

Young Brothers Invests Over \$45 Million to Enhance Reliability of Interisland Shipping

OCTOBER 3, 2024



MORGAN CITY, LA – Last week, Young Brothers christened the *Kalohi* and *Nāulu barges*, marking a milestone in the more than \$45 million investment to enhance the reliability and resilience of the interisland shipping services. Entering service in December 2024, the new barges will provide additional cargo capacity and were designed with advanced technology and features that make it safer and more efficient to load and unload cargo.



Leaders from Young Brothers christened the new vessels at a ceremony held on September 30, 2024.

The addition of these state-of-the-art vessels – the first new barges in nearly 20 years – is a major step forward in modernizing Young Brothers' fleet and ensures we are well-positioned to deliver the frequent and reliable interisland shipping service to power Hawai'i's economy and connect our island communities," said **Jay Ana**, president of Young Brothers.



The name *Kalohi*, inspired by the channel that links Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, comes from "lohi," which is short for "alohi," meaning sparkle or shine.

The *Kalohi*, a 286-foot-long barge, was designed to serve smaller ports like Kaunakakai (Molokaʻi) and Kaunapali (Lānaʻi).

"As the only water carrier serving Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, Young Brothers has a critical kuleana to these communities," said **Ana**. "This investment in *Kalohi* reflects our deep commitment to enhancing the capacity and resiliency of our services moving what matters most for Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi."



Nāulu, named for a sea breeze and rain in Kawaihae, Hawaiʻi. Literally translated, *Nāulu* is a sudden rain shower that quickly passes.

The *Nāulu*, a 365-foot-long barge, will be the largest vessel with the most cargo capacity in Young Brothers' fleet. The versatile design enables Young Brothers to transport additional cargo during peak periods and realize significant operational efficiencies in the ease of loading and discharging cargo when volume returns to off peak levels. *Nāulu* will be homeported in Kawaihae (Hawaiʻi Island) and will serve Young Brothers' four larger ports.

Key Features of the *Kalohi* and *Nāulu* Barges

- Ballast technology raises or lowers the vessels in response to changing tidal and ocean conditions, increasing stability, safety and efficiency when loading and unloading cargo in the challenging ocean conditions often present at Young Brothers' port locations.
- Additional cargo ramps across the barges, giving employees greater flexibility and enabling greater efficiency in safely loading and discharging cargo.

The vessels were custom-designed by **Hockema Group**, a Washington-based naval architecture firm, and built by **Conrad Shipyard**, a national leader in the construction of ships for commercial customers and the U.S. governments.

Media Kit (Courtesy of Young Brothers)

- [B-roll](#)
- [Still photos](#)

About Young Brothers


Young Brothers, LLC is Hawaiʻi'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 Hawaiʻi and is the only water carrier to serve Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi. The publicly-regulated company offers 12 weekly sailings between the ports of Nāwiliwili, Honolulu, Kaunapali, Kaunakakai, Kahului, Kawaihae, and Hilo. More than 400 highly skilled employees move what matters most to Hawaiʻi 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](#).

About Conrad Shipyard

Conrad Shipyard, established in 1948 and headquartered in Morgan City, Louisiana, designs, builds and overhauls barges, dredges, and dredge support equipment, tugboats, ferries, drydocks, liftboats, offshore supply vessels and other steel products for both the commercial and government markets. The Company provides both repair and new construction services at its five shipyards located in southern Louisiana and Texas.

About Hockema Group


Hockema Group, Inc., is an independent, full service naval architecture firm primarily involved in commercial and government projects in various sectors of the marine industry. We provide naval architecture and marine engineering services for tugs, barges, commercial fishing vessels, dredgers, cargo vessels, workboats, passenger vessels and government/military service vessels.



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