



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 3, 2020

State of Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission  
465 South King Street, Room 103  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Young Brothers Proposed Amendments to Tariffs, Transmittal No. 20-0003

PUC Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information in the application of Young Brothers for a tariff revision pursuant to Haw. Adm. Rule Section 16-605-30. It is my understanding that the PUC will be making a decision on docket number 20-0003 by May 5th and I request that this information be included for the PUC's consideration of this matter.

Specifically, the application is for a reduction of weekly service to and from the ports servicing East Hawaii. As the Chair of the Senate's Standing Committee on Transportation, as well as the Senator representing District 04 (North Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa and North Kona), I believe that the following information is relevant to the PUC's consideration of the economic and public impact that the requested revision would have on the areas, businesses and residents that would be directly affected by the requested tariff revision.

After speaking with several businesses and farmers in and around Hilo, Keaau, and Puna, they have expressed that the current schedule of bi-weekly shipments allows them to efficiently import and export multiple containers of fresh produce and livestock each week. The Monday shipment usually contains perishables items (i.e. vegetables, papayas and tropical fruits) that go to Oahu grocery stores and farmer's markets. If Monday's schedule is changed as proposed in the revision, small businesses and farmers will have to consider transporting their goods to Kawaihae Harbor, almost 90 minutes away, which will undoubtedly cause prices to rise. If the perishables are unable to be transported, we could see less produce from East Hawaii making it to market on neighbor islands meaning more produce having to be brought in from the mainland.

If the amended sailing schedule is indeed necessary, I request that Young Brothers maintain the Monday arrival and cancel the Thursday schedule on a temporary basis.

I further believe that the information provided will aid the PUC in determining whether the revision is "just and reasonable" as called for by Section 271G-17(d), Haw. Rev. Stat."

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S. Beretania St. Room 210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

cc: Consumer Advocate

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