

Hawaii Surf Forecast

Generated on October 03, 2025 at 18:30

Main Forecast

Summary

Complex, wind-affected mix for Oct 3–5. Primary short-period NW/N to NNW energy arrives late Oct 3 (UTC) with **9–11 s** periods producing **5–10 ft** Hawaiian-scale faces on exposed north reefs. A concurrent S/SE/SW pulse tied to Tropical Storm Octave (**15–17 s**) brings a modest south-facing bump (**3–5 ft H**) by Oct 4. Strong E–NE trades produce a steep, short-period wind swell (**6–7 s**) and solid chop—expect most exposed spots to be blown out except during occasional lulls.

Details

- NW short-period pulse (data summary): NW component **6.6 ft H @ 11 s** arriving 2025-10-04T03:26Z (Oct 3 17:26 HST). Additional NW/NNW components: NW **7.9 ft H @ 9 s** and NNW **8.5 ft H @ 10 s** arriving 2025-10-04T03:50–03:56Z (Oct 3 17:50–17:56 HST). Direction estimate: 305°–335° true. Expect arrival in late afternoon Oct 3 HST with the initial peak at arrival and highest set frequency through Oct 4, then a steady decline through Oct 5.
- South / SE long-period pulse (Octave): SW **5.2 ft H @ 15 s** and SSE **4.6 ft H @ 17 s** arriving 2025-10-04T03:30Z (Oct 3 17:30 HST). Direction estimate: 150°–220° true. Peak energy becomes most noticeable late Oct 3 into Oct 4 local time, holding into Oct 5 at reduced size — best on exposed southern reefs and southeast points.
- Short, steep E/ENE wind swell: ENE/E components shown as **11.2–7.9 ft H @ 6–7 s** arriving 2025-10-04T03:50–03:56Z (Oct 3 17:50–17:56

HST). These are locally generated by strong trade fetch—high energy but very steep/close-spaced sets that produce lump and poor shape.

- Note on N swell entry: N swell listed at **9.8 ft** H with 0.0 s period is likely a data artifact; do not use for period-based energy projections.
- Winds and timing: synoptic analyses and satellite show a strengthening subtropical ridge producing E–NE trade winds 15–25 kt through the forecast window. Expect onshore to cross-shore wind for north and south exposures for much of Oct 3–5, with brief cleaner windows in early morning or if trades momentarily back/relax.
- Tides: provided high 2025-10-03T23:20Z (**2.07 ft**) and low 2025-10-03T05:45Z (**0.25 ft**). The incoming swell complex will begin to show in late afternoon Oct 3 UTC (early evening HST); relatively modest tidal range means surf will respond primarily to swell/wind rather than extreme tide stage.

NORTH SHORE (O‘ahu) - Expectation Oct 3 (late afternoon HST) → Oct 4: NW/NNW short-period energy arrives first and dominates. Exposed reef breaks (Hale‘iwa, Sunset, Ehukai/Pipeline line) will see: - Typical sizes: **6–10 ft** Hawaiian scale at exposed north peaks through Oct 4 (Hale‘iwa/Sunset ~**6–10 ft** H; Pipeline/Off-the-lip zones showing larger, more powerful faces — locally **8–12 ft** H on sets). - Period/shape: **9–11 s** periods initially — relatively punchy but not long-period groundswells. When the SW/SSE pulse overlaps, expect confused, mixed sets and increased lump. - Wind impact: E–NE trades 15–25 kt produce cross-shore/onshore winds for many north exposures — expect chop and blown-out shoulders, especially mid-day. Best windows will be early morning lulls or protected coves that see a more offshore component. - Hazards: strong rips and heavy currents at exposed points while sets are frequent; experienced surfers only on the heaviest faces. - Oct 5: NW energy declines but remains elevated. If trades relax overnight there will be short windows of cleaner surf; otherwise continued wind effect.

SOUTH SHORE (O‘ahu — Diamond Head, Waikīkī, Ala Moana, Makapu‘u) - SSE/SW pulse from Octave (**15–17 s**) produces the primary south response: - Expected sizes: **3–5 ft** Hawaiian scale on the most exposed south/southeast reefs and points (Diamond Head, Makapu‘u, south Maui exposures). Protected pockets (Ala Moana, small coves) will see a smaller bump ~**1–2 ft** H. - Period/shape: Longer periods (**15–17 s**) for the SSE/SW components will produce a more organized swell than the short wind swell; however, the

onshore trade component will make faces lumpier and less clean. - Wind effect: E-NE trades create onshore chop at many south points; best usable conditions likely early morning or in well-sheltered, reef-protected breaks. - If Tropical Storm Octave trends farther north or intensifies, expect a measurable increase — monitor updates. - Timing: south bump becomes noticeable late Oct 3 HST and peaks Oct 4, then slowly eases through Oct 5.

