

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2026

Young Brothers Responds to Recent Shipping Delays to Moloka'i and Lāna'i and Schedules Additional Sailing

Company details back-to-back weather and mechanical challenges, what was done to restore service, and move affected cargo.

Cargo to Moloka'i and Lāna'i experienced back-to-back disruptions over the last several days. First, dangerous ocean swells made it unsafe to moor and discharge cargo at both Kaunakakai and Kaunapali ports on June 3, and then an unexpected mechanical repair to the towing tug delayed the recovery sailing originally planned for June 6. At every stage, Young Brothers prioritized the safety of its crews and vessels, communicated updates as quickly as conditions allowed, and worked to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Young Brothers will run direct service to both Lāna'i and Moloka'i this coming weekend to clear the cargo backlog in Honolulu, and are offering extended operating hours for freight recovery. Moloka'i and Lāna'i are island communities that define the company's responsibility as Hawai'i's marine highway, and its commitment to these communities remains steadfast.

HONOLULU – Over the past several days, customers and communities on Moloka'i and Lāna'i experienced a series of cargo delays that Young Brothers recognizes may have been frustrating, disruptive, and, for some, difficult to follow as the situation and the necessary customer updates evolved quickly. In response to inquiries related to these delays, Young Brothers wants to walk through what happened, why it happened, and what the company did at every step to restore service—including adding a **one-time additional sailing to Kaunapali** to help move affected cargo.

There were two compounding challenges, — hazardous weather and ocean conditions, followed by an unexpected mechanical repair — that unfolded across several days and required Young Brothers to make **safety-first** decisions that delayed cargo in order to protect crews, vessels, and the overall long-term reliability of service to these islands.

June 1: Getting Ahead of the Weather

The initial change in schedule began not with a breakdown, but a pivot in the sailing based on a weather forecast. In advance of predicted unfavorable weather and ocean conditions, on Monday, June 1, Young Brothers proactively shifted its normal Tuesday, June 2 Moloka'i/Lāna'i combo sailing to depart Wednesday, June 3, routing directly to Kaunakakai first so Moloka'i-bound cargo could arrive as close to schedule as possible. There were no changes to cargo availability or gate hours at the Port of Kaunakakai, Moloka'i at that time.

June 3: Conditions Make Discharge Unsafe at Both Ports

Our barge, the *Kalohi*, timely arrived at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i but dangerous south swells made it unsafe for crews to ramp the barge and discharge cargo. The barge proceeded to the Port of Kaunapali, Lāna'i, where harbor surge presented the same problem as Moloka'i. Unable to safely discharge the barge in both Moloka'i and Lāna'i ports, the tug and barge returned to Honolulu. Young Brothers issued a customer notice and advised that the next barge to Kaunakakai, Moloka'i was expected to depart Honolulu on Sunday, June 7.

June 4: A Recovery Plan Takes Shape

With the *Kalohi* barge safely back in Honolulu, Young Brothers notified customers of a recovery sailing scheduled to depart Saturday, June 6, and arrive at Kaunakakai, Lānaʻi on Sunday, June 7. After discharging cargo at Lānaʻi, the barge would continue to Kaunakakai, Molokaʻi and arrive on Monday, June 8, as regularly scheduled with no changes to cargo availability.

June 6: An Unexpected Mechanical Issue

Before the June 6 recovery sailing could depart, a mechanical issue was identified on the towing tug, requiring repairs before the vessel could safely return to sea. Young Brothers issued a customer notice that evening.

June 8: New Departure Confirmed and Extended Operating Hours

With tug repairs still underway, Young Brothers confirmed a revised departure plan that also aligned with their regularly scheduled sailing from Honolulu on Tuesday, June 9, with arrival at both Kaunakakai, Lānaʻi, and Kaunakakai, Molokaʻi on Wednesday, June 10.

At every stage, Young Brothers communicated updates to customers via email, its website, and social media as quickly as conditions allowed, _because keeping customers informed is part of the commitment, even when the news may be difficult to deliver.

The company announced an additional one-time sailing to the Port of Kaunakakai, Lānaʻi that will depart this Saturday, June 13, 2026 and will arrive in the afternoon and will have special gate hours on Monday, June 15, 2026 for pick up of cargo. The company is also offering extended free time for those affected customers in Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi who need additional time to pick up their cargo. Customers should reach out to their local port office for more information.

"Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi are the island communities that define our responsibility as Hawaiʻi's marine highway," said Steen Christensen, president, Young Brothers. "We know that when our inter-island shipping service is disrupted, real people and real businesses feel it. These were compounding and separate challenges. Weather conditions made it unsafe for our crews, both at sea and on land to moor and discharge cargo at these ports, and mechanical repairs that had to be completed properly before we could put our vessel and barge back at sea. We do not cut corners on safety. What I can commit to is this: we will always work as fast as safely possible to get cargo to Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi as soon as possible — and when circumstances require more, we will do more. This additional sailing is our commitment in action."

Customers seeking the most current information on sailing schedules and cargo availability can visit youngbrothershawaii.com and sign up for email updates at youngbrothershawaii.com/email-updates, or follow the company on social media at [@youngbrothershawaii](https://www.instagram.com/youngbrothershi) / [@youngbrothershi](https://www.instagram.com/youngbrothershi).

Media Kit (courtesy of Young Brothers)

- [Customer Notice – Announcing Additional Sailing to the Port of Kaunakakai](#)

About Young Brothers

Young Brothers, LLC is Hawaiʻi's leading interisland freight and logistics company. Founded more than 125 years ago, Young Brothers is responsible for transporting 100% of all ocean

cargo that originates and ends in Hawai'i. The company offers 12 weekly sailings between the ports of Nāwiliwili, Honolulu, Kahului, Kawaihae, and Hilo; and is the only water carrier to serve Kaunapali and Kaunakakai. More than 440 highly skilled employees move what matters most to 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. For more information, visit www.youngbrothershawaii.com and connect via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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