
From: Hawai'i Island Meat <hawaiiislandmeat@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:33 AM
To: PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Young Brothers request to reduce barge shipments

We are writing concerning Young Brothers request to reduce the number of sailings in their schedule.

Hawaii Island Meat Cooperative operates a Mobile Slaughterhouse in Kona on the Island of Hawaii. We process beef animals and sheep which have been marketed for Molokai Livestock Cooperative. We have been sending an average of 1800 lbs. of fresh beef and lamb to Molokai weekly via Young Brothers in their chilled containers.

This has allowed us to provide a market for small livestock producers on the Big Island to sell their livestock and to provide fresh grass fed meats to feed the people of Molokai. This partnership has also created viability for the HIMC-Mobile Slaughter Unit by giving us a weekly slaughter schedule. Throughput at the plant is essential to the business. Without it we will fail as a business. Already, because of the threat of a barge schedule change, Molokai Livestock has cancelled 2 weeks of orders.

Normally, we deliver the fresh, packaged carcasses to Kawaihae on Fridays to Young Brothers. The product is transferred in Honolulu to the Tuesday Molokai barge which arrives on Wednesday for Thursday pickup. This ensures that product can arrive chilled and fresh within 6 days. If Young Brothers is allowed to discontinue the Tuesday barge to Molokai, our product will have to be held until the subsequent Saturday barge. This would be 11 days in transit. Our product cannot ship fresh for this long without substantial risk. The only way to minimize the risk is to send it frozen, which will diminish the quality, and practically eliminate the market for quality animals. Molokai wants fresh meat - not frozen. It is a disservice to the producers and to the people of Molokai.

We know that there are a lot of other agricultural commodity shipments to Molokai that will be affected by any change to the existing schedule. We are asking that you deny the request to eliminate this Tuesday Molokai shipment for the above reasons, It is not a casual matter. There are far reaching impacts to Hawaii's agricultural businesses and their viability, which is dependent on reliable, timely transport.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sara Moore

HIMC-MSU Plant Manager



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