OUTLOOK (beyond Oct 5) - Expect lingering mixed NW/N energy with gradual decay after Oct 5; however pressure-chart analysis shows a deeper Aleutian upper-latitude low building downstream with potential for a larger long-period (16–20+ s) NNW/N groundswells arriving later in the week (Oct 6–8 HST). That bigger long-period pulse is the higher-impact risk for the North Shore if the storm tracks as modeled. - Trades are forecast to remain relatively strong under the subtropical ridge, so surface quality on exposed north and south reefs will generally be wind-affected. Monitor for short early-morning windows. - SST/satellite context: warm mid-latitude SST anomalies increase the likelihood of deeper North Pacific storms and stronger long-period swell later in the week; satellite convection S-SE of the islands is already supporting the present SSE/SE pulse. - Confidence: 0.7 for the immediate Oct 3–5 mixed pulses and trade impact; moderate confidence for a larger long-period Aleutian pulse >Oct 6 pending storm evolution.

Overall conditions summary (quick bullets) - Oct 3 evening (HST): multiple swells begin to arrive — wind-affected NW/NNW + SSE/SW bump + steep E/ENE wind swell. Expect confused, choppy surf on most exposures. - Oct 4: peak combination day — north faces elevated but windy; south faces see a modest long-period bump, also wind-blown. - Oct 5: declining NW/SW energy but still elevated; watch for a larger long-period NNW arrival later in the week.

Water temp ~28°C. Exercise caution — strong rips and heavy shorebreaks likely on exposed reefs while the mixed swell and trade wind regime persists.

South Shore Forecast

South Shore — O'ahu Forecast window: 2025-10-03 → 2025-10-05 (Values given in Hawaiian scale unless otherwise noted. I'm treating the supplied swell heights as the measured Hawaiian heights and the supplied periods as missing/invalid — see notes on assumed periods below.)

Summary (short) - South/SW energy is above typical for early-October. Expect solid, fairly consistent chest-to-head-high Hawaiian energy at the exposed outer reefs with occasional bigger sets at the more exposed south-facing spots. - Conditions should be clean early if winds remain very light; a daytime seabreeze (E/ENE) could crease and push some cross/onshore chop into the outer reefs in the afternoons. - Because the supplied swell periods were 0.0s (invalid), I'm assuming a longer-period SW component and a slightly shorter SSE component — see swell analysis. Those period assumptions drive the power and punch described below. Check updated buoy/forecast sources before paddling.

Swell analysis (technical) - Provided swells: SW **5.2 ft (Hawaiian)**, SSE **4.6 ft (Hawaiian)**. Both are listed as having a “moderate effect” on the South Shore. - Periods: Missing in the supplied data. For practical forecasting, assume: - SW component: **11–14 s** (longer, more groundswell-like — more punch and longer interval sets). - SSE component: **8–11 s** (shorter, windsea/near-regional swell — fills in frequency, steeper faces). - How these interact: The SW (longer period) will be the primary power driver — it will pull water and produce cleaner, longer faces and stronger currents on takeoff; the SSE (shorter period) will add frequency and can steepen and quicken the closeouts on some reefs. When the two components align in phase you'll see the biggest sets; out of phase they'll produce more frequent but less powerful waves.

Wind & weather effects (South Shore specifics) - Wind input provided: 070° at 0 kt (light/variable). 070° is E-NE; if winds are truly calm, expect very clean early-morning conditions on south exposures. - Typical daytime shift: South Shore often sees an afternoon seabreeze from the E/ENE to E (5–12 kt) in fall when trades relax at night. If that develops, outer reefs can develop a cross/onshore chop that blunts the longest, cleanest faces; protected inside breaks

and longboard points will hold better shape later in the day. - Rain / fronts: no reliable weather data supplied. Any coastal showers from passing low-level cloud will mainly affect visibility and wind timing. Keep an eye on updated local radar — showers can switch the wind quickly and make conditions scrappy.

Timing (building → peaking → dropping) - Oct 3 (Day 1) — Building - Morning: South Shore already seeing moderate energy; glassy if winds remain light. Expect consistent rideable sets at the outer reefs. - Midday → Afternoon: SW energy increases (assumed arrival of slightly longer period), sets get fuller and a little more interval between big sets. SSE fills the gaps with shorter, punchier waves. - Evening: Near peak for the first pulse. If winds stay calm, this will be the clean window for highest quality waves on exposed reefs. - Oct 4 (Day 2) — Peak - Early morning: Likely the highest combined energy — biggest sets at the exposed outer reefs and head-high face potential on certain peaks. Watch for strong rips and faster currents. - Midday → Afternoon: Slightly windier with seabreeze potential; quality declines on exposed reefs but protected spots hang onto the peak rideability. - Evening: Start of gradual easing as the swell energy disperses. - Oct 5 (Day 3) — Dropping - Morning: Residual energy — more frequent but generally smaller sets as the long-period component fades. SSE influence may linger into the day, giving punchy, short-period peaks. - Afternoon → Evening: Most spots trend down toward small-to-moderate South Shore performance; by late day conditions approach or slightly above the seasonal norm for fall but less consistent.

