



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:
Stephen J. Tabussi
Vice President
First Insurance Co. of Hawaii
(808) 527-7695

FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAWAII RETAINS “A” (EXCELLENT) RATING BY A.M. BEST CO.

HONOLULU – Despite the continuing weakness of the economy, First Insurance Company of Hawaii has again been rated “A” (excellent) for its financial strength by A.M. Best Co., the global credit rating agency dedicated to serving the financial and health-care service industries. A.M. Best’s Capital Adequacy Rating (BCAR) for First Insurance also increased 36 points from last year, reaffirming the company’s strong balance sheet despite the current economy and market conditions. First Insurance has earned the “A” rating every year since 1997.

“We’re extremely pleased to have once again been rated as one of the nation’s top insurers by A.M. Best Co.,” said Allen Uyeda, president and CEO of First Insurance. “We attribute our consistently high ratings to our strong capital position, strong overall earnings, and strong local market presence.”

A.M. Best specifically highlighted First Insurance’s local brand name recognition, well-established agency relationships, local market expertise, and diverse product portfolio among its strong points.

A.M. Best's rating is an independent third-party evaluation that subjects all insurers to the same rigorous criteria, providing a valuable benchmark for comparing insurers, regardless of their place of domicile. Such a benchmark is increasingly important to an international market that looks for a strong indication of stability in the face of widespread deregulation, mergers, acquisitions and other dynamic factors.

(more)

About First Insurance Company of Hawaii

First Insurance Company of Hawaii, Ltd. is the oldest and largest property and casualty insurer domiciled in Hawaii, with assets totaling more than \$587 million and liabilities of more than \$375 million at December 31, 2009. First Insurance offers a broad array of personal, commercial, and specialty insurance lines. Nearly a century old, First Insurance enjoys an "A" (Excellent) rating from A.M. Best Co., whose ratings are widely recognized as a benchmark of an insurer's financial strength. First Insurance has also been named to the Ward's 50 list that recognizes the nation's top 50 property and casualty insurance companies. Proud of its broadly experienced, service-oriented staff, First Insurance employs more than 300 insurance professionals and distributes its products through 28 independent general agencies. It has claims personnel on Oahu, Kauai, and Maui, as well as in Hilo and Kona on the Island of Hawaii. First Insurance is jointly owned by CNA Financial Corporation and Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Company Ltd.

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