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Hurricane Lester Expected to Weaken, Pass North of Hawai'i this Weekend Tropical Storm Madeline No Longer a Threat to the Hawaiian Islands

HONOLULU – Hurricane Lester is continuing its westerly trek across the central Pacific, with forecasters expecting it to steadily weaken and pass north of the Hawaiian Islands as a Category 1 hurricane or tropical storm, starting early Saturday morning.

The National Weather Service reported today that, as of 11:00 a.m., Hurricane Lester is approximately 680 miles east of Hilo on the island of Hawai'i and moving west at 13 miles per hour. Maximum sustained winds at the hurricane's center were 110 miles per hour.

A hurricane watch has been issued for the island of Hawai'i and for the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions, with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher, are possible within the next 48 hours.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) is advising residents and visitors to make all necessary preparations in anticipation of weather impacts generated by Hurricane Lester as it passes north of the Hawaiian Islands. Along with strong winds, other potential weather impacts include heavy rainfall, flooding and high surf.

For updated information on Hurricane Lester, follow Hawai'i news media reports and monitor the Central Pacific Hurricane Center website at www.weather.gov/cphc. Travelers scheduled to arrive in or depart Hawai'i during the upcoming Labor Day weekend should confirm their flight status before going to the airport.

Tropical Storm Madeline is no longer considered a threat to Hawai'i. As of this morning, it was located 325 miles south of Honolulu and moving in a westerly direction away from the Hawaiian Islands.

HTA will post updates on the Special Alert section of its website at www.HawaiiTourismAuthority.org.

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