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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-100
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1240 PM EDT Thu Oct 13 2022

To: Subscribers:
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From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: WFO Honolulu, HI to Issue Winter Storm Warnings and High Wind Warnings in Place of Blizzard Warnings: Effective on or about October 15, 2022

Effective on or about October 15, 2022, the National Weather Service (NWS) Honolulu, HI Forecast Office (HFO) will issue Winter Storm Warnings (WSW) and High Wind Warnings (HWW) in place of Blizzard Warnings (BZW) as needed. Winter weather in Hawaii is generally confined to high elevations affecting only Maui and Hawaii Island. No permanent residents live in the impacted areas, and there is limited public access by vehicle. During past blizzard events, external partner feedback indicated the term "blizzard" drew attention away from more impactful hazards that affected the population centers, such as flash flooding.

To mitigate potential distractions caused by BZW, and in accordance with the updated National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-513, HFO will issue both WSW and HWW instead of BZW as needed starting with the 2022-2023 wet season. The conditions that meet the blizzard definition will be detailed in the WSW and HWW, including the phrase "Blizzard conditions possible."

NWSI 10-513 has recently added wording to formalize flexibility with impact-based warnings so that Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) can opt for means of alternative messaging in lieu of warnings for locations at or above criteria when impacts are not expected to warrant alerting due to local climate or elevation and the risk of over warning.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

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