



Maui whale facility gets sun power

Thousands of tourists visit the Hawaiian Islands each year hoping to catch a glimpse of the magnificent humpback whales making their yearly migration across the Pacific.



The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in Kihei is dedicated to protecting this endangered species and its habitat. And thanks to MECO and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the sanctuary is taking advantage of solar power to complete its mission.

MECO provided \$20,000 to help install a 2.6 kilowatt photovoltaic (solar electric) system to supplement the facility's existing 1.3 kw system. NREL provided additional assistance. Plans are to install an additional 3.6 kw once more funds are available. When the final increment is complete, the whale sanctuary will get virtually all of its power from its photovoltaic system and will even be able to sell any excess power back to MECO. It is the first facility to take advantage of MECO's new simplified contract which makes it easier for small photovoltaic producers to connect to the utility grid and sell power to us.

The system will be dedicated on **October 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, so come down and be part of this fun-filled educational event. For more information, check upcoming local advertising or call MECO at **871-8461**.

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September 18 through 24 is Pollution Prevention Week in Hawaii. And even if you receive this issue of *Consumer Lines* after the official dates, it's still a great opportunity for all of us to examine what we can do to prevent pollution, by reducing waste and conserving resources.

Pollution Prevention Week: Act now!



Be energy efficient. That doesn't mean sacrificing comfort or convenience. You can:

- Consider using energy efficient appliances. Look for the yellow and black Energy Guide labels on new water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, washers and air conditioners. You can compare estimated annual operating costs to make a smart choice. (See *Last chance for cool savings* to find out how you can save on an air conditioner with an EER of 9.0 or higher).
- Take advantage of MECO's *Energy\$olutions for the Home* program and get cash incentives for installing a heat pump or solar water heating system. You'll save money on your electric bill and help reduce the demand for electricity at the peak evening time. What's so important about that? To meet peak demand, we often have to supplement our "base load" generators with "peaking" units that are fast starting, but may be less efficient.

Drive efficiently. Did you know that an estimated 60% of man-made pollution comes from motor vehicles?

- Drive sensibly. Jackrabbit starts and excessive speed burn more fuel.
- Combine trips by planning ahead of time.
- Walk or bike to some destinations. And even if you don't, please be considerate of those who do. Observe crosswalks, signal before turning, and obey speed limits.
- Consider an electric vehicle (EV). The environmental effect of the electricity needed to run an EV is much less than the pollution from an ordinary gas-powered car.



Automatic bill payment

Want to save time and money when you pay your electric bill? Sign up for Automatic Bill Payment. No more checks to write, lines to stand in or stamps to stick. Once you sign up, your bill payment will be deducted from your checking or savings account about 13 working days after the bill has been sent. That will give you plenty of time to review your bill and ask questions, if needed. For more information, check out the insert included with this month's electric bill.

E-BILL AUTOMATICALLY, TOO

In addition to using Automatic Bill Payment (ABP) to pay your bill, you can also enjoy the convenience of viewing your bill electronically at a secured Internet site. If you've already signed up for ABP, this service will continue when you sign up for our E-Bill service. ABP customers who sign up for E-Bill should follow these instructions after viewing your bill electronically: Simply click on "Mark" to indicate the bill has been paid. Do not click on "Pay." Your bill will be paid through Automatic Bill Payment, not E-Bill. (Note: E-Bill customers are not required to use ABP or vice versa).

For more information on E-Bill, visit the website at www.heco.com.



Last chance for COOL savings

September is the last month to use money saving coupons for purchases of energy efficient room air conditioners (those with an Energy Efficiency Ratio of 9.0 or higher). You can save up to \$40 with coupons from MECO and selected air conditioner distributors. The coupons were originally included with your May electric bill. Can't find them? No problem. Just call 871-8461 or log on to the website at www.heco.com to download a set.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Tropical Fruit and Haupia Parfait

- Haupia**
 3 cups water
 1 cup instant non-fat dry milk
 2 to 4 tablespoons sugar
 1/2 cup cornstarch
 1/2 teaspoon coconut extract
- Guava Sauce**
 1 can (6 oz.) frozen guava nectar
 1/2 can (6 oz. size) frozen pink lemonade
 2 cups water
 1/4 cup instant food thickener
- Assorted fresh fruits, cut in 1/2-inch cubes



In a saucepan, combine all ingredients for haupia, except coconut extract; mix until smooth. Stirring occasionally, heat until mixture just comes to a boil. Lower heat and cook until mixture thickens; add coconut extract. Pour into a shallow pan, cover, and chill for 1 hour or until firm. In a bowl, combine guava juice, lemonade, and water. Add food thickener and stir until desired consistency. To serve, cut haupia into 1/2-inch cubes. Place alternate layers of haupia and fruits in parfait glasses. Pour guava sauce over parfaits and serve. Makes 8 servings.

