BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of) WESTERN MOTOR TARIFF BUREAU, INC.) To Increase its Rates and Charges) on Behalf of Motor Carriers) Statewide Participating in WMTB) Household Goods Tariff No. 1-B.) WMTB Rate Notice No. 4321-1-B.)

DOCKET NO. 02-0361

<u>ORDER NO. 19691</u> 0.00 W υ _ Filed Oct. 3 , 2002

At _8:00 o'clock .м.

Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy KAREN HIGASHI Chief Clerk, Public Utilities Commission, State of Hawaii.

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Docket No. 02-0361 Order No. 19691

<u>ORDER</u>

I.

By Rate Notice No. 4321-1-B, filed on September 20, 2002, as amended on September 30, 2002, WESTERN MOTOR TARIFF BUREAU, INC. (WMTB) seeks to amend its Statewide Household Goods Tariff No. 1-B to reflect a five per cent across-the-board increase in its rates and charges.¹ WMTB supports its request with a cost study, dated September 20, 2002.

WMB makes its request: (1) on behalf of all carriers statewide participating in Tariff No. 1-B; and (2) in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §§ 271-20 and 271-21. The proposed effective date of WMTB's tariff changes is October 21, 2002.

Copies of the rate notice and cost study were served on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy (Consumer Advocate).

¹WMTB's September 30th filing corrects an inadvertent error by replacing Supplement 10 with Supplement 11.

Upon careful review and consideration, the commission is unable, at this time, to determine, among other things, the justness and reasonableness of the proposed increases in rates and charges. The commission, thus, will: (1) suspend the operation of Rate Notice No. 4321-1-B; (2) investigate the proposed changes pursuant to HRS § 271-20(e); and (3) name the Consumer Advocate as a necessary party to this docket.

III.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. The tariff changes proposed by WMTB in Rate Notice No. 4321-1-B are suspended for a period of up to five months from the proposed effective date, up to and including March 21, 2003, and placed under investigation.

2. WMTB shall file the appropriate tariff sheets to reflect the suspension ordered by the commission.

3. The Consumer Advocate shall be a party to this proceeding.

4. A scheduling conference will be held at the commission's office. The parties will be notified of the date and time of the conference.

II.

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2002.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

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H. Kimura, Chairman

By_ Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

By Gregg J Kinkley, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Azama Commission Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing <u>Order No.19691</u> upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY P. O. Box 541 Honolulu, HI 96809

WESTERN MOTOR TARIFF BUREAU, INC. P. O. Box 30268 Honolulu, HI 96820

Catherine Sakato

DATED: October 3, 2002