



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

April 30, 2020

State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, #103
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Young Brothers Tariff Transmittal No. 20-0003

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council would like to comment on Young Brother's request to reduce interisland shipping services. While we understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated changes to operations on a wide scale, we hope that these changes can be made with minimal adverse effects to the agricultural industry.

We have concerns about the Sunday Molokai sail day. A Sunday sail day poses an issue, as cattle must be loaded on a Sunday, and will arrive in Honolulu on Monday. The next possible day for those cattle to leave Honolulu for their mainland destination on Matson is Friday. The additional four days required to hold the cattle in Honolulu before sailing on Friday will add undue additional costs for our Molokai livestock shippers. Most importantly, it adds undue stress to the cattle with added days to their journey.

The Young Brothers announcement does state that "Depending on cargo volume, the Kawaihae barge may occasionally make a stopover in Kaunakakai on Wednesday morning to pick up agricultural products on its return sailing to Honolulu." This would be a better option, but there is no guarantee that this stopover will occur, and it is difficult to plan for an unplanned stop. It would be beneficial if the Molokai shippers were able to coordinate Wednesday stopovers with Young Brothers so that they can plan for shipments. More communication is always key, and it could be the solution to this issue.

We hope that you take our concerns into consideration. While our concern is for cattle that are getting shipped to the mainland, many of these ranches run a mix of grassfed local beef and a cow/calf operation that sends calves to the mainland. Diversification in operations is critical to staying afloat, and we must support agriculture and food production now, more than ever.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Nicole Galase
Managing Director

