



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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2019-2020 Board

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May 29, 2020

The Honorable Chair and Members of the
Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street
Kekuanao`a Building, Room 103
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attention: Caroline Ishida, Esq.

Re: Young Brothers Request for Considerations

Aloha,

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply challenged the economies and lifestyles of all communities across the State of Hawai'i. Neighbor island businesses and their customers are extremely reliant on the services that Young Brothers, LLC provides and we ask for your help in this dire situation.

While the anticipated \$25 million in CARES Act funding from the state Legislature will help ensure no disruptions in shipping services to the neighbor islands through December, the already reduced number of sailings to Hilo is creating hardship for our grocers, retailers and farmers. Outgoing fresh produce arriving on Oahu over the weekend often has to wait until Monday to be offloaded, causing additional damage and not-as-fresh products to the consumer.

Our businesses are forced to cope with shipping delays, empty shelves, and sometimes incurring the additional cost of trucking goods to and from Kawaihae, but we cannot allow Young Brothers to go out of business. Our islands depend on the essential goods that Young Brothers ships and losing them would be disastrous.

Sincerely,

Rhea Lee-Moku
President

Miles Yoshioka
Executive Officer

FILED

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PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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