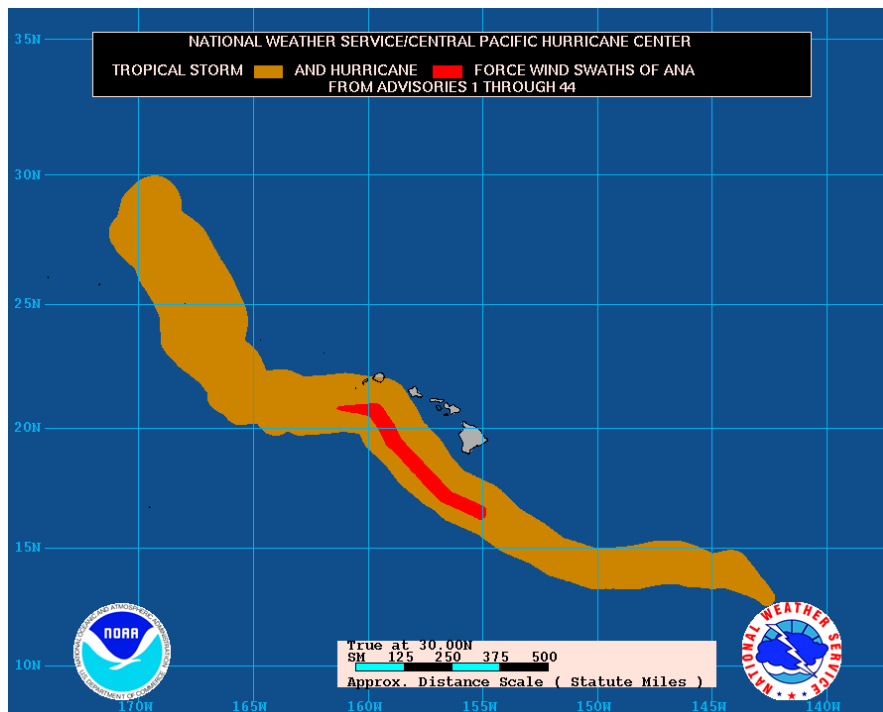
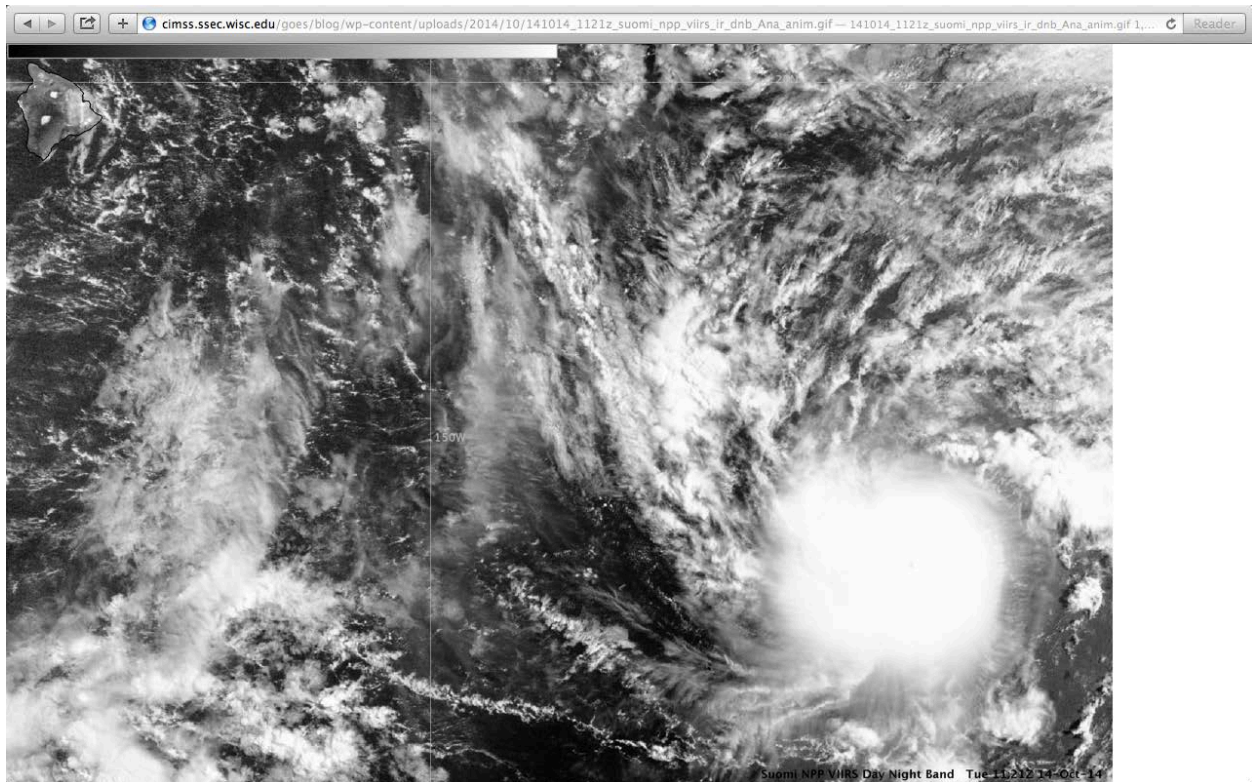


Hurricane Ana Steers Clear of Hawaii. After early forecasts showed Hurricane Ana threatening the Hawaiian Island chain, Ana missed a direct hit on both U.S. Climate Reference Network sites on the Big Island. Maximum sustained winds reached 85 mph about 150 miles southwest of Kailua-Kona, but the main onshore impacts were due to heightened surf and heavy rains. Ana did bring a record 24-hour rainfall to the Mauna Loa station, with 5.38 inches falling between sunset on October 17 and sunset on October 18. However, there were no particularly high intensity short duration rainfall periods or wind gusts. The USCRN station at Hilo also received more than five inches of rain from Ana, as did much of the windward portion of the island, triggering local flash flooding and stream flooding. Ahead of the storm, the record high temperature of 91°F was tied at the Honolulu Airport, but copious rains also hit Oahu several days later as Ana passed to the south. The state-wide rainfall totals from Ana can be found at: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/data/HFO/PNSHFO.1410200650>.



Interestingly, a Winter Weather Advisory was issued for the peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea earlier in the week as snow fell at the highest elevations on the 13th due to the passage of a cold upper level low. It is likely that snow was experienced at the Mauna Loa USCRN station, as air temperatures fell during the first hour of precipitation from the mid-40s to 32.6°F, and surface IR temperatures reached below freezing. This nearly coincided with the issuance of Tropical Storm Watches that covered the Big Island. Images produced by the University of Wisconsin's Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies show both the snow and the strengthening Ana on October 14 (next page). However, by the time the rain bands of Ana reached the Big Island, temperatures remained above 40°F during the storm and were not low enough for snow at the Mauna Loa station elevation.



Ana approaching the Big Island on October 14. Hawaii is in the upper left corner, with two bright points indicating the snow cover on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. A close-up of the island snow is shown below.

