



**ISLAND INSURANCE**  
COMPANIES

## **News Release**

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## **Island Insurance Receives “Aq” (Strong) Rating from Fitch Ratings for Financial Strength**

HONOLULU – Island Insurance Company, Ltd., the State’s largest locally owned and managed property and casualty insurance carrier, has reaffirmed its “Aq” (Strong) rating for Quantitative Financial Strength (Q-IFS) by Fitch Ratings. Fitch Ratings is an international credit rating agency dedicated to providing the world’s credit markets with independent and prospective credit opinions, research, and data. It is one of four Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“We are very pleased to receive a strong Quantitative Insurer Financial Strength rating,” said John Schapperle, President and Chief Operating Officer of Island Insurance. “These ratings are important because it provides policyholders with an independent opinion about the financial strength of their insurance companies,” he added.

Fitch issues two types of Insurer Financial Strength (IFS) ratings on property/casualty insurance companies. Traditional IFS ratings are established by a Fitch rating committee using a methodology that incorporates a comprehensive review of both quantitative and qualitative factors. Q-IFS ratings are generated based solely on a statistical model that utilizes the five most recent years of statutory financial statement information. In addition to an “Aq” (Strong) Q-IFS rating, Island Insurance also has an “A” (Strong) IFS rating.

The Q-IFS rating uses a rating scale and definitions similar to that used by Fitch for traditional IFS ratings. Q-IFS ratings are identified using a “q” subscript and are a “point in time” rating reviewed on no less than an annual basis. The concept of “point in time” is intended to denote the fact that the ratings are valid as of the last balance sheet date used to derive the rating and carry no forward-looking elements. Q-IFS ratings of “BBBq” and higher are considered to be “Secure” and those of “BBq” and lower are considered to be “Vulnerable.”

(more)

In 1924, the Fitch Publishing Company introduced the now familiar “AAA” (Exceptionally Strong) to “D” (Distressed) ratings scale to meet the growing demand for independent analysis of financial securities. The company’s ratings scale, coupled with independent analysis by a staff of investment experts, quickly became recognized as the benchmark by which the financial community based fixed-income investment decisions.

Island Insurance Company, Ltd. is Hawaii’s largest locally owned and managed insurance carrier, offering a full range of property and casualty protection. Founded in downtown Honolulu in 1939, Island Insurance has been serving Hawaii’s families and businesses for nearly 70 years and is the first and only Hawaii-Based company to be recognized as a Top 50 property & casualty insurance company in the nation by the Ward Group. Island Insurance has earned financial strength ratings of “A” (Excellent) from A.M. Best Company and an “A” (Strong) rating from Fitch Ratings. For more information, visit its website at: [www.islandinsurance.com](http://www.islandinsurance.com).

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