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PAT CALDWELL

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SwellCaldWell Updated 3 PM Wednesday, October 15, 2025

DATE	SWELL HGT	SWELL DIR	SWELL PER	SURF H1/3	SURF H1/10	TREND	PROB	WIND SPD	WIND DIR	TREND
12 PM	5.5	NW	14	8	12	SAME		11-16	E	UP
10/15	3	WNW	14	4	6	SAME				
	4.5	E	6	1	2	SAME				
	1	SSW	15	1	3	SAME				
THU	5.5	NW	14	8	12	SAME	LOW	12-17	E	UP/DOWN
10/16	2	WNW	12	2	4	DOWN	LOW			
	5	E	7	2	4	UP	LOW			
	1	SW	16	1	3	SAME	LOW			
FRI	4	NW	12	6	8	DOWN	LOW	13-19	E	UP
10/17	6	NNW	15	8	12	UP	LOW			
	5.5	E	8	3	5	UP	LOW			

	1	SW	15	1	3	SAME	LOW			
SAT	5	NNW	13	6	10	DOWN	LOW	15-20	ENE	UP
10/18	2	WNW	16	3	5	UP	LOW			
	6.5	E	8	4	6	UP	LOW			
	1	SW	14	1	3	SAME	LOW			
SUN	2	NNW	12	2	4	DOWN	LOW	13-19	ENE	DOWN
10/19	*2*	NNW	16	3	5	UP	LOW			
	2	WNW	14	2	4	SAME	LOW			
	6	E	8	3	5	DOWN	LOW			
	1	SW	14	1	3	SAME	LOW			
MON	4	NNW	14	6	8	DOWN	LOW	13-19	ENE	SAME
10/20	2	NNW	21	4	6	UP	LOW			
	6	E	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	1	SW	14	1	3	SAME	LOW			

Table Definitions given after Discussion

Summary

Steady Freddy from NW to NNW with sinkhole centered on Sunday.

Discussion

Midday Wednesday 10/15, northern shores have breakers above the calendar day average from 290-325 degrees of 12-28s intervals. Heights should remain elevated on Thursday.

On this day, 10/15, in the historical H1/10 visual surf observation Goddard-Caldwell database (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/metadata/geoportal/rest/metadata/item/gov.noaa.nodc%3A0001754/html) (starting 9/1968) for the north shore of Oahu, the average is 4.5 Hs, (9’ peak face, Oahu Surf Climatology (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)) and the largest surf on this date was 10 Hs (sets 20’ peak face top spots) in 1977.

Moon’s view-

- Kamkatcha corner found winter with a long-lived wave source for Hawaii late last week into early in the week. Sources closer near Aleutians NNW of Hawaii to chime to give local surf Friday into Monday.

Typhoon Halong 10/8-10 from 290-300 degrees

- Backstory:
  - The system began tracking east near 35N east of Japan 10/8.
  - This set up a narrow fetch over the 290-300 degree band for Hawaii.
  - It slowly weakened with time and was in post-tropical cyclone status midday 10/10.

    - JASON measured seas >35’ 10/9 over narrow fetch aimed towards Hawaii. This fetch was about 2400 nm away.
- Pulse status:
    - Difficult to pick this energy out of NW NOAA buoys and the nearshore PacIOOS/CDIP buoys. The latter at least show some W/WNW energy in the donut (polar) directional spectrum plots.
- Prognosis:
    - This event likely peaking 10/15 and should drop 10/16.

NWPAC pattern centered from 315 degrees, with added remnant Halong push, Phase 2

- Backstory:
    - Phase 1 rose late Sunday, peaked Monday, and held large Tuesday.
    - Phase 2 merged in with Phase 1 locally
    - Phase 2 is from post tropical cyclone Halong 10/10 is raced NNE toward Aleutians just west of the Date Line Friday, reaching Aleutians on the Date Line by mid Saturday. About a half day of storm-force winds over the 310-325 degree band gave a pat on the back to the Kamchatka Phase 1 swell.
    - Phase 2 peaked Tuesday.
- Pulse status:
    - NOAA NW Hawaii buoy 51001 late Tuesday into Tuesday midnight showed a downward trend in the 12-18s energy.
- Prognosis:
    - Phase 2 to be overridden by Phase 3 late Wednesday PM.

NWPAC pattern centered from 315 degrees, Phase 3

- Backstory:
    - The Kamchatka corner pattern had some weakening late Thursday into through Saturday, 10/9-11, though still gales to severe gales with seas 18-25’ over a similar large fetch beyond 2400 nm away back to Kamchatka. This elevated, remote batch is the primary source of Phase 3.
    - The pattern weakened sharply on Sunday as the upper-level gyre gave way to a zonal jet, bringing near gales to the Date Line N of 40N over the 320-330 degree
- Pulse status:
    - Buoy 51001 jumped up in the 13-16s band within 5-8 AM HST 10/15. This signifies the start of Phase 3.
- Prognosis:
    - Above average surf should hold Thursday 10/16 dominant centered from 315 degrees, though added energy from 320-330 degrees.
    - This source should drop below average on Friday.

