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Public Information Statement 24-68
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: C. Bruce Entwistle, Chief
 Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments for Transition of Select Area Forecasts (FA)
through November 28, 2024

The NWS is soliciting comments through November 28, 2024 on transition of select outside the contiguous U.S. (OCONUS) FAs to the Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA). As a follow-on to the successful transition of six (6) CONUS FAs in 2017, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and NWS plan to transition three (3) OCONUS FAs to the GFA.

The FA is an abbreviated, plain-language forecast of specified weather phenomena, covering a geographical area designated by the FAA and produced by NWS. The FA is used to help determine en-route weather for aviation. The Aviation Weather Center (AWC) provides equivalent or better information to the FA via the GFA at <https://aviationweather.gov>.

The three (3) FAs affected are listed below:

FACA20 (OFAMKC) for Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico;
FAGX20 (OFAGX) for Gulf of Mexico; and
FAHW31 PHFO (FA0HI) for Hawaii.

The FAs for Alaska will not be affected at this time.

A FAA-NWS joint-agency working group recommended the OCONUS FAs be transitioned to the more-modern GFA that provides improved weather information to decision-makers. The FAA recently convened a Safety Risk Management Panel (SRMP) to evaluate the proposed transition. Based on the working group recommendation and the SRMP results, the FAA has requested the NWS to transition the select OCONUS FAs. The agencies are targeting early 2025 for the transition. Interested parties and stakeholders may submit comments regarding the planned transition by e-mail to the contact listed below.

Please provide comments to:

Kevin Stone
Meteorologist, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9363
kevin.stone@noaa.gov

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<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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