

NWS Spot

Instructions for requesting and receiving Fire Weather Spot Forecasts

Overview

NWS Spot is an Internet-based interactive program available to all State, Federal, and other approved users who need spot weather forecasts for prescribed burns and wildfires. It is also the new standard procedure for requesting and receiving text spot forecasts from the National Weather Service (NWS).

Access: The NWS Honolulu home page is at: www.weather.gov/hawaii. Click on the Fire Weather text line on the left to move to the Fire Weather Page. See Figure 1.

The screenshot shows the NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI website. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Local forecast by "City, St" or Zip Code (with input fields for "City, St" and "Go"), Current Hazards (Hawai'i, Tropical Cyclones, National), Current Conditions (Observations, Satellite, Hydrology, River & Lake AHPS, Analyses), Radar Imagery (Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Kohala, South Point, Hawai'i Mosaic, CONUS Radar), Forecasts (Hawai'i, Marine, Aviation), Local Graphics, National Graphics, and Experimental Text. The "Fire Weather" link is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from the text "To access Fire Weather and NWS Spot" to this box. The main content area features the NOAA logo, the text "National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI", and navigation links for Home, Site Map, News, and Organization. Below this, there is a "Top News of the Day" section with a link to "2005 Tropical Season Summary now available!". The central part of the page displays a map of Hawaii with various locations labeled, including PRINCEVILLE, ANAHOLO, LITHUE, WAIALUA, KAHUKU, KAAAWA, KAILUA, KALALUPAPA, KAHULUI, KALUNAKAKAI, LANAI CITY, KIHIB, HANA, UPOLO AIRPORT, LAUPAHOEHOE, WAIKOLOA VILLAGE, KAILUA-KONA, KEALAKEKUA, MILOLOI, and VOLCANO. A legend on the right side of the map lists various weather alerts with corresponding color swatches: Flash Flood Warning (dark red), Flash Flood Statement (light red), Flash Flood Watch (orange), High Surf Advisory (yellow), Small Craft Advisory (light blue), Marine Weather Statement (medium blue), Wind Advisory (dark blue), Flood Statement (green), and Coastal Hazard Message (light green). Below the map, it says "Last map update: Thu, Mar. 2, 2006 at 12:25:30 pm HST". At the bottom of the page, there is a text box stating "The UVI for noon, Mar 3 in Honolulu is 10. This is a very high exposure level."

Figure 1. www.weather.gov/hawaii

Links on the Fire Weather page (Figure 2) go directly to the NWS Spot Program and to this help file.

National Weather Service Forecast Office
Honolulu, HI

Home Site Map News Organization

Local forecast by "City, St" or Zip Code
City, St Go

Current Hazards
Hawai'i
Tropical Cyclones
National
Current Conditions
Observations
Satellite
Hydrology
River & Lake AHPS
Analyses
Radar Imagery
Kaua'i
Moloka'i
Kohala
South Point
Hawai'i Mosaic
CONUS Radar
Forecasts
Hawai'i
Marine

NOAA > NWS > WFO HFO Home Page > Fire Weather

Fire Weather

The Fire Weather program is used by land management personnel primarily for input in decision-making related to pre-suppression and other planning, that may impact firefighter safety, protection of the public and property, and resource allocation. The primary source of information is the routinely issued Fire Weather Planning Forecast. In Hawaii, this product is issued once a day around 5:30 am HST.

The Spot Forecasts are issued by WFO HFO at the request of and in support of wildfire suppression and natural resource management. These forecasts aid the land management and fire control agencies in protecting life and property during wildland fires, hazardous fuels reduction, and the rehabilitation and restoration of natural resources.

SPOT FORECAST FOR PUU WAAWAA issued at 447 AM HST MON MAR 6 2006

[Fire Weather Planning Forecast](#) (text)

[Graphic Forecast with Fire Weather Parameters](#) (RH, Transport Winds, Mixing Heights)

[NWS Spot Forecast Request for Hawaii](#)

[NWS Spot Request Help](#)

[Hawaii RAWs data summary](#)

Figure 2. The Fire Weather Page

The Main Entry Page for NWS Spot is shown in Figure 3. Click on "Submit a new Spot Request" to input the details of your burn. **Make sure you have read the latest NWS narrative forecast and have a recent observation from the fire site.**

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HONOLULU SPOT FORECASTS

for
Thursday
Mar 2 2006
[CALENDAR](#)

[Submit a new Spot Request](#)

NWS/NOAA/DOC - 11:18 am HST 3/2/06
Pending Question Complete

Name	Ignition Time	Status
Testing for Makua	5:30 am HST	COMPLETE at 4:05 am HST

[Track forecasts sent from AWIPS](#)

Figure 3. The Main Entry Page for the NWS Spot Program.

