

First Hawaiian Bank Business Activity Report for First Quarter 2014 Shows Saipan Sales Volume Up 11.25 Percent

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(Gualo Rai, Saipan, May 8, 2014) –First Hawaiian Bank's first quarter 2014 Business Activity Report (BAR) for Saipan showed an 11.25 percent increase for "same store sales" over 2013, according to Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and CNMI Region Manager.

"This is the 10th consecutive quarter of positive growth since fourth quarter 2011," said Dacanay. "Seven of the eleven sectors posted double digit increases with Home Improvement 27.31 percent leading the way. It was only the second time Home Improvement has made the top of the list since first quarter 2010. With the economy improving, we are seeing consumer confidence returning which has helped create more market activity."

The BAR monitors tracks card sales activity in 11 different economic sectors including retail, hotels, home improvement, restaurants, shipping and travel activities, among others. First Hawaiian's Saipan BAR provides a broad measure of economic activity.

First Hawaiian is a major card processor of debit and credit sales transactions. In 2013, the bank processed over \$4.4 billion worth of credit and debit sales transactions. The bank provides merchant services to nearly 7,000 First Hawaiian Bank merchant locations throughout Hawaii, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Mainland.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of \$17.3 billion was founded in 1858 and has been serving the CNMI region for over 16 years. The bank processes all major U.S. credit cards as well as JCB, China Union Pay, and BC Global Card.