
From: Alison Riggs <alison.riggs@downtoearth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:59 PM
To: PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concern About Change in Young Brothers' Shipping Schedule from Down to Earth

Aloha Chair Griffin and Commissioners Potter and Asuncion:

I hope you are staying safe and healthy.

I am writing about our serious concerns with Young Brothers' plans to temporarily cancel their Monday vessel from Hilo to Honolulu which will have a considerable negative impact on our Hawaii Island farmers and Oahu markets, and specifically on Down to Earth. Further information about our concerns is provided below:

- Young Brothers plans to temporarily cancel the Monday vessel from Hilo to Honolulu starting next week. Young Brothers will keep the 2nd vessel each week that leaves Hilo on Thursday arriving in Honolulu on Saturday.
- Our concerns are as follows.
 - Increased product cost as we are feeling forced to ship produce to Kawaihae so we can get two deliveries per week. This will result in a cost increase of approx. 8% based on shipping quotes we have received from trucking companies.
 - Increased time in cold storage for tropical fruits, degrading quality considerably.
 - The increased cold storage is due to either shipping out of Kawaihae which takes an extra day of shipping time compared to Hilo; or if we use the Hilo Thursday departure we likely cannot recover Saturday, resulting in 2 extra days of storage before pickup on Monday.
 - Inability to receive fresh produce twice a week unless we truck product to Kawaihae.
 - Overcrowded conditions at the Honolulu port when the single Hilo barge arrives each week on Saturday. Young Brothers are planning to replace 2 weekly barges with just 1, and this 1 barge will arrive on Saturdays which is a half day for Young Brothers.
 - Young Brothers intend to receive all the perishables that normally ship on 2 barges on one barge and will only allow Oahu businesses half a day to recover this freight.
 - Normally Young Brothers struggles to keep up with the traffic for the product from 1 barge on a full day. We suspect Young Brothers won't be able to allow businesses to recover twice as much product in half the amount of time on Saturdays.

We request that:

- Young Brothers continue with the Monday and Thursday sailings from Hilo to Honolulu
- If Young Brothers does discontinue the Monday sailing, and only has the Thursday sailing, that Young Brothers be open all day at Honolulu port on Saturdays to ensure that businesses can pick up their freight.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alison Riggs

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