depression when it entered Central Pacific Hurricane Center 's (CPHC) warning zone on August 1 . The circulation gradually became better defined moved as the low moved west @-@ northwest over a pool of slightly warmer waters west of 140th meridian west ; later that day , the CPHC reportedly re @-@ upgraded Gil into a tropical storm . Meanwhile , the storm was forecast to pass north of the U.S. State of Hawaii . Gil accelerated while approaching the Hawaiian Island group . On August 2 , Gil was situated roughly 300 mi (485 km) east of the island chain . Gil re @-@ strengthened slightly ; on August 3 , the tropical cyclone reached its secondary peak wind speed of 45 mph (70 km / h) . Late on August 4 , Tropical Storm Gil made its closest approach to Oahu , passing 20 mi (30 km) north of Kahuku Point .

While passing through the archipelago , an Hurricane Hunter aircraft recorded winds of 45 to 50 mph (70 to 80 km / h) ; however , the CPHC held the intensity of storm at 45 mph (70 km / h) due to calm surface winds . By this time , the strongest winds of the storm were situated north of the center . After clearing the main Hawaiian island chain , Gil began to approach the Hawaiian Leeward

Island group . Continuing west @-@ northwest , Gil passed very close to French Frigate Shoals on August 4 as a marginal tropical storm . Early on August 5 , the system was downgraded into a tropical depression while centered 145 mi (235 km) west of Tern Island . Later that day , Tropical Depression Gil degenerated into a trough about 300 mi (485 km) west @-@ northwest of Tern Island . The remnants of the storm crossed the International Dateline late on August 6 . It then passed 150 mi (240 km) south of Midway Island while still producing deep convection . The remains of Gil were last noted in the West Pacific basin early on August 7 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Due to fears of a repeat of Hurricane Iwa , advisories and warnings for the main Hawaiian Islands were issued by meteorologists and Civil Defense Authorities , who had been criticized for the lack of warning prior to Iwa 's near @-@ landfall . Gale warnings were issued for a much of the islands (except for the Big Island) , but on August 2 , these warnings were discontinued for all islands except for Kauai . High surf advisories were also issued . Furthermore , seven shelters were opened as a precaution . Due to the threat of high waves , residents were warned to be ready to evacuate from low @-@ lying areas .

Tropical Storm Gil was the first tropical cyclone to threaten Hawaii since Hurricane Iwa during did the 1982 Pacific hurricane season , which devastated the region . Due to heavy rains , a couple of people sought shelter in Nanakuli High School on the island . Jellyfish stung 50 tourists along two beaches in Oahu , they were treated by life guards and none required hospitalization ; the jellyfish were thought to have been residing there due to the storm . In addition , one beach on Oahu was closed because of high surf , and swimmers were asked to stay out of the water near Waikiki . Locally gusty winds were recorded on Oahu . On the northern part of the island , 70 mph (115 km / h) winds were reported , resulting in extensive damage in some areas , but slight damage to others . A minor power outage on the island briefly left 2 @,@ 400 customers without electricity . In Maui , the outer rainbands of Hurricane Gil brought heavy precipitation , leading to minor flooding . Although winds were calm , locally heavy showers occurred over Kauai . Rough surf pounded the northeastern facing beaches of that island , as well as the northeastern side of Oahu . A sea level pressure of 1 @,@ 011 mb (29 @.@ 9 inHg) was also recorded . Overall , damage from Gil was minimal and less than expected . Later in the season , the state was affected by Tropical Storm Narda and threatened by Hurricane Raymond .

Offshore , several ships were affected by the storm . Most notably , a 19 ft (5 m) catamaran , ironically named Hurricane , went missing after leaving Long Beach on July 20 . Gil likely sunk this ship . The vessel had a crew of two , one of which was presumed to have died during the storm . However , as the ship lacked radio equipment , this death remains unconfirmed . In addition to the above , the 30 @-@ foot ship Adad also got caught into the storm 72 hours after leaving Kauai . Storm surge from all sides nearly sunk the vessel and all three people on board sustained minor injuries , one of which sprained his wrist . After passing the main islands of Hawaii , Gil approached the Leeward Island group . Tropical Storm Gil passed just south of French Frigate Shoals on August 4 as a minimal tropical storm . Winds were light , gusting to 32 mph (51 km / h) . Meanwhile , a peak pressure of 1 @,@ 014 mb (29 @.@ 9 inHg) was reported .