

# Americas Banks: Key takeaways from FHB earnings

## FHB: Still looking for margin expansion through the rest of 2025

FHB reported decent 1Q25 results, with PPNR coming in higher than expected (\$87.4mn vs. \$82.4mn Visible Alpha Consensus Data) on higher NII and lower fees. The core PPNR beat was offset by a higher provision which FHB attributed to increased macro uncertainty and led EPS to be in line with expectations. FHB also laid out expectations for a 3.10% NIM in 2Q (inclusive of a rate cut in June) while reiterating its expectation for \$510mn of expenses in 2025, ~\$50mn of quarterly fee income and plans to continue with quarterly share repurchases of ~\$25mn.

Shares underperformed (+0.82% vs. +2.25% KRE) as the market digested the PPNR beat but higher provision and broadly reiterated guidance. Looking ahead, this was a decent guarter for FHB and while we generally come out mixed on fundamentals, including 1) despite more cuts in the forward curve, FHB reiterated its expectation for its NIM (noting spot NIM in March was 3.10%) to continue to move higher through the year driven by fixed rate repricing and deposit repricing and should continue to be a tailwind into 2026, 2) loan growth came in softer than expected in 1Q, and with FHB pointing to heightened uncertainty around 2Q's growth trajectory as well as continued plans for resi run-off, there may be a risk to consensus's estimate of ~3% YoY EoP growth. That said, FHB had previously highlighted it would use cash flow from the securities portfolio to fund growth or optimize the balance sheet, so if growth comes in softer than expected, it would likely see a benefit on interest expense side, 3) expenses came in better than expected in 1Q, and FHB expects a ramp through the year to reach its ~2% expense growth guide, but given the margin expansion and stable fee income from here, it should lead to positive operating leverage in 2025. When we put it all together, this was a decent quarter for FHB with the overall message on PPNR largely unchanged, and if it can continue to drive the margin higher while keeping expenses managed, shares could see support.

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## **Exhibit 1: FHB guidance summary**

	2025 Guidance Table	
	FHB	
	2025	Medium/Long-term
NII	- Anticipate 2Q NIM to increase to 3.10% (Margin in March was 3.10%) - Guide includes rate cut forecast in June - Might see a small decline in margin if no rate cuts happen - Increased uncertainty given current macro - Expect CD repricing in 2Q/3Q by 20-30bps - Spot deposit cost was 1.41% in 1Q	-
Fee income	- Expect the run-rate for fee income to avg \$51mn per quarter in 2025	
Expenses	- Expenses in 2025 to increase 2% to \$510mn	- Projects in queue to generate ROI in coming years
Balance Sheet	- Expect 2025 loan growth to be in LSD-MSD range - Expect some tax implications on deposits in 2Q	
Capital	- Expect to repurchase \$100mn of stock in 2025 (\$25mn purchased in 1Q, expect \$25mn/quarter for rest of the year)	
Securities	- Cash flow from securities portfolio to be used to fund the loan growth	
Tax rate	- FY tax rate at 23%	

Source: Company data

## **Valuation:**

**FHB (Sell):** We are Sell-rated on FHB with a 12-month price target of \$25 (\$27 prior) based on a multiple of 12x 2026E earnings (vs 13x prior). We maintain our 2025/2026 core EPS estimates of \$1.95/\$2.05 and revise our 2027 core EPS estimate to \$2.10 from \$2.15, incorporating 1Q25 results, management guidance and rates. Key risks to the upside include better than expected margin and funding costs, and significant positive operating leverage.

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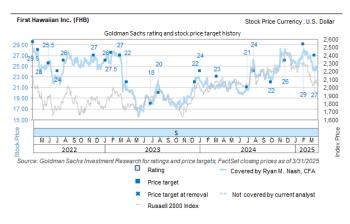
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