PAT CALDWELL

Mahalo for your support…

All New Premium SNN sign-ups get Pat's forecasts Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Monday is FREE for all, and we offer Wednesday & Friday updates for Premium Members, just 5.00 a month (about a buck a week).

In addition to ALL Pat's updates, you'll also get the SNN 10-day forecasts plus our Multi Surf Cams free from Cam Ads & plenty viewing.

We are stoked for your support of all local surf companies!

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SwellCaldWell Updated 2 PM Wednesday, November 26, 2025

DATE	SWELL HGT	SWELL DIR	SWELL PER	SURF H1/3	SURF H1/10	TREND	PROB	WIND SPD	WIND DIR	TREND
12 PM	7	NNW	18	14	18	UP		4-8	E	DOWN
11/26										
THU	9	NNW	15	15	20	DOWN	LOW	4-8	E	UP
11/27										
FRI	7.5	NNW	14	10	15	DOWN	LOW	8-12	ESE	DOWN
11/28	4	WNW	12	6	8	UP	LOW			
SAT	4.5	NNW	12	7	9	DOWN	LOW	2-6	LV	SAME
11/29	8	WNW	20	20	25	UP	LOW			
SUN	15	WNW	17	30	40	DOWN	LOW	2-6	LV	SAME
11/30										
MON	11	NW	14	20	25	DOWN	LOW	2-6	LV	SAME
12/01										

Table Definitions given after Discussion

Summary

Country cornucopia!

Discussion

Midday Wednesday 11/26, northern shores have rising breakers from 320-335 deg of 16-20s above the calendar day average. Thanksgiving abundance of elevated waves in order.

On this day, 11/26, 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 7.0 Hs, (14’ peak face, Oahu Surf Climatology (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)) and the largest surf on this date was 27 Hs (sets 54’ peak face top spots) in 2018 from NW under 6 knot light and variable (LV) winds.

Moon’s view-

- NPAC getting jump on the winter caliber potential with Aleutian low pattern, strong, steady and broad.

Storm-force Kamchatka to east of Date Line pattern 11/21-24

- Backstory:
  - The new low deepened to 968 mb near 50N, 170E (2400 nm away) late Saturday.

    - The pattern occluded on Sunday approaching the Date Line. Strongest winds to storm force were centered on Sunday night stretching from the Aleutians towards Hawaii to within 1400 nm away early Monday over the 325-335 degree
    - The system moved little as it slowly weakened Monday into Tuesday as gales were maintained in an area beyond 1200 nm away. Seas hovered within 20-24'.
    - Long-lived event.
- Pulse status:
    - NOAA NW Hawaii buoy 51001 ramped up sharply Tuesday evening focused in the long-wave period band of 16-22s. Midday Wednesday 11/26 still climbing in energy favoring the 15-18s band.
    - PacIOOS/CDIP Waimea, Oahu buoy sharp rise of long-period energy Wednesday morning centered from 330 degrees.
- Local surf prognosis:
    - Max of event likely pre- to near dawn Thursday 11/27. Heights should remain above average into Friday dawn from 320-340 degrees.
    - The event should hold moderate Saturday morning as it merges with a new event as follows.

First, weaker low in a series west of Date Line 11/25-26

- A compact low tracked east within 35-38N, approaching the Date Line 11/25 eve. Strongest winds to gales aimed NE of Hawaii while strong breezes to pockets of near gales aimed at Hawaii over the 300-310 degree
- The low continues east with strengthening, with mostly near gales up to late morning 11/26 over the 310-330 degree band aimed at Hawaii over a narrow fetch and much stronger winds aimed NE of Hawaii.
- The system should add some near gales to the 330-360 degree band late Wednesday and be NNE of Hawaii early Thursday.
- Local surf prognosis:
    - Moderate surf picking up Friday PM from 300-310 degrees. The event should peak overnight with Saturday dawn holding moderate from 320-350 degrees. It should be short-lived.

Second, winter-caliber system has formed 11/26

- Models have been trending up in surf potential and giving sooner arrival for Hawaii over the past several days.
- This is a classic Waimea-kine wave maker in strength, size, track and occlusion point.
- 290-310 degree energy:
    - Models have it gaining hurricane force Wednesday 11/26 PM. A wide, long fetch is predicted to steadily push towards Hawaii.
    - Severe gale with pockets hurricane force over wide fetch 11/27 AM to early PM as it approaches the Date Line.
    - Winds favoring middle to severe gales as it noses just east of the Date Line to 175W (1200 nm away) by Thursday sundown.

    - Still gales as aim less at Hawaii at closest reach about 900 nm away Thursday night into Friday morning.
    - This directional band gets shadow issues for select Oahu locations east of Kauai and Niihau, giving bigger error bars on breaker height estimates.
- 310-325 degree energy:
    - Models place similar severe gale to hurricane force winds starting Thursday late PM in area about 2000 nm away.
    - The fetch is predicted to stretch towards Hawaii as winds slowly subside to mid/upper gales Friday into Saturday morning to about 900 nm away.
- Local surf prognosis:
    - Extra-long forerunners are expected Saturday after dawn from 290-310 degrees with inconsistent moderate to large sets.
    - Surf should ramp up above average as consistency of sets increases early afternoon from 290-310 degrees
    - Combo 290-325 degree energy should be handshaking Saturday near sundown.
    - Max of event calculated for near dawn Sunday from 290-325 degrees. Breakers at giant levels, meaning full Waimea.
    - Peak tide pre-dawn Sunday greatest beach run-up though neap tides so the astronomical component is somewhat offset.
    - XL surf, solid outer reef, expected through Sunday into Monday from 290-325 degrees with a dropping trend.