Date Line to Gulf of Alaska near Aleutians 10/14-15

- This low pressure deepened sharply to storm force early Tuesday 10/14 just east of the Date Line, S of the Aleutians.
- The primary fetch aimed highest NE of Hawaii with seas to 35'.
- Pattern shifted rapidly east along Aleutians, reaching east of the Hawaii swell window late 10/14.
- This duration limited fetch and near miss situation make for larger error bars on local surf estimate.
- Local surf prognosis:
    - Likely an Xmas tree (fast up, fast down) event centered on Friday night.
    - Surf should rise from 330-345 degrees Friday morning, climbing above average before sundown Friday PM.
    - Short-lived, steady drop on Saturday from 330-360 degrees with dregs on Sunday.

Next low SE of Kamchatka 10/15 to just S of eastern Aleutians by 10/17

- The low is expected to gain gales as it approaches the Date Line early 10/16. Seas within 15-20' beyond 1800 nm away.
- The surface winds begin aiming more west to east, at targets NE of Hawaii late 10/16 into 10/17.
- Local surf prognosis:
    - Onset likely Sunday PM from 325-340 degrees.
    - Likelypeak near dawn on Monday from 325-350 degrees.
    - Short-lived.

Hurricane-force low near Date Line S of Aleutians 10/18

- Winter-caliber low with central pressure ~950 mb expected, though it is forming under a strengthening zonal jet stream, that would race the patten east, lowering surf potential.
- Too early for much confidence– there has been a mix in model output last few days.
- Best guess for now is long-period onset late Monday 10/20 from 315-330 degrees.

Midday Wednesday 10/15, the east side has breakers near nil from the trade wind belt. A small increase is expected for Thursday.

Windward wind-head concerns —

- Models keep the long-lived, large area of weak, upper-level low pressure nearby N of Hawaii within 20-30N with a westward drift into the weekend.
- At the surface, high pressure has set up N to NE of the state on 10/14, nosing up local trades. By the weekend, models show the center of the high shifting to a position due N of Hawaii—more favorable for local trades. The upper low above the surface feature lowers odds for local trade wind magnitude. Once upper low is predicted more W to NW of state starting Thursday. This would allow wetter trades —meaning more short-lived ups/downs to the local winds associated with passing cloud bands/rain clusters. Similar into Saturday. Hints of reinforcement upper low by Sunday to Monday, so more of the same. Without that upper low, it would be honking 20-25 easy.

East side surfer interests—

- Trend up in local trade wind swell starting 10/15 into weekend from 70-90 degrees.

Midday Wednesday 10/15, southern shores have small breakers from 180-220 degrees of 12-16s intervals. Low surf is likely for Thursday

On this day, 10/15, in the historical H1/10 visual surf observation Goddard-Caldwell database (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/metadata/geoportal/rest/metadata/item/gov.noaa.nodc%3A0001754/html) (starting 1972) for the south shore of Oahu, the average is 2.2 Hs, (~4' peak face) and the largest surf on this date was 4 Hs (8' peak face) in 2014 from SSW under 10 knot ENE winds.

Moon's view:

Austral spring has sprung and odds are getting lower for Hawaii southern hemi surf.

Zonal pattern 40-60S from S of Australia to SE of New Zealand 10/6-15

- West to east winds to gales with seas 15-25' set up off/on through the week last week into this week. Angular spreading likely to keep low, background, long-period surf local off/on this week into mid next week from 190-220 degrees.

Into the long range, let's see what Wooly Worm (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzZitoUBuCE) is up. Hot yoga in the compost pile Wednesday, Carissa Catapilla has the class doing some standard planques. Wooly is keeping his body nice and straight. Ah oh, that must be the clue, a zonal jet straight west to east in NPAC. Models due keep jet-level short-waves, and associated surface lows, spaced about 2 days apart on track across NPAC. This should make for a series of below average events within 10/21-25. The 10/22 event may get above average, though latest wave model output says not.

The next SwellCaldWell forecast will be issued Friday, October 17.

Climatology update (Oct 3, 2025) to include through Sept 2025:

Summary (click below for details of each)

North shore, month of Sept 2025: No ummmffff, but beggars cant be choosy, some decent small to medium relative to Sept, nsstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/nsstat09.txt).

