



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DOUG MAYNE
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Track Takes Guillermo Northwest of State, Possibility of
Heavy Rainfall Affecting All Islands**

HONOLULU — Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (formerly State Civil Defense) continues to work with emergency management and civil defense partners to monitor potential impacts of Tropical Storm Guillermo, which was located 370 miles east of Hilo as of 2:00 p.m. today.

“We have been advised by the National Weather Service that although Guillermo is slowly weakening, we may still be vulnerable to the storm’s impacts,” said Doug Mayne, Administrator of Emergency Management. “Residents and visitors alike should continue preparing to ensure the safety of their dwellings and families in the event of heavy rainfall, which has the potential to affect all islands through Thursday.”

Current models forecast Guillermo continuing on a northwest track above the state and weakening as wind shear increases along its path. The center of the storm is expected to pass about 230 miles northeast of Hilo on Wednesday afternoon, and approximately 200 miles northeast of Maui on Wednesday evening.

A Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect for Hawaii County and all islands in Maui County, which means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area. Hawaii County and Maui County are also under a Flash Flood Watch. The public should be mindful that it does not have to be raining heavily in an area for flash flooding to occur.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency recommends the following safety and preparedness tips, especially when preparing for the possibility of flooding:

- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, roads, and other areas known to flood suddenly.
- Use 9-1-1 only to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Make sure to monitor local broadcasters and/or sign up for local notification systems if you live in a flood prone area.
- Gather important documents such as your flood insurance policy. Flood losses are not covered under normal homeowners’ insurance policies.

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur quickly and without warning. Be prepared to evacuate and move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Secure your home and elevate essential items. Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not attempt to cross fast moving water, especially if you are unsure of the depth.
- Check with local officials and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) if you plan to hike or camp next week. Parks and other trails may be closed depending on the weather forecast. Visit the DLNR website at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/category/news/> for the latest closure information.
- Follow the Department of Education online at <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org> for the latest information on possible school closures. Make sure you know the closure notification procedure if your children attend a private or charter school.
- Visitors should download and read the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Travel Safety Brochure at <http://www.travelsmarthawaii.com>.

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Media Contacts:

Shelly Kunishige
Public Information Officer
808-733-4300 or 808-620-5408
askcivildefense@scd.hawaii.gov

Anna Koethe
Public Relations Officer
808-733-4300 or 808-620-5422

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