Midday Wednesday 11/26, the east side has breakers from 60-90 degrees below the east side average. Heights from trade wind belt should remain low. Select N-exposures trending aforementioned.

Windward wind-head concerns —

- Most Thanksgiving are windhead favorable– win some, lose some.
- Thanksgiving likely light and variable dawn as low tracks east due N/NNE of Hawaii.
- Short-lived gentle trades late Thanksgiving into Friday morning.
- The massive Aleutian low has its SE corner just NNW of Hawaii into weekend, as winds fall light/variable, giving land/seabreeze

East side surfer interests—

- Nada from trade wind belt. N-exposures aforementioned.

Midday Wednesday 11/26, southern shores breakers have breakers at a seasonal minimum. Heights should remain near nil on Thursday.

On this day, 11/26, 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 1.8 Hs, (~4' peak face) and the largest surf on this date was 3 Hs (6' peak face) in 2003 from SSW under 10 knot W wind.

Moon's view:

Austral spring leaning summer not conducive to S swell in Hawaii.

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, Carissa Catapilla is calling in the class. Where's Wooly. Oh you can see him through the kitchen window getting down food storage containers. Guess he's expected lots of leftovers. That must be the clue. The whopper Sunday event should settle toward mortal levels 12/2-3. Models show an Aleutian low pattern stalling over the central N Pacific NW of Hawaii 11/30-12/4. A new offspring low is modelled to merge in with the mother low 11/30-12/1, setting up potential for above average surf locally within 12/4-6 from WNW to NNW.

The next SwellCaldWell forecast will be issued Friday, November 28.

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

Summary (click below for details of each)

North shore, month of Oct 2025: Sucky Sept gave way to Rocktober, with some solid surf, pinch over the average for large days, nsstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/nsstat10.txt).

South shore, month of Oct 2025: More like Nope-tober for south side, ssstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ssstat10.txt). For the 2025 season,smstat03_10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/smstat03_10.txt), March to Sept, then Oct, below average, though smoking August tilted the larger size brackets near average for the season overall,

Wind-heads: Oct 2025: Near average, steady fresh+ trades week 2 and 3, wwstat10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/wwstat10.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/2025/11/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/2025/11/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/2025/11/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 Oct): smstat03_10 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/smstat03_10.txt)

Helpful links,

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

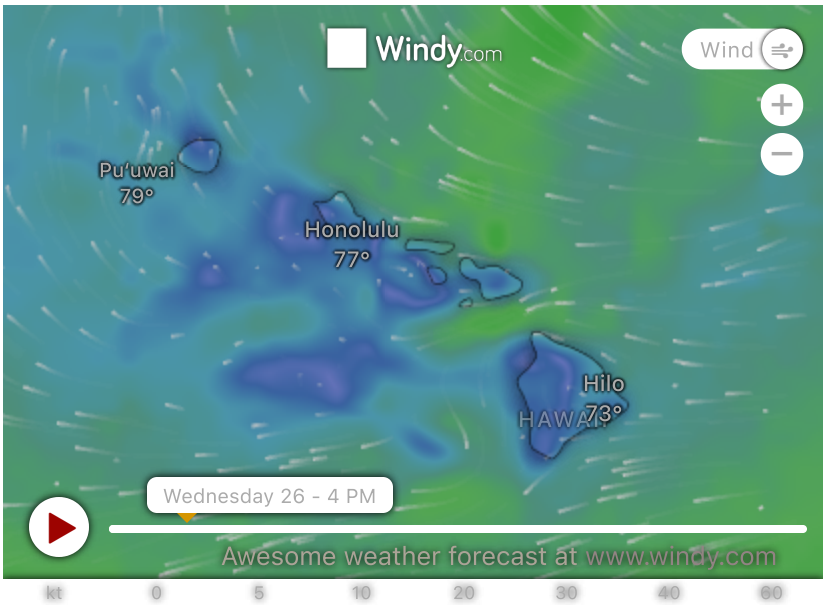
Island Shadows (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/shadow.html)

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

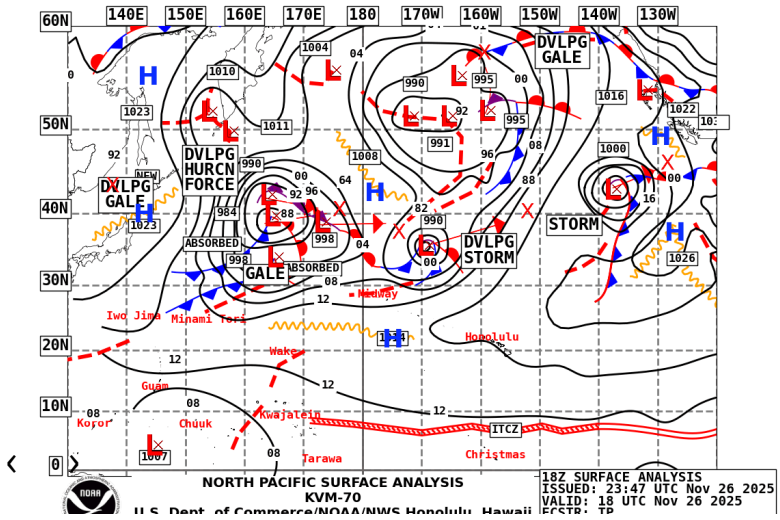
Table Definitions

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.



SURFACE CHART



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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)