The Forecast Request Page is shown in Figure 4. Enter the information for your burn into this form. The items in red are required. Although not shown in red, a recent observation is also required before a spot forecast can or will be provided for a burn on the same day as the request.

HONOLULU SPOT FORECAST REQUEST

Required Elements in RED

PROJECT NAME		REQUESTING AGENCY						
Project Name: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		Requesting Agency: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
<input type="radio"/> Wildfire <input type="radio"/> WFU <input type="radio"/> HAZMAT <input checked="" type="radio"/> Prescribed Fire <input type="radio"/> SAR		Requesting Official: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
Ignition Time: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hawaii Local Time Date: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>		Phone Number: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/> (808) 973-5275 Ext. <input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/>						
		FAX Number: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
		Contact Person: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
REASON FOR SPOT FORECAST REQUEST								
Must choose either Wildfire or one of the Non-Wildfire reasons								
Non-Wildfire								
<input type="radio"/> Under the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, BIA). <input type="radio"/> State, tribal or local fire agency working in coordination with a federal participant in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services. <input type="radio"/> Essential to public safety, e.g. due to the proximity of population centers or critical infrastructure.								
<p>For NWS Spot forecast policy, see section 4.0 in NWS Instruction 10-401 at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/010.htm</p>								
LOCATION		FUEL						
Lat: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	Elevation: <input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Top <input type="radio"/> Bottom	Type: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
Lon: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	Drainage: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Sheltering <input type="radio"/> Full <input type="radio"/> Partial <input type="radio"/> Unsheltered						
7.5' Quad: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Aspect: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>							
	Size: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/> (Acres)							
OBSERVATIONS								
Place	Elev	Time	Wind	Temp	Wetbulb	RH	Dewpnt.	Sky/Weather
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
PRIMARY FORECAST ELEMENTS				REMARKS				
TDA TNT TMR (Today, Tonight, Tomorrow)				<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky / Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Humidity <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Level Wind <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Foot Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Dispersion								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky / Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Humidity <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Level Wind <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Foot Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Dispersion								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky / Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Humidity <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Level Wind <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Foot Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Dispersion								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky / Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Humidity <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Level Wind <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Foot Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Dispersion								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky / Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Humidity <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Level Wind <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Foot Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Dispersion								
Submit Request		Cancel Request		Clear Form				

Figure 4. The Forecast Request Page.

Requests should be submitted through a dispatch center or staffed office so that the forecaster has a contact point. This will enable the forecaster to send the spot forecast efficiently over the Internet, and it will allow coordination, observations and any updated forecasts to be exchanged more effectively. Changes can be made, and questions can be sent to the forecaster, but ONLY from the PC that made the original request.

For the fire location, you may supply either latitude and longitude or a legal description in Township, Range, Section format. If you use legal format, do so in this format: T39N R7E SEC8. NWS Spot will convert legal description to LAT/LON when it processes the request.

You may request data for Today, Tonight, and Tomorrow by checking the boxes under Requested Forecast Elements in the lower left corner of the forecast request page (Figure 4). The NWS asks that you request no more than you actually need at the time to perform your work that day, since the more you request, the longer it will take to prepare the forecast. You can always go back later in the day and update your request. The existing routine narrative forecast issued in the morning will likely have the best forecast for later periods.

