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From: C. Bruce Entwistle
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Experimental Graphical Forecasts for
Aviation for the Pacific Ocean through December 31, 2019

The experimental Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) are designed to provide meteorological information equivalent to the textual Area Forecast (FA) for Hawaii in a graphical format. The experimental GFA also expands this graphically depicted information into the eastern Pacific Ocean, and includes the domain of the operational GFA over the conterminous United States (CONUS).

This product includes observations and forecasts valid for Hawaii and the Oakland Oceanic Flight Information Region that provide data critical for aviation safety, overlaid on high-resolution base maps. The FA for Hawaii will not be affected at this time. The experimental GFA is available at:

<https://testbed.aviationweather.gov/gfa>

Observational data in the experimental GFA are time synchronized and are available by the hour for the current time and the previous 14 hours. Hourly model data are available up to 15 hours into the future. Wind, icing, and turbulence forecasts are available in 3,000 foot increments from the surface up to 30,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) (FL300), and in 6,000 foot increments FL300 (30,000 feet MSL) to FL480 (48,000 feet MSL). Turbulence forecasts are also broken into LO (below 18,000 MSL) and HI (above 18,000 MSL) graphics. Maximum icing graphic and maximum wind velocity graphics (regardless of altitude) are also available.

Data including Observations/Warnings, Thunderstorms, Clouds, Flight Category (Ceiling and Visibility), Precipitation, Icing, Turbulence, and Winds are available in this product. These data are combined into categories that the user can select using the top level buttons at the top within the display. Details of each category can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD):

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpGFA_Expansion_Pacific_Ocean_2019.pdf

The experimental GFA was developed in anticipation of a formal request by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to discontinue production of the FA for Hawaii. Requirements for the underlying meteorological information in the FA have not changed. The FAA, pursuant to Title 49 United States Code, Section 44720, established requirements for this weather information and service, which is necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of operations in the National Airspace System (NAS).

Based on comments received on the experimental GFA and in coordination with established FAA processes, NWS plans to discontinue production of the FA for Hawaii once the Experimental GFA product is approved as operational and when all concerns identified within submitted comments have been addressed. The expansion of the GFA to Hawaii is intended to replace the text FAs upon completion of a formal product termination review and notification process.

Additional information on the experimental Graphical Forecasts for Aviation can be found at:

<https://testbed.aviationweather.gov/gfa/help>

Comments will be accepted through December 31, 2019, on the proposed operational implementation of the experimental GFA as a replacement for existing text FAs over Hawaii, via the following electronic survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpGFAExpansionPacific>

If you have any questions regarding the experimental Graphical Forecasts for Aviation, contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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