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April 24, 2020

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Re: Docket No. 2019-0117, Young Brothers, LLC, For Approval of a General Rate Increase and Certain Tariff Changes – COVID-19 Financial and Procedural Update Request

Dear Mr. Ana-

On March 5, 2020, Governor Ige issued a Proclamation declaring a state of emergency to support ongoing State and County responses to COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> There have been five additional Proclamations (including Supplementary Proclamations) since that time, each providing increased dedication to “provide relief for disaster damages, losses, and suffering, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people.”<sup>2</sup> As the COVID-19 emergency situation continues, individuals and business are facing economic hardship due to necessary social distancing and public safety restrictions that often directly impact business operations.

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, Young Brothers has issued Customer Notices providing updates to customers about operational changes.<sup>3</sup> On April 24, 2020, YB filed Transmittal No. 20-0003, requesting proposed amendments to its tariff related to its weekly sailing schedule

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<sup>1</sup>“Emergency Proclamation for COVID-19,” available at: [https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2003020-GOV-Emergency-Proclamation\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2003020-GOV-Emergency-Proclamation_COVID-19.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>Governor’s Emergency Proclamation page, available at: <https://governor.hawaii.gov/emergency-proclamations/>.

<sup>3</sup>Latest version of Young Brothers COVID-19 Updates: “Update 6: We’re Taking More Precautions to protect our Customers and Employees,” available at: <http://htbyb.com/wp-content/uploads/2020.04.09-Young-Brothers-Update-re-COVID-19-Update-6.pdf>.

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to help cut costs due to “a drastic drop in cargo volumes and revenues.”<sup>4</sup> Following review of Young Brothers’ COVID-19 updates and recent tariff transmittal regarding proposed modification to its sailing schedules, the Commission requests that Young Brothers provide the Commission with a financial update, informing it of any financial impacts Young Brothers has experienced, and predicts it will experience in the near-, medium- and longer-term, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Please also provide any suggestions or proposals Young Brothers has for financial assistance or relief during this time, if it deems that necessary, incorporating any relevant references to statutes, administrative rules, or examples from Hawaii or other jurisdictions.

Additionally, please inform the Commission of procedural changes, if any, that YB anticipates it may request related to the Docket No. 2019-0117 rate case, in light of the COVID-19 emergency situation. Please feel free to confer with the Consumer Advocate and submit a joint response regarding any anticipated procedural changes.

The Commission requests that Young Brothers file its COVID-19 Financial and Procedural Update in the instant docket by May 5, 2020. Thank you in advance for your assistance with providing this information to the Commission during this time.

Sincerely,



Caroline Ishida  
Commission Counsel

CI:ljc

c: Service List, Docket No. 2019-0117, via the commission’s Document Management System electronic Distribution List

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<sup>4</sup>Young Brothers, “Transmittal No. 20-0003 (For Approval of Emergency Changes to its Sailing Schedule); Exhibit 1; Verification; and Certificate of Service,” filed on April 24, 2020, at 1.