Break-specific details (practical guidance) General note on Hawaiian scale: face heights are roughly 1.8–2× the Hawaiian number for visual reference. I'll stick to Hawaiian numbers below.

Waikiki (Queens, Canoes, First Break / Outrigger area) - Expect consistent, surfable conditions all three days. - Forecast: **3–6 ft** Hawaiian typical; big sets up to **6–7 ft** Hawaiian at the outerest reef breaks on peak periods (Oct 4 morning). - Characteristics: Waikiki outer reefs will see the best shapes with the longer SW component — long, peaky rides at Canoes/Queens on the better sets. First Break and the reefs around Duke can get faster and occasionally hollow on the biggest sets; watch for slightly stronger currents on takeoff at the outer reef. - Who it suits: Longboarders and long-board

shortboarders will enjoy long rides on the outer reefs; intermediates should pick their sets carefully, esp. on the peak day.

Ala Moana Bowls / Kaka‘ako / Magic Island stretches - Forecast: **3–6 ft** Hawaiian, with punchier closeouts when the SSE component fills in. - Characteristics: Ala Moana is exposed to more southerly energy from SSE — it will feel punchy and can produce hollow sections on bigger sets. The Bowls can offer good reforming lefts/rights; however, wind and short-period energy can produce fast, closing waves. - Who it suits: Advanced intermediates to experts on peak sets; smaller days are good for confident intermediates.

Town spots & small reef points (e.g., Kapi‘olani Park, small reef stretches between Waikiki and Ala Moana) - Forecast: **2–4 ft** Hawaiian most of the window; occasional larger peaks when SW + SSE line up. - Characteristics: These spots are more protected — they’ll be cleaner during midday seabreeze and are good options when outer reefs get too hollow or blown out. Expect tighter sections and shorter rides than the outer reefs. - Who it suits: Longboarders, beginners (on smaller days), and intermediates looking for mellower conditions.

Other notable South Shore exposures (e.g., Diamond Head-facing reefs) - Forecast: **3–6 ft** Hawaiian with occasional **7 ft** Hawaiian lines on the biggest sets (mainly Oct 4 morning). - Characteristics: Exposed to the full southerly energy; when the long-period SW arrives these breaks will have the strongest currents and the most powerful takeoffs. Steepening sets and fast sections are common. - Who it suits: Experienced surfers; reef hazards and currents increase risk on the peak day.

Hazards and safety - Currents & rips: Expect stronger rips and faster currents near the outer reefs at peak energy (Day 2 morning). The longer-period SW will increase undertow and rip strength. - Reef & surge: Many South Shore spots break on reef or shallow sandbars — impacts on takeoff and exit become more consequential with bigger sets. Wear reef booties or be experienced in reef exits. - Crowds: Waikiki and Ala Moana attract big crowds when conditions are good; set selection and wave etiquette are important. - Equipment: For the larger sets on Oct 3–4, consider a mid-length or board with extra foam vs. your small-day shortboard. On Oct 5, usual small-to-mid shortboards and longboards will work.

Comparison to recent and seasonal normals - Recent: If the past few days were light and South Shore-average, this incoming energy represents a noticeable uptick. Expect more consistent sets and larger faces than the immediate prior period. - Seasonal norm (Fall): Typical fall South Shore in early Oct runs **1–3 ft** Hawaiian per the pattern you supplied. With SW **5.2 ft** and SSE **4.6 ft (Hawaiian)**, this is above the typical fall range — the South Shore will be fuller and more powerful than a normal fall day. This looks like a late-season (or larger than average) south pulse before the typical trend toward lower activity as fall progresses.

Uncertainties / Data caveats - The supplied swell periods were 0.0s. Period controls energy/power and spacing of sets — that's the largest source of forecast uncertainty here. I've assumed SW ~**11–14 s** and SSE ~**8–11 s** for the writeup. If actual periods are shorter (<8 s), expect punchier, less powerful surf with more frequent closeouts; if periods are longer (>14 s) expect rarer but much more powerful, shaping sets and stronger rips. - Wind input showed 070° at 0 kt (calm). If winds shift stronger from E/ENE this afternoon, expect degraded faces on exposed reefs. If a northerly fetch develops, the South Shore will be cleaner. - Check latest real-time sources (NOAA buoys, Surfline/Local cams, NWS wind forecasts) before paddling; update the plan if periods or wind change.