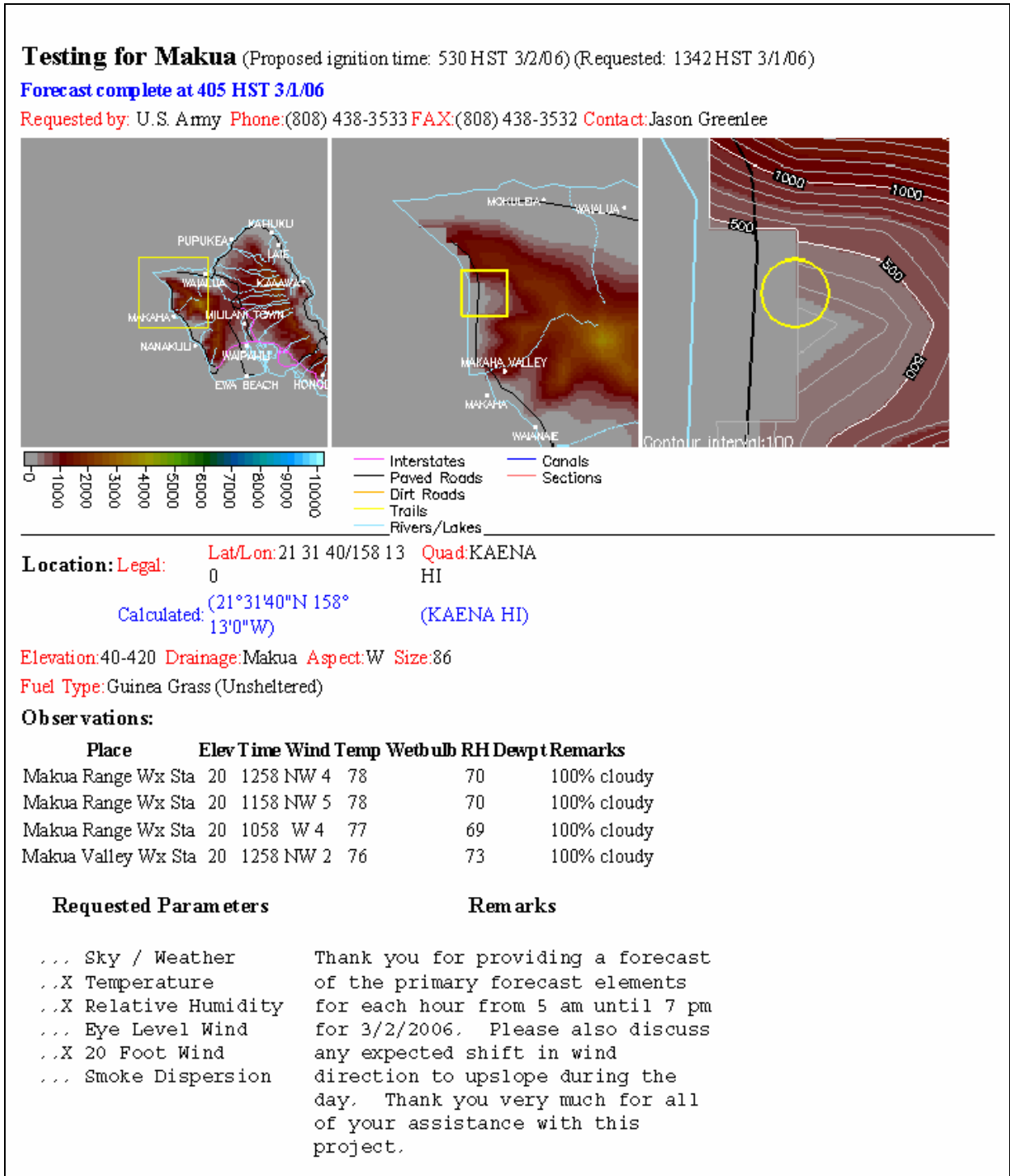


Figure 5. Request Feedback Page.

So that the NWS may fully understand your needs, use the "Remarks" text box in the lower right corner to ask questions or to state any concerns or special problems. For example, "A west wind would take the fire into a nearby resort", or "2 p.m. temperature 85, RH 18 percent".

When your request is ready, click on the Submit Request button at the bottom of the Forecast Request Page. Cancel Request will end your request without sending it. Clear Form will erase all your entries, enabling you to start over.

The spot request will alarm at the forecaster's workstation. To ensure that the forecaster received it, NWS Honolulu asks that you call the office. Once your request is submitted, NWS Spot will respond with a Request Feedback Page as shown in Figure 5. The page will contain three topo maps, each at a different zoom level, and all of the data that you submitted. Take time to look at the map. If you entered LAT/LON incorrectly, the maps may indicate that. After the forecast request is sent, the word "PENDING" will appear in the Status block of NWS Spot's Main Entry Page shown in Figure 6. The location of your fire will be designated by a small green square. If more than one pending request exists, more green squares will appear. All named fires for which forecasts have been requested will appear.

