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Service Change Notice 20-48
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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FROM: Bruce Entwistle
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Operational Implementation of Graphical Forecasts for
 Aviation (GFA) for Hawaii and portions of the Pacific
 Ocean Effective July 30, 2020

Effective July 30, 2020, at 1900 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), the GFA Expansion to Hawaii and portions of the Pacific Ocean, produced by the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC), will transition to operational status.

The current operational GFA domain includes the conterminous United States, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Western Atlantic Ocean. The GFA is designed to provide meteorological information in a graphical format equivalent to the text Area Forecast (FA) for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. The GFA includes observations and forecasts that provide data critical for aviation safety and are overlaid on high-resolution base maps. AWC continues to provide text FAs for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and portions of the Western Atlantic Ocean.

The GFA domain will now include graphically depicted information over Hawaii and portions of the North Pacific Ocean. The expansion of the GFA to these regions will make possible the deprecation of text FAs upon completion of a formal product termination review and notification process.

The GFA provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the needs of the Federal Aviation Administration pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720.

The GFA is available at:
<https://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa>

The Product Description Document can be found at:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Opl_GFAExpansiontoPacificOcean_2020.pdf

For questions regarding the GFA, please contact:

Jonathan Leffler
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Aviation Weather Center
Kansas City, MO 64153
816-584-7239
Jonathan.Leffler@noaa.gov

NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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