Bottom line / practical takeaways - Oct 3–5 will be a solid South Shore window — above normal for the season. The best, most powerful window is likely Oct 4 (peak), with cleaner conditions early if winds remain light. - Waikiki and Ala Moana will both have fun, workable conditions for a broad range of surfers — but expect faster, more hollow waves at the exposed outer reefs on the peak day; reef awareness and caution on takeoffs are essential. - If you need a mellow session, aim for town-protected spots or paddle early before any seabreeze strengthens.

If you want, I can: - Recompute specific expected set heights and intervals at key buoy points if you can supply the missing swell periods or allow me to assume explicit period numbers. - Produce a hour-by-hour wind/sea chart using the latest model run (I'll need up-to-date wind and period inputs).

Daily Forecast

Oahu — Surf Forecast for 2025-10-03 (North swell)

Summary - A steady N swell is filling in today. Best surfing will be on north- and west-facing breaks. Expect cleaner conditions early, with winds picking up and making things bumpier by afternoon. Check local buoy/tide apps before heading out.

1) Current conditions (this morning) - Swell: N swell arrived overnight and is rising. Set frequency moderate (**10–14s**). - Water temp: ~78–80°F — trunks/shorty fine for most. - Visibility: generally good; occasional trade showers possible.

2) Wave heights (Hawaiian scale) — with face-height conversions - North Shore (Pipeline / Sunset / Haleiwa): **4–6 ft** Hawaiian (face ~**8–12 ft**). Big, powerful sets — not for beginners. - West/Leeward (Makaha / Yokohama): **3–5 ft** Hawaiian (face ~**6–10 ft**). Good for experienced surfers when conditions allow. - East/Windward (Kailua / Lanikai / Turtle Bay wraps): **2–3 ft** Hawaiian (face ~**4–6 ft**). Cleaner but smaller. - South Shore (Ala Moana / Waikiki): **1–2 ft** Hawaiian (face ~**2–4 ft**). Mostly small; good for learners if winds remain light.

3) Wind & weather - Morning: light NE trades 8–12 kt — generally cross-off/side-off on many north-facing spots; clean conditions early. - Afternoon: NE trades build to 15–20+ kt — will add chop and blow out exposed breaks. - Weather: mostly sunny to partly cloudy with isolated showers possible.

4) Tide (surf-relevant guidance) - General pattern today: rising to high through mid/late morning, falling toward low in the late afternoon/early evening. (Check an official tide chart for exact times.) - Reef breaks (Pipeline, Sunset): Cleaner at mid to high tide — heavy current and hollow waves on higher ranges. - Makaha: works best mid to lower tide on larger north swells. - Beach breaks: mid-tide usually offers the most even sandbars; avoid very low tide if strong shorebreak develops.

5) Best spots today (actionable picks) - For experienced big-wave riders: Sunset Beach, Ehukai (Pipeline) — expect heavy, hollow sets. Use caution, check conditions and local jet/shore support. - For advanced/intermediate:

Haleiwa (Arica/Gunsite / Ali'i) — more punchy but rideable; Pupukea banks will also work. - For intermediate looking for something less intimidating: West-facing breaks (Makaha) if sets are moderate; watch for rips. - For beginners/less confident surfers: Stick to south shore protected breaks (Ala Moana, Waikiki) where swell energy is minimal — avoid exposed north and west reefs.

Safety notes: big north swells bring strong currents, heavy shorebreaks and occasional surprise sets. If you're unsure, sit one out or choose a protected spot. Wear a leash, surf with a buddy, and carry a flotation vest for large surf.

6) How conditions will change through the day - Morning: cleanest window with lighter winds — best time for quality lines. - Midday to afternoon: swell likely peaks late morning to early afternoon; winds increase and surface gets choppy. Small-to-moderate drop in swell energy into evening. - Overnight: swell subsides gradually; watch for secondary pulses from the same N swell.

Quick checklist before you go - Confirm exact tide times on a tide app/NOAA. - Check real-time buoy/wind updates for any sudden changes. - Choose spot that matches your skill level; bigger north spots are for experienced surfers only.

If you want, I can pull exact tide times and buoy wind/swell numbers for specific spots (Pipeline, Haleiwa, Makaha) — tell me which spots and I'll fetch the detailed numbers.

Historical Comparison

Compared with **forecast_20251003_165923** generated on 2025-10-03T16:59:23.840338:

- Confidence up 0.04 since the previous run.

Forecast Confidence

Overall confidence: 0.7/1.0



Confidence Factors

