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Service Change Notice 17-03  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:        Allison Allen, Chief  
              Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to the Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) Issued by Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Honolulu: Effective on or around June 1, 2017

Reference: [Service Change Notice 17-04, Issued January 23, 2017: Weather Forecast Office \(WFO\) Honolulu Will Begin Issuing the Hurricane Local Watch/ Warning \(TCV\) Product on an Operational Basis: Effective June 1, 2017](#)

WFO Honolulu will begin issuing its HLS product in the same format used for the HLS in the Atlantic hurricane basin on an operational basis beginning in the 2017 Pacific hurricane season.

On June 1, 2015, the NWS implemented changes to the HLS for Atlantic basin offices. The changes were in response to a recommendation from the Hurricane Irene Service Assessment to "improve the timing, readability and usefulness of the HLS issued by NWS WFOs when an area is under tropical cyclone threat." Effective on or around June 1, 2017, WFO Honolulu will change its HLS product to the format already adopted for the Atlantic hurricane basin. There are no changes for the NWS Western Region and the remainder of the NWS Pacific Region at this time.

The following changes are planned for the HLS product issued from WFO Honolulu:

The HLS product will no longer be the disseminating mechanism for issuing tropical cyclone watches and warnings in its area of responsibility. Local tropical cyclone watches and warnings in effect will be issued through the following WFO products:

Land zones: Hurricane Local Watch/Warning product (TCV). Please see [Service Change Notice 14-67: Updated](#). The HLS is meant to be paired with the TCV product from WFO Honolulu to provide a complete localized tropical forecast.

Marine zones: Tropical cyclone watches and warnings for WFO Honolulu marine zones are issued via the Marine Weather Message (MWWHFO) product. Please see [Service Change Notice 15-10](#).

The HLS product will no longer include Valid Time Event Codes (VTEC).

Additional information on VTEC can be found online at:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01017003curr.pdf>

The HLS product will become a non-segmented product.

The HLS product will contain a meteorological discussion and will have sections containing generalized local impact and preparedness information for land areas only. Potential impact information is ordered based upon the greatest expected impact. Possible sections are wind, storm surge, flooding rain, tornadoes, and other coastal hazards. Only those sections with a legitimate threat will be included.

There will be no change to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header or the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) identifier (ID) for the HLS product.

The Product Description Document can be found at:

[http://products.weather.gov/PDD/HLS\\_2017\\_PDD.pdf](http://products.weather.gov/PDD/HLS_2017_PDD.pdf)

An example of the HLS product for the 2017 hurricane season can be found at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/HFO%20HLS%20Example.htm>

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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