

---

**From:** Jennifer Lookabaugh <j.l.lookabaugh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 6:59 AM  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COMPLAINT- Young Brothers Proposed Shipping Changes

I am writing you to express my concerns once again over the proposed changes and requests that Young Brothers continues to make in regard to extensive prices increases and the changes to livestock and equine shipping processes. I have previously provided testimony at the public hearings held on Maui for this matter (docket 2019-0117). As a resident of Maui, and a horse owner I am asking you to disallow Young Brothers to continue with their changes that require horse and livestock owners to pay higher transporting costs and place their animals at great risk of loss or injury during the currently imposed and proposed permanent changes to loading and unloading.

Hawaii is unique as we are the only state that requires the use of ocean waterways as the primary travel option for transporting goods and services statewide. On the mainland, a person has the option of driving to a destination and transporting their own livestock and horses anywhere they see fit across the country. That is NOT an option here in Hawaii, and Young Brothers is capitalizing on this with higher costs and less service. Young Brothers carries a monopoly on shipping interisland.

With regard to shipping of livestock, Young Brothers wants to impose a One-Size -Fits- All plan that requires all livestock being shipped interisland be transported in containers that are either 20 or 40 ft- regardless of the type or number of animals. A 4H child on Molokai would be required to ship their market steer or lamb at the same rate as a rancher shipping a load of cattle to slaughter. A single horse owner would be required to pay the same rate for 1 horse as the collegiate polo team would pay to ship their team of horses from one island to another. The cost is not balanced and is solely based on the use of a container.

Along with the shipping container requirements that Young Brothers proposed and are currently implementing - they are also mandating that livestock and horses must be loaded offsite, and trucked to the pier in a container. This situation places the animal at greater risk through additional stress, more hauling and potential harm through the use of unconventional loading procedures and handling that might create injury or loss of life to the animal or the person attempting to load the animal. Specifically- when a person has to try to use a livestock loading ramp that is designed for cows, sheep or goats for a horse or donkey. These types of ramps are not designed for horses who are trained to be led into or onto a trailer as opposed to be pushed or herded like cows and sheep. In addition to the higher risk associated with having to load off- site, there is the additional stress of trying to locate a trucking company to pick up the container that livestock shippers must rent, then haul it to the offsite loading location before taking it to Young Brothers to be placed on the barge for interisland transport. Instead of hauling the animal directly to the pier for easy loading and one transport, the animal is being subjected to multiple hauls and loading/unloading sessions- creating higher amounts of stress to the animal. The cost of these additional transport requirements increases the cost to ship this animal as well. Currently, it costs roughly \$3500 to fly a horse from the mainland to Oahu and it is done with very little stress to the animals. With the current changes that Young Brothers is proposing and has implemented already, the cost to ship 1 horse from Oahu to the neighbor islands is now between \$2500 and \$3000 due to the additional off-sight loading and hauling requirements. Previously when Young Brothers allowed horses to be loaded on the pier and the use of a box stall, the cost to ship a horse inter-island was less than \$1000. It should never cost as much to ship a horse on a barge interisland as it does to fly them from the mainland.

Young Brothers does not provide any services to these animals once on board- unless the owner or person arranged to load the animal into the container has provided the animal with adequate feed and water when loaded into the container- they are not given any additional feed or water for the duration of their trip. This puts the animal at risk of illness or death and increases the liability that Young Brothers is assuming by placing these additional demands on horse and livestock shippers.

I am urging you to NOT allow Young Brothers to make changes to shipping livestock. They are the ONLY option for interisland shipping, and unless the PUC wants to invite other shipping companies to offer their services to livestock owners, Young Brothers needs to provide better services to those who need to ship livestock. We are shipping living,

breathing animals - not a tote full of Jack fruit. For many of us, the animals that we are forced to entrust Young Brothers with, are highly trained animals of great value. We have invested years of care, training, breeding into the development of this animal for competition or breeding purposes.

As a horse owner planning to ship my horse from the mainland to Maui soon, the potential risk to my horse is high and it concerns me greatly that I have literally NO other option for getting my horse to Maui once she arrives on Oahu.

If I knew that my horse would be handled safely, provided feed and water, and ensured that the process was simple and less stressful to the animal, then I would gladly pay higher fees for better service. Young Brothers is NOT providing this service at all.

Allowing Young Brothers to continue to take advantage of the livestock and horse owners and enthusiasts in Hawaii will create an unjust hardship for these people and the industries that involve livestock and horses.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Lookabaugh  
Maui

FILED

2020 May 28 AM 08:44

PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION

The foregoing document was electronically filed with the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission's Document Management System (DMS).