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Young Brothers Completes \$80M Investment With Fourth New Kāpena Tug

Community Leaders, Employees Welcomed the Kāpena Bob Purdy Tug at Maui Blessing

KAHULUI, HI - Young Brothers, LLC, welcomed a new tug - the Kāpena Bob Purdy - to its homeport of Kahului Harbor, Maui, on Saturday. The new tugboat is the fourth and final custom-built, new tug to be added to Young Brothers' fleet in 20 years, representing a total \$80 million investment by the company into the state.



[Captain Jim Flanagan and the crew of the Kāpena Bob Purdy. Click here to view the full media kit.](#)

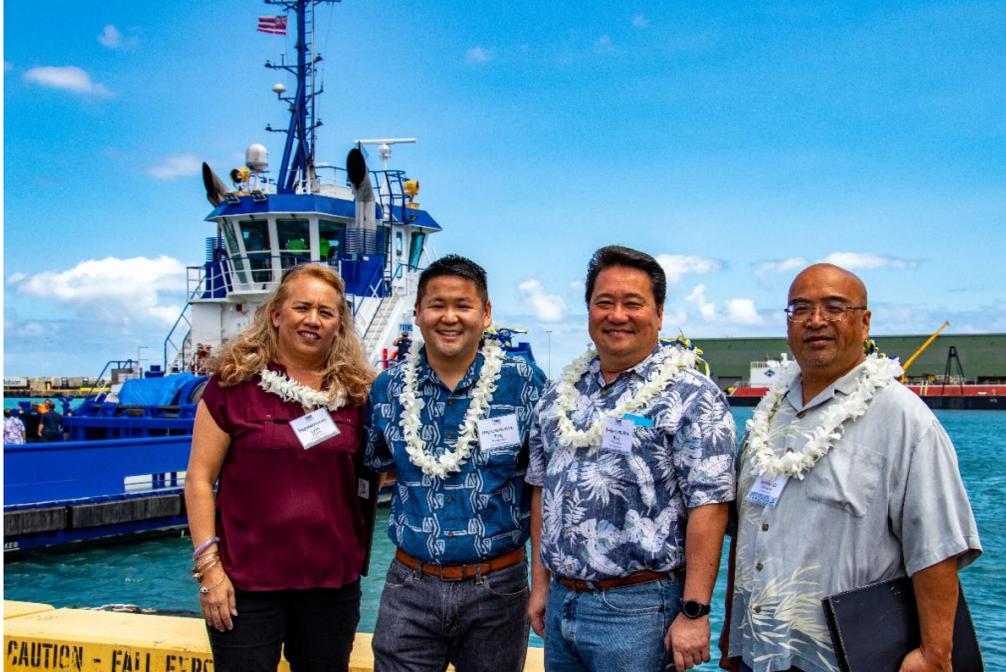
"As Hawaii's foremost interisland freight handling and transportation company, we're proud to make this significant investment in these state-of-the-art tugs, said **Paul Stevens, interim-president, Young Brothers**. "The Kāpena tugs will allow us to continue providing the vital service of connecting the Hawaiian Islands with safe, reliable and affordable transportation and carrying the groceries, construction materials, and other goods our neighbor island families need."

Young Brothers' new fleet represents the latest in "green" tug technology, reducing fuel usage and generating less pollution. The investment in new tugs also reduces the average age of Young Brothers' tug fleet to 12 years from 44 years, which will increase the company's operational efficiency, reduce emissions and improve supply chain reliability.

The Maui state legislative delegation, represented by state senator Gil Keith-Agaran and state representatives Lynn DeCoite, Troy Hashimoto and Kyle Yamashita, presented a congratulatory proclamation to mark the occasion. Other dignitaries in attendance included Maui councilmember Tasha Kama and Maui county managing director Sandy Baz on behalf of Mayor Michael Victorino.



"For those of who live on the neighbor islands, Young Brothers remains very important in sustaining our economy and well-being," said **state senator Gil Keith-Agaran**. "This boat culminates the \$80 million investment they've made in new tugs that are more efficient, better for the environment and better for our economy."



[From left to right, state representatives Lynn DeCoite, Troy Hashimoto, Kyle Yamashita and state senator Gil Keith-Agaran.](#)

The new vessel is named after legendary Young Brothers captain William "Bob" Purdy, who dedicated 33 years of service to Young Brothers. A renowned innovator, Captain Purdy pioneered the practice of towing two barges with a single tug, known today as "tandem towing." Most notably, Purdy served as captain of the tug Mamo's maiden voyage from the Bay Area to Honolulu. He set a record sail time of 10 days and 15 hours, while towing two large steel barges that were capable of carrying 32,000 boxes of fresh pineapples.

"For over 100 years, Young Brothers has been servicing and providing Hawaii's shipping lifeline that dominated the movement of cargo between the Hawaiian islands," said **Kalei Kailikini** on behalf of the gathered family and friends of Captain Purdy. "Today's tug blessing reflects your commitment to honoring the Young Brothers' founder John Young and the dedication from his employees by naming the new tugs for Captain Raymond Alapa'i, Captain George Panui Junior and Senior, Captain Jack Young, and our beloved uncle, Captain William 'Bob' Purdy."

Based in Kahului, the 6,000-horsepower Kāpena Bob Purdy tug will provide service to all seven major Hawaii'i ports. Three other tugs - Kāpena Jack Young, Kāpena Raymond Alapa'i, and the Kāpena George Panui - were added to the fleet earlier this year with homeports in Kaunakakai, Hilo, and Nāwiliwili, respectively.

Young Brothers plans to hold a blessing in Honolulu for all four new tugs that comprise the Kāpena fleet in October 2019.

About Young Brothers, LLC.

Young Brothers, LLC, with approximately 380 employees across the state, has served Hawaii since 1900. Young Brothers is a publicly regulated water carrier providing 12 weekly port calls from Honolulu to the state's neighbor island ports, including Hilo, Kawaihae, Kahului, Kaunapau, Kaunakakai and Nāwiliwili. From reservation to pick-up, Young Brothers' employees move goods quickly, securely, and seamlessly across the Hawaiian Islands. For more information visit www.youngbrothershawaii.com.

Media Kit

- [Still Photos](#)
- [B-roll Video](#)
- [Video: Remarks by state senator Gil Keith-Agaran](#)

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