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May 5, 2020

TO: Commissioner James Griffin, Chair  
Commissioner Jennifer Potter  
Commissioner Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr  
Hawaii State Public Utilities Commission

FROM: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Council Vice-Chair & Economic Development and Budget Committee Chair

SUBJECT: **Short-Notice Tariff Filing #20-0003**  
**Young Brothers, LLC for Approval of Emergency changes to its Sailing Schedule**

Aloha Chair Griffin and fellow Commissioners,

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit comments and recommendations for your consideration regarding Young Brothers, LLC (“YB”) request for an approval of emergency changes to its sailing schedule, on behalf of my Molokai community and the greater Maui County.

This COVID-19 crisis has brought about widespread economic hardship for all sectors of all industries. There is not a business or individual who has not been greatly impacted by the measures taken during this pandemic. Thus, I understand the relief requested by Young Brothers, LLC (“YB”), and ask that the Commission consider the recommendations offered by the Consumer Advocate (“CA”) that YB aggressively seek to reduce its costs and identify other cost reduction measures it is pursuing and will be pursuing in the immediate future, other than modifications to its sailing schedule. The CA further notes in its recommendations to this Commission, that YB “should provide better information” to the public and the Commission as to “how the requested relief represents the most reasonable course of action,” information on the metrics and benchmarks YB is monitoring for their proposed reduced sailing schedule, and what data might prompt further changes.

The modified sailing schedule, dock hours, drop off and pick up times YB proposes for Maui County, and Molokai specifically, would present challenges and difficulties for our farmers, our grocers, specialty goods stores, other small businesses and our community. In our small community, these added impacts are disastrous.

- 1) YB has not communicated with all its vendors to ensure better supply chain coordinated, such as meat suppliers, and other vendors, who only ship on certain days of the week. If this is not communication regarding appropriate shipping scheduling is not provided, Molokai will not be able to receive these goods.
- 2) Our cattle ranchers (who already get a lower price per head) and those who provide other livestock, will have to incur more expenses as animals can't sit on the docks waiting for shipment and will have to be unloaded and reloaded again. This means additional labor, feed and sheltering costs for those farmers and/or buyers already struggling through this pandemic. Further, shipping them in 20' and 40' containers to accommodate more cargo on the lesser sailing schedule is inhumane and unconscionable.
- 3) Refrigerated and frozen goods, and goods with short expiration dates, such as bread, dairy products, produce will not last a shipment that takes several days to arrive. Even with dry ice, unless a refrigerated unit is used, those items have a greater chance of spoilage, bringing additional costs to the vendor and business.
- 4) Residents who need to ship vehicles by YB will have to come up with alternatives, which may be costly or unworkable, if this change is approved.

These are just a few of the many issues that the proposed change in YB's sailing schedule bring up for Molokai alone, let alone the rest of Maui County.

I request that you direct YB to conduct better community outreach, to ensure that those who may have "just-in-time inventory strategies or complex supply chain issues" and may require time to solve those issues. I also request that you seriously consider the time-sensitive and additional information the CA suggests is needed for a clearer picture of YB's situation to better determine a date to end these measures.

These measures cannot remain as part of an effort to address cargo issues and revenue, emerging from this crisis and looking to the future. Please do not leave this approval open-ended, instead, please state an end date to this emergency changes to YB sailing schedule. Mahalo for your time and attention to my comments and recommendations.

Mahalo,

*Keani Rawlins-Fernandez*

KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ

Council Vice-Chair

Economic Development & Budget Committee, Chair

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