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Hurricane Lester Moving Farther Away North from the Hawaiian Islands

HONOLULU – Last night, Hurricane Lester began taking more of a northwest trek that is continuing to steadily carry it farther away from the Hawaiian Islands.

The hurricane watch for the island of Hawai'i has been called off, but does remain in effect for Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and O'ahu for the time being. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions, with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher, are possible within the next 48 hours.

As of 11:00 a.m. today, the National Weather Service reported that Hurricane Lester is approximately 345 miles east of Hilo on the island of Hawai'i, and moving west, northwest at 15 miles per hour, with maximum sustained winds of 105 miles per hour at the hurricane's center. Hurricane Lester is expected to continue weakening as it passes northeast of Hawai'i over the Labor Day weekend.

Despite the increased distance from Hawai'i, forecasters are cautioning that Hurricane Lester can still cause strong winds, heavy rainfall and high surf statewide, particularly for east and north facing shores. As such, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) is advising residents and visitors to take all necessary safety precautions until Hurricane Lester has completed its pass of the Hawaiian Islands.

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 Labor Day weekend should confirm their flight status before going to the airport.

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

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