

Young Brothers’ Facility Reopens at Port of Hilo

Company offers extended gate hours for customers to pick up cargo

DECEMBER 12, 2023



HILO, HAWAII – Following the United States Coast Guard’s approval of Young Brothers’ mitigation plans to address the malfunction in the facility’s fire suppression system, Young Brothers announced this afternoon that its facility at the Port of Hilo reopened earlier this afternoon, and the company is offering special operating hours to serve customers.

“The safety of our employees and the community is our top priority. We’re grateful to our partners at the State of Hawai’i Department of Transportation Harbors Division, United States Coast Guard and Hawai’i County Fire Department for coordinating with us to resolve this issue swiftly,” said **Nalani Say, director of terminal operations for Young Brothers**. “Young Brothers recognizes our critical role in connecting our island communities, and we’re eagerly resuming our operations to move what matters most for Hilo safely and efficiently.”

Here’s what happened:

- Monday, December 11
 - Young Brothers regularly scheduled sailing from Honolulu to Hilo arrived in Hilo. Employees safely discharged all cargo, and customers picked up all refrigerated cargo.
 - The United States Coast Guard conducted a routine inspection and identified an issue with the fire suppression system, notifying Young Brothers of its findings after the company’s gates had closed for the day.
 - Young Brothers immediately developed plans with the Hawai’i County Fire Department to implement temporary mitigation measures to address the malfunction in the facility’s fire suppression system.
- Tuesday, December 12
 - Per guidance from the United States Coast Guard, Young Brothers did not open its facility at the Port of Hilo.
 - Plans for temporary mitigation measures to address the malfunction in the facility’s fire suppression system were subsequently approved by the United States Coast Guard.
 - Young Brothers’ facility at the Port of Hilo reopened between 2 and 3 p.m.

Young Brothers is working with the State of Hawai’i Department of Transportation Harbors Division to complete long-term mitigation measures.

Young Brothers offers the following operational updates:

- Young Brothers extends gate hours so customers can pick up cargo at the Port of Hilo now through 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12.
- Young Brothers will offer special gate hours on Wednesday, December 13, from 6:30 to 11:30 a.m. for customers to pick up any remaining cargo.
- Young Brothers’ regulated sailing will continue as scheduled, departing Honolulu today, December 12 and set to arrive on Thursday, December 14. There are no changes to the Hilo sailing schedules at this time.

About Young Brothers

Young Brothers, LLC is Hawai’i’s trusted interisland freight company. Founded more than 120 years ago, Young Brothers is responsible for transporting 100% of all ocean cargo that originates and ends in Hawai’i and is the only water carrier to serve Lāna’i and Moloka’i. The publicly-regulated company offers 12 weekly sailings between the ports of Nāwiliwili, Honolulu, Kaumalapau, Kaunakakai, Kahului, Kawaihae, and Hilo. Around 380+ highly skilled employees move what matters most for Hawai’i using state-of-the-art shoreside equipment and a fleet of eight barges and eight tugboats, including four fuel-efficient Kāpena-class tugs. Young Brothers is an independently managed subsidiary of Foss and part of the Saltchuk family of companies. For more information, visit www.youngbrothershawaii.com and connect via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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