

From: Thema Black <roarin.lamb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:55 AM
To: PUC <puc@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] YB Tariff Transmittal No. 20-0003

Aloha PUC Commissioners,

As a sheep rancher with limited facilities that process lamb, I have been utilizing Hawaii Island Meat Cooperative (HIMC) slaughter here on this island, and then sending it to Molokai Livestock Coop for the USDA cut and wrap. Young Brothers' change in shipping dates will cause a major delay in getting the product back to Big Island for me to sell it. It is shipped from HIMC to Molokai and back.

This is on top of YB's restrictions on live livestock hauling where a box stall is no longer being allowed. I have purebred Dorper sheep and have sold a ram as far as Kauai. If anyone from the other islands wanted to ship sheep from the Big Island, they have to fill up a 20-foot container to make it economical and that's a terrific burden since it is shipping quality animals in far smaller numbers than the usual load of wean off calves. What about one horse? Same problem.

Listen to these testimonies from farmers, know that our livestock industry struggles to get animals to market and to processing plants. Please make sure they have a voice in the needed shipping dates so that these farms can survive. Farmers are essential workers and want to stay strong in a time like this.

Thema Black

Volunteer at University of the Nations-Kona

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