



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
INSURANCE DIVISION

DCCA News Release

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STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER ORDERS HOMEOWNER INSURERS TO SUBMIT NEW RATE FILINGS

HONOLULU – All homeowner insurers are required to submit new rate filings after a review found that insurance rates are being charged at excessive levels, State Insurance Commissioner Gordon I. Ito announced.

Ito recently issued a memorandum on June 8, 2011 notifying homeowner insurers that they must submit their filings for the Insurance Division's review and approval.

"After reviewing the most recent data, I concluded that rates should not be this high for homeowners who are struggling during these tough economic times," Ito said. "We are looking out for homeowners to ensure they are being treated fairly. By implementing rate reductions, the Insurance Division seeks to help homeowners keep more money that is theirs and in turn, this will contribute in turning Hawai'i's economy around."

In reviewing the latest data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC"), Ito found that Hawai'i's homeowner insurance rates are being charged at excessive levels. Ito found that for all Hawai'i insurers, the losses incurred are significantly below the national average and far below the levels necessary for insurers to earn reasonable rates of return.

By law, homeowner insurers have until October 6, 2011, to make their new filings or risk the possibility of sanctions.

(MORE)

The memorandum does not apply to hurricane rates which is a separate line of insurance. The memo may be found here:

http://hawaii.gov/dcca/ins/commissioners_memo/Commissioner_Memorandum_2011-1R.pdf.

DCCA's Insurance Division oversees the Hawai`i insurance industry by issuing licenses, examining the fiscal condition of Hawai`i-based companies, reviewing the rate and policy filings, and investigating insurance-related complaints from consumers.

For more information, call the Insurance Division at 586-2790.

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