

Resolution

No. 25-104

OPPOSING THE INCREASE IN SHIPPING COSTS PROPOSED BY YOUNG BROTHERS

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, Young Brothers filed an application requesting Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission approval of a total revenue increase of \$26,368,923 (27.06%) over revenues at current effective rates in Docket No. 2024-0255; and

WHEREAS, Maui County residents are highly dependent upon shipped imports; and

WHEREAS, imports from outside Hawai'i are shipped directly to O'ahu, and Young Brothers ships to our island chain, adding a hefty cost particularly to Molokai and Lāna'i; and

WHEREAS, increased shipping rates will result in higher prices for essential goods, including food, and most other cargo; and

WHEREAS, higher prices will inhibit access to affordable goods and services, which are essential to the quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the price increases proposed by Young Brothers would exacerbate the already challenging economic conditions for many families, brought on by the uncertainty of the cost of living in the State of Hawai'i, including the effects of inflation, rising housing costs, and energy prices; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that this increased financial hardship will make it impossible for many to maintain a home and force them to leave to seek a residence on the U.S. Continent; and

WHEREAS, the effect of those residents leaving will disrupt the very fabric of the community, which will further diminish the local economy; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it strongly opposes the proposed increase in shipping costs by Young Brothers, recognizing the potential harm

Resolution No. 25-104

this increase could cause to families, residents, and the local economy;

2. That it is deeply committed to preserving the well-being of its residents and stripes to ensure that all families can afford to live in Maui County, maintaining the unique culture, community, environment, and a healthy lifestyle;

3. That it requests that Young Brothers reconsider the proposed price increase, and that the relevant authorities work together to find solutions that can stabilize costs and mitigate the impact on Maui County's residents; and

4. That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Young Brothers, the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation, and the requesting Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

INTRODUCED BY:


KEANI N.W RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