NOUS41 KWBC 241330
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-31
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
930 AM EDT Tue Mar 24 2026

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Jamie Rhome, Deputy Director
National Hurricane Center

Subject: Expansion of Storm Surge Watch and Warning, Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map, and the Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic to Hawaii Effective On or About June 1, 2026

On or about June 1, 2026, the Storm Surge Watch and Warning, Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map, and the Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic will be expanded to include Hawaii. These products and graphics were previously only produced for Atlantic basin tropical cyclones that impacted the U.S. Gulf and Atlantic coast, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

1. Storm Surge Watch and Warning

The Storm Surge Watches and Warnings highlight areas that have a significant risk of life-threatening storm surge inundation from a tropical storm or hurricane.

A storm surge watch is defined as the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

A storm surge warning is defined as the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

Storm Surge Watches and Warnings are disseminated via the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning (TCV) text product and for Hawaii this is disseminated via the following:

Product Title	AWIPS PIL	WMO ID
Tropical Cyclone Watch/ Warning (TCV)	TCVHFO	WTHW80 PHFO

The Storm Surge Warning will alert via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). Additional information on Wireless Emergency Alerts can

be found at https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea .

A graphical depiction of the Storm Surge Watch/Warning and GIS files are available at https://www.hurricanes.gov .

2. Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map

The Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map shows geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur and how high above ground the water could reach in those areas. The map represents inundation levels that have a 1 in 10 chance of being exceeded and therefore represents a reasonable worst case scenario for any individual location.

This map is typically first available when NHC issues a Storm Surge Watch or Warning, but NHC may choose to issue it as early as 72 hours in advance of hazardous weather conditions when forecast confidence is high.

The Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map is available in an interactive map and via GIS files at https://www.hurricanes.gov .

3. Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic

The Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic depicts the height that water could reach above normally dry ground (inundation) somewhere within the specific areas along the immediate coast.

The graphic is typically available when NHC issues a Storm Surge Watch or Warning, however, NHC may choose to issue it at other times if conditions warrant.

The Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic is available as a static graphic and via GIS files at https://www.hurricanes.gov .

More information on the Storm Surge Watch and Warning, Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map, and the Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic can be found at the following URL:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml?

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

NWS Tropical Program
National Hurricane Center
Email: tropical.program@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification

NNNN