South shore, month of Sept 2025: Decent, a pinch over average most size categories, ssstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ssstat09.txt). For the 2025

season, smstat03_09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/smstat03_09.txt), March to Sept, below average, though smoking August tilted the larger size brackets near average, given the slow spell March to July.

Wind-heads: Sept 2025: Near average, wwstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/wwstat09.txt). (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/wwstat05.txt)

Climate Fun 1.

Monthly Stats

North Shore Oahu (1968-present):

January: nsstat01 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/nsstat01.txt)

February: nsstat02 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/nsstat02.txt)

March: nsstat03 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/nsstat03.txt)

April: nsstat04 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/nsstat04.txt)

May: nsstat05 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/nsstat05.txt)

June: nsstat06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/nsstat06.txt)

July: nsstat07 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/nsstat07.txt)

August: nsstat08 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/nsstat08.txt)

September: nsstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/nsstat09.txt)

October: nsstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/nsstat10.txt)

November: nsstat11 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/nsstat11.txt)

December: nsstat12 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/nsstat12.txt)

South Shore Oahu (1972-present):

January: ssstat01 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ssstat01.txt)

February: ssstat02 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ssstat02.txt)

March: ssstat03 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ssstat03.txt)

April: ssstat04 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ssstat04.txt)

May: ssstat05 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ssstat05.txt)

June:ssstat06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ssstat06.txt)

July: ssstat07 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ssstat07.txt)

August: ssstat08 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ssstat08.txt)

*Picts surf forecaster validation duties Big Wednesday 8/18/21


(photos Shredsniper.com, Mike Carroll)

September: ssstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ssstat09.txt)

October: ssstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ssstat10.txt)

November: ssstat11 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ssstat11.txt)

December: ssstat12 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ssstat12.txt)

Wind (1988-present, PC's best guess):

January: wwstat01 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/wwstat01.txt)

February: wwstat02 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/wwstat02.txt)

March: wwstat03 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/wwstat03.txt)

April: wwstat04 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/wwstat04.txt)

May: wwstat05 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/wwstat05.txt)

June: wwstat06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/wwstat06.txt)

July: wwstat07 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/wwstat07.txt)

August: wwstat08 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/wwstat08.txt)

September: wwstat09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/wwstat09.txt)

October: wwstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/wwstat10.txt)

November: wwstat11 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/wwstat11.txt)

December: wwstat12 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/wwstat12.txt)

Seasonal Stats

North Shore Oahu, 1968/69-2023/24; (full season, September to June): nmstat09_06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/nmstat09_06.txt)

North Shore Oahu, 2024/25 last year season (Sept-June): nmstat09_06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/nmstat09_06.txt)

South Shore Oahu, 1972-2024 (full season, March thru November): smstat03_11 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/smstat03_11.txt)

South Shore Oahu, 2025 season (March to Sept): smstat03_09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/smstat03_09.txt)

Helpful links,

Oahu Surf Climatology (http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/outreach/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)

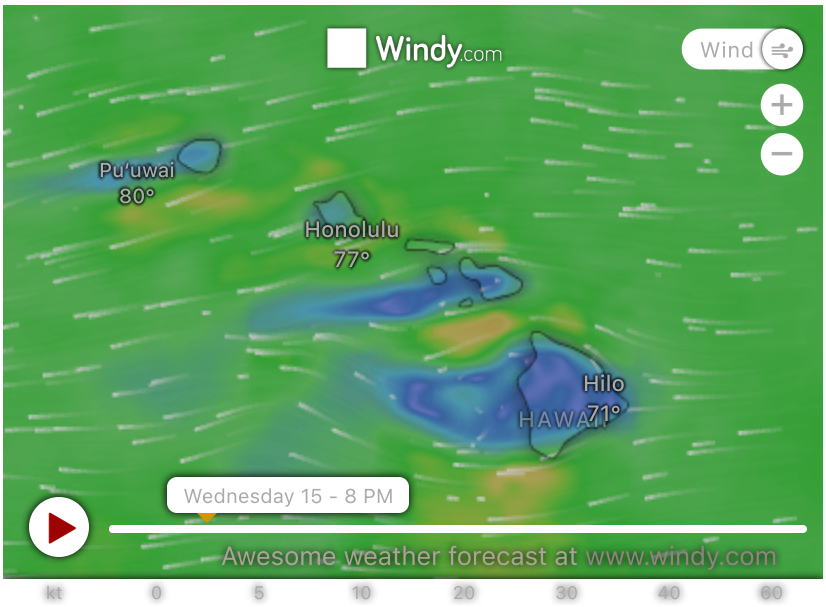
Island Shadows (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/shadow.html)

Educational outreach: Waves 101– Why Surf Varies Time/Place (http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/outreach/vary/why_surf_varies.html)