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HONOLULU SPOT FORECASTS

for
Thursday
◀ **Mar 2 2006** ▶
[CALENDAR](#)

[Submit a new Spot Request](#)

NWS/NOAA/DOC - 1:38 pm HST 3/2/06
Pending Question Complete

Name	Ignition Time	Status
Testing for Makua	5:30 am HST	FEEDBACK
Test	1:50 pm HST	PENDING

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Figure 6. Once a request has been submitted, the main Entry Page will show the project or fire name, the ignition time, and that the status of the request is PENDING.

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HONOLULU SPOT FORECASTS

for
Thursday
Mar 2 2006
[CALENDAR](#)

[Submit a new Spot Request](#)

NWS/NOAA/DOC - 11:18 am HST 3/2/06
Pending Question Complete

Name	Ignition Time	Status
Testing for Makua	5:30 am HST	COMPLETE at 4:05 am HST

[Track forecasts sent from AWIPS](#)

Figure 7. A completed forecast

All named fires for which forecasts have been requested will appear in the data block at the bottom of the page. When the forecaster has completed the spot forecast and sent it back, the red word COMPLETE will appear in the status window (Figure 7). This tells you that the forecast is now available at the bottom of the Request Feedback Page (Figure 5).

Clicking on either the text in the data blocks at the bottom or on the colored square in the map will bring up the Request Feedback page (Figure 5). Using the clickable text options at the bottom of that page (Figure 8) you can send a question, an on-site observation, or other information to the forecaster.

[Back to Spot List](#)
 [Change Request](#)
 [Copy Info to New Spot Request](#)
 [Delete Request](#)

Figure 8. Options at the bottom of the Request Feedback page (Figure 5)

The calendar page allows access to forecasts from previous days. The Main Entry Page of NWS Spot is shown once again below in Figure 9. You can look at a whole month by clicking on the word CALENDAR underneath the date. This will take you to the Calendar Page shown in Figure 10.

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HONOLULU SPOT FORECASTS

for
Thursday
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[CALENDAR](#)

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NWS/NOAA/DOC - 11:18 am HST 3/2/06
Pending Question Complete

Name	Ignition Time	Status
Testing for Makua	5:30 am HST	COMPLETE at 4:05 am HST

[Track forecasts sent from AWIPS](#)

Figure 9. The Main Entry Page

The arrow icons on either side of the date take you to next or previous day. For prescribed burns beyond the current day, it's a good idea to call the NWS directly. The advance notice will enable the forecaster to look over the weather and to be better prepared when you do submit a request through NWS Spot.

[Back to Honolulu Forecast office Fire Weather Page](#)

[earlier dates](#)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18
Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25
Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1 2 Spots	Mar 2 2 Spots(F)	Mar 3	Mar 4
Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11
Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18

[later dates](#)

Figure 10. Calendar Page

Summary

- NWS Spot is the national standard procedure for requesting spot forecasts.
- **READ THE MOST RECENT FIRE WEATHER NARRATIVE FORECAST BEFORE YOU SEND A REQUEST OR BEFORE YOU CALL THE NWS.**
- Submit requests through a dispatch center or other office that will have people on duty with whom the NWS can coordinate.
- Submit a recent observation with your request for the day of the burn. Spot forecasts will not be provided without a recent observation from the burn site.
- Request only the items needed. This will speed up the turn around time for the forecaster.
- Call your servicing NWS office after you submit a request to make sure they have received it.
- You do not need to fax anything unless asked to do so. When a spot forecast request arrives at the NWS office, it alarms at the forecaster's workstation.
- Expect a 20 to 30 minute delay between your spot forecast request and the subsequent forecast reply.
- The NWS will NOT normally fax in response to NWS Spot requests unless specifically requested to do so.
- Notify the NWS by phone or fax about future burns. Giving the forecaster as much notice as possible will give him or her an opportunity to study the weather situation and to brief the evening or midnight forecast shift. The next morning, submit a request along with an observation through NWS Spot. Requesting ahead of time merely gives forecasters time to adequately prepare for a later issuance on the day of the burn and to do that in the shortest time possible.