



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI**

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## **National Weather Service and Ocean Safety Partner on Strengthened Safety Message**

Each year millions of people recreate in the beach areas and surf zones surrounding Hawaii. High surf, dangerous shorebreak, and strong currents are just a few of the potential hazards beach visitors can face. Watching over these visitors is an ongoing and significant task. Ocean safety officials put their extensive training, skills, and experience to the test each day protecting visitors to area beaches. In order to warn the public of approaching surf hazards, the National Weather Service provides daily surf forecasts for Oahu as well as high surf warning/advisory products for the entire state.

For the past several months, officials from the National Weather Service forecast office in Honolulu and Ocean Safety officials from around the state of Hawaii have collaborated to create an enhanced high surf safety message. The enhanced messages are designed to increase awareness of the dangers associated with seasonal high surf episodes that impact all coastal areas of the state.

“Messaging is just so important,” said Jim Howe, Operations Director for Oahu Ocean Safety, “while our lifeguards do everything within their power to protect beachgoers, there really is no substitute for folks understanding ocean hazards before they enter the water.”

Enhanced impact and call to action messages will be part of the high surf warning and advisory messages issued by the National Weather Service. Each message will label the overall threat as one of the following: extreme, very high, high, or moderate. Along with the label, the new messages will display enhanced information explaining the significant threats that should be expected.

“Our goal is to get the right safety information in the hands of the public, the media, and ocean safety officials to ensure everyone’s visit to our beautiful beaches is an enjoyable and safe experience,” Mike Cantin, National Weather Service.

On the Web:

Hawaii Beach Safety Page: <http://oceansafety.soest.hawaii.edu/>

Central Pacific Hurricane Center: <http://www.weather.gov/cphc>

On Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Honolulu.gov>



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