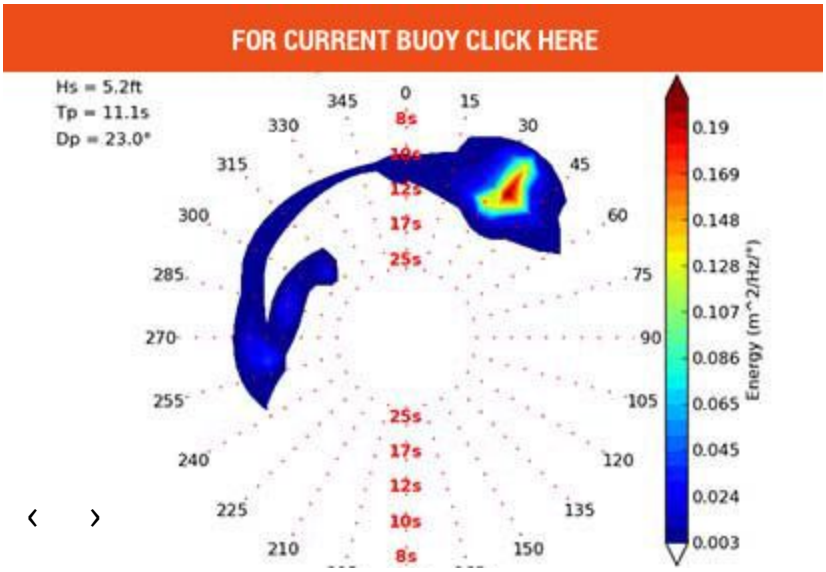
Table Definitions

DATE	Represents daylight hours in zones of high refraction (biggest surf spots for given incident swell direction, period and height). First row(s) in table refers to observations from buoys (swell) and cams (breakers) made for the time when the SwellCaldWell forecast was updated. Other rows refer to forecast for spell (~30-60 min) within daylight when arrival of maximum wave energy, or **active envelopes**, occur. This forecast tends to bias high for safety (and easier to ride a bigger board if surf is smaller than expected, than to ride a shorter board when bigger). Even under “steady” swell, heights vary spell to spell through a day.

SWELL HGT	Deep water swell (H1/3) height (feet) corresponding to a nominal (~3 mile) location offshore of Oahu seaward of the coastal shelf for the given incident swell direction. Deep water swell height from each unique wave-generating source is obtained by summing up all energy for wave periods > 10 seconds, which removes the wind swell. H1/3 is the average of the highest 1/3rd of all waves coming in for the targeted high energy envelope spell from this defined source. Wind swell are defined for wave periods <= 10 seconds.
SWELL DIR	Deep water swell direction (from) centered on 16 point compass bands.
SWELL PER	Deep water swell period (seconds).
SURF H1/3	Breaker H1/3 (defined above) height (feet, peak face) during most active envelopes. H1/3 sets arrive about every 3 minutes with large variance.
SURF H1/10	Average of highest 1/10th of all breakers (feet, peak face) during active envelopes; H1/10 sets arrive about every 10 minutes with large variance.
PEAK FACE	Trough to crest height (feet) on shoreward side of breaker at moment and location along wave front of maximum cresting,
Ocn H1/100 Cleanup or Sneaker set	Waves arrive within a range of sizes. Surf zone enthusiasts emphasize the smaller percent of larger waves when communicating a report in an X to Y occasional Z format. The X to Y range is nominally H1/3 to H1/10. The Z, or sneaker or cleanup sets, are the H1/100, which is about 1.3 times the H1/10 (eg., H1/10=10' gives H1/100=13'). H1/100th sets arrive on average every 90 minutes with large variance. Thus your typical 2 hour session is bound to see at least one cleanup set.
TREND	Breaker height (wind speed) tendency during daylight
WIND SPD	Wind speed (knots) for nominal coastal location on the windward side relative to prevailing large scale wind (ie, east side under trades or S or W side under konas),
WIND DIR	Wind direction (from) centered on 16 point compass bands. LV refers to light and variable.



WAIMEA BUOY



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LINKS

Surfrider Oahu (http://oahu.surfrider.org)
Maui Ola Foundation (https://mauliola.org)
Pacific Tsunami (http://www.tsunami.org/faq.html)
Sustainable Coastlines HI (http://sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org/)
Surfing the Nations (http://surfingthenations.com/)
Defend Oahu (http://www.defendoahucoalition.org/)
Access Surf Hawaii (http://www.accessurf.org/)
WSL (https://www.worldsurfleague.com)
Rise Above Plastic (http://www.riseaboveplastics.org/)
Water Quality (Clean Water Branch) (https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb/#!/viewer)
