



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Insurance Division

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday March 2, 2012

Insurance Commissioner Issues Statement

HONOLULU – The Hawaii Department of Consumer and Commerce Affairs' Insurance Division released on Friday a response to the 2011 earnings reports by the Hawaii Medical Services Association and Kaiser Permanente.

"It is encouraging to see HMSA and Kaiser's financial improvements after recent years of losses," Insurance Commissioner Gordon Ito said. "We will closely monitor the state of the insurers' reserves and earnings and take those into consideration when they apply for future rate adjustments. While some people will interpret the earnings as an opportunity to drive down rates, it is the rise in health care expenditures that is a concern. Factors such as increased utilization of services, rises in medical cost and the aging of our population have put tremendous pressure on our healthcare system. Collectively we need to consider what can be done to reduce the burden everyone is facing, whether it be as an individual, family, business, or medical provider."

The Hawaii Insurance Division oversees the Hawaii insurance industry, issues licenses; examines the fiscal condition of Hawaii-based companies; reviews rate and policy filings; and investigates insurance-related complaints.

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