
From: Erik de Bruijn <erikdebruijn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 11:46 AM
To: PUC
Cc: DCCA Consumer Advocate
Subject: [EXTERNAL] YB Tariff Transmittal No. 20-0003

Via Electronic/Email Delivery

May 04, 2020

State of Hawai`i Public Utilities Commission

RE: Young Brothers Short Notice Tariff Filing, Transmittal No. 20-0003

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Erik de Bruijn and I am a private citizen residing on Kauai. I am writing you to express my concerns with the requested Short Notice Tariff Filing for changes to its sailing schedule from Young Brothers (YB).

In this filing the company claims hardship due to the drastically reduced volume of cargo being shipped, however I believe this is due to some of their own makings.

On March 26 YB posted on their website COVID-19 Update #5. In this update they stated that they no longer will accept "non-essential" cargo, including privately-owned vehicles, dry mix cargo and less than container load livestock shipments.

The reason given for this is to ensure the health and safety of their customers and employees, but it also appears to be a way to circumvent the postponed approvals of their General Rate Increase and Certain Tariff Change Request application (Docket No. 2019-0117).

As far as I can tell, there are no Federal or State Guidelines or Rules that confirm specific Cargo to be "essential" or non-essential" and to the contrary ALL shipping of Cargo is considered an essential activity.

As a private citizen I am directly affected by these decisions from YB, specifically the suspension of Livestock shipments.

My family is in the process of moving back to the mainland and we have one pony as part of our family. We currently cannot move simply due to the fact that we can't schedule a regular shipment in a box stall for our pony from Kauai to Honolulu even though, we have a reservation on a Cargo flight from Honolulu to Los Angeles.

Requiring a full container load is not a reasonable requirement for private horse shipments. We will never have a full load and waiting for other horses to fill a container can take forever. Our pony is part of our family and should be considered part of household goods, able to ship with families when moving across Islands or back and forth to the mainland.

A second concern is the astronomical costs associated with this full container load requirement. Renting a full size 20' or 40' container, associated trucking and forklift handling services on both ends costs well into the thousands of dollars and now interisland shipping by barge for one pony exceeds the price of air transport between Hawaii and Los Angeles. This makes no sense in my opinion and appears unreasonable.

I hope you will carefully review this filing request, together with all impacts from the other emergency measures YB has put in place to avoid compounding hardships for the local community and private citizens that have no other options available to them than to ship cargo with YB in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik de Bruijn, resident

CC: State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs - Division of Consumer Advocacy,
attn.: Dean Nishina, Executive Director