



## Are you ready?



The months June through November mark hurricane season in Hawaii and at HELCO, we want to make sure everyone is prepared.

### Steps to take before a storm:

• Develop a family emergency plan before disaster strikes. As an example, decide where the family will meet if separated.

• Have a home survival kit ready:

- Portable radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit with special medication
- Water
- Manual can opener
- Three-to-five days supply of nonperishable food
- Masking tape
- Camp stove
- Extra clothing
- Sleeping bags or blankets

### In event of a power outage:

• Use flashlights rather than candles. An open flame may create a fire hazard.

• Use emergency generators safely. As a general rule, don't plug them directly into household outlets or connect to your household wiring. This can cause power to backfeed into our lines, unexpectedly energizing them and endangering crews working to restore service. Instead, plug appliances directly into the generator. Make sure the wattage for the appliances doesn't exceed the generator's capacity. Run generators outside to allow for adequate ventilation.

• Emergency calls only, please. After a storm, stay tuned to local radio, TV and newspapers for reports on HELCO's progress in assessing and repairing major damage.

Please help us keep the phone lines open by calling only if you don't hear your area's power outage mentioned or if you need to report an emergency such as a downed power line or sparking electrical equipment.

• Before calling us to report an outage, check your home circuit breakers or fuses to help determine if your electric service outage might be the result of a household problem.

• If your immediate neighbors get power back, but you're still without power, call us.

### Other safety concerns:

• Think hot! Stay away from downed power lines. Assume the lines are energized and dangerous.

• If you see someone injured after touching a downed power line, call 911 for help; don't try to rescue them. You could become a victim yourself.

• If you see a downed line, report it to us by calling 969-6666.

• If there is significant water damage in your home that might make it unsafe, call a licensed electrician for advice.

For additional information, see the *Handbook for Emergency Preparedness*, which can be found on our website at [www.helco.com](http://www.helco.com).



## Making a claim for damage?

Look for the flyer in this month's electric bill that explains how to make a claim if you have losses due to a power outage.

As a reminder: You also have a responsibility to protect your equipment. Consider devices like surge suppressors or an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) to protect your computers and other sensitive electronic equipment.

## Free info cards available

Here's a great way to keep some important safety and emergency information handy. HELCO has two informational cards on "Electrical Safety" and "Electrical Emergency." Pick up copies at our Hilo, Waimea and Kona customer service offices.



## Charge your bill payment

As we announced last month, you can now pay your HELCO electric bill over the phone with a credit or debit card. HELCO has arranged for our customers to take advantage of the new automated EasyPaysM service from Western Union\*. EasyPaysM allows you to use your MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express credit card or your STAR network debit card to pay your bills. At this time, this payment option is only available by using a touch tone phone and cannot be used in conjunction with automatic bill payment.

To charge your payment, call EasyPaysM at 1-888-386-8173. All you need is your HELCO account number and your credit or debit card handy.

\*Western Union charges a convenience fee for this service (amount varies depending on the amount of bill payment). Listen to the automated phone message and select the option to find out the calculation of your fee.

## Interested in selling power to HELCO?

### Photovoltaic interconnection presentation

If you have a 10-kilowatt or smaller photovoltaic (solar electric) system and are thinking of connecting it to the HELCO electric system, here's a free presentation you won't want to miss.

To make it easier for small photovoltaic owners, HELCO has recently developed a simplified purchase power agreement for Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) 1741-certified systems that are 10-kW or less.

Come and learn more at one of these presentations:

**Wednesday, August 16**  
**6 to 8 p.m.**  
**HELCO main office, 2nd floor**  
**conference room**  
**1200 Kilauea Ave., Hilo**

**Wednesday, August 23**  
**9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel,**  
**Ballroom #1**  
**75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona**

For more information, call Hal Kamigaki at 969-0322 or Melvin Yamaki at 969-0323.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Meatless Pigeon Peas and Rice

- 1/2 cup achiote oil
- 6 to 8 large cloves garlic, grated
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano leaves, crushed
- 1 bunch cilantro (Chinese parsley), chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 2 cans (15 oz. size) gandule beans (pigeon peas)
- 2 cans (14-1/2 oz. size) chicken broth
- 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 3-3/4 cups rice, rinsed and drained



In a large saucepot, heat the achiote oil. Add garlic, onion, oregano, cilantro, and bell pepper; cook until onion is clear. Add beans, broth, tomato sauce, salt, pepper, and cumin; cook for 10 more minutes. Add rice; cover, and bring to a boil. Lower heat and continue cooking for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Makes 8 to 12 servings.

