



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN COVERAGE OFFERS FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAWAII POLICYHOLDERS GREEN REPLACEMENT OPTIONS**

**HONOLULU** – Effective today, First Insurance Company of Hawaii (FICOH) will be adding Equipment Breakdown Coverage free of charge to its homeowners and dwelling fire policies. Equipment breakdown coverage provides protection for home systems and personal property in the event of mechanical or electrical breakdown. Not typically covered by the standard homeowners policy, equipment breakdown extends coverage to many expensive equipment and appliances such as central air conditioning, home electronics, security systems, swimming pool and spa equipment, and computers.

What sets FICOH's equipment breakdown coverage apart is the opportunity to replace covered equipment with environmentally friendly alternatives – even if the “green” replacement is slightly more expensive than normal replacement equipment.

For example, if a water heater is damaged and needs replacement, the owner may be able to replace it with a more efficient solution such as a tankless water heater that provides instantaneous hot water on demand, without the need to waste energy and money heating a large tank of water. The coverage can be applied to the typically higher initial cost of such “green” equipment, which can reduce the household's energy consumption in the long run.

(more)

“Our Equipment Breakdown Coverage not only provides our policyholders the peace of mind of knowing their high-value equipment and appliances are protected, but it also provides them the opportunity to help the environment by implementing a more eco-friendly replacement in the event of an incident,” said Allen B. Uyeda, president and CEO of First Insurance.

This equipment breakdown coverage extends to all essential systems and personal property found in today’s homes. The coverage is convenient and seamless since there are no separate warranty programs or fees to manage.

First Insurance Company of Hawaii, Ltd. is the oldest and largest property and casualty insurer domiciled in Hawaii, with assets totaling more than \$593 million and liabilities of \$403 million at December 31, 2008. 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. Proud of its broadly experienced, service-oriented staff, First Insurance employs more than 300 insurance professionals and distributes its products through 29 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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