



HELCO wishes you very happy holidays. May the joy, happiness and good will of the season be with your ohana throughout the new year.



## SAFETY TIPS

And to help make sure you celebrate safely, don't forget these important tips.

- ◆ Check all wires, sockets and plugs before you plug in lights. Discard any light strings with frayed wires or loose wiring pulled from the sockets. Make sure all sockets have bulbs in them; unplug the light string before replacing burned out bulbs.
- ◆ Outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly marked for outdoor use.
- ◆ Remove outdoor lights after the holiday season. Prolonged exposure to the elements could damage them.
- ◆ Avoid creating a fire hazard by overloading your circuits with too many lights. As a general guideline, limit the number of lights strung together to 200 "midget" lights or 50 larger bulbs. Check the instructions on the

box for limits on your specific lights.

Consider using new LED – Light Emitting Diode – holiday lights that are shatterproof and cooler than regular lights, making them safer to use indoors and out. They also use a fraction of the energy conventional string lights require.

- ◆ If you prefer to fasten the lights to the branches, use ribbon or string; never use wire or metal twist ties.
- ◆ Place all floor level wires where no one will trip over them. Tape wires to the floor securely.
- ◆ When greeting the New Year, please keep fireworks away from utility poles. You may interrupt your electric, phone or cable TV service. Even worse, you risk severe shock or electrocution if you touch an energized power line.

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## Holiday business hours...

Our Hilo, Waimea and Kona offices will observe the following holiday schedule:

Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Day (1/2 day)  
Hilo 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Waimea and Kona 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 25  
Christmas Day  
Closed



Wednesday, December 31  
New Year's Eve Day (1/2 day)  
Hilo 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Waimea and Kona 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 1, 2004  
New Year's Day  
Closed



### Coming up...

11th Annual Hawaii Regional Science Bowl  
Saturday, January 24  
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Honolulu, Community College

Big Island participants:  
Hilo, Kealahou, Waiakoa and St. Joseph High Schools



### Arbor Day

Students from Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School, (l to r) Zorba Lozano, Ellie Madison, Iris Henkle, William Chamberlain, Tia Marks and Clayton Tompkins, invite the public to pick up a free native plant at the HELCO Arbor Day tree and shrub giveaway. Other partners contributing to the successful event held at HELCO's Hilo office include Ho'oulu Lāhūi and the State of Hawaii Fish and Wildlife Kaulunani Program.



## POWER TIPS

### Save energy and money... put your PC to "sleep"

Personal computers are getting faster and more convenient with CD-RW drives, larger monitors, and now DVD players. Some people leave their PCs on at night to cut down on the waiting time at startup, but leaving that PC on 24/7 with the monitor running, a 3D screen saver could cost you about 50 cents a day, or roughly \$180 a year. A money saving alternative: Use the "power save" or "hibernate" mode.

One of our customers called to ask how much his Energy Star monitor was drawing when it was in this mode. Here's what we found out:

A monitor in "hibernate" mode powers down to about 5 watts. A PC in "hibernate" powers down to about 2 watts. Computers operating with Windows 98 second edition and later versions can use hibernate mode. If you use your PC for 6 hours a day and let it hibernate the remaining 18 hours, you can save over \$130 a year on your electric bill! Problems have been reported on using hibernate mode on some networked PCs. Check with your local computer expert.

So, to save money and still have that PC startup quickly, let it sleep!

Here's another tip: LCD monitors use less energy than CRT monitors, but they are more expensive.

Also take note of some computer "myths":

● **Turning your PC on and off wears it out.** Five or more years ago, there was something to this, but not anymore. Today's PCs are designed to handle 40,000 on/off cycles before a failure, and that's a number you likely won't reach during the computer's five-to-seven year life span.

● **Screen savers save energy.** Not true. Screen savers, at a minimum, can use 42 watts; those with 3D graphics can use as much as 115 watts.

● **Your computer uses zero energy when "off."** That's true only if it is unplugged. Otherwise, the PC utilizes "flea power," or about 2 watts, to maintain local-area network connectivity, among other things. However, it is true that a monitor that's turned off uses zero energy.

Costs based on 14 cents/kilowatt-hour

Sources:  
<http://www.bcentral.com/articles/enbysk/158.asp>  
<http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/howmuch.html>



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Apple Dapple Cake



- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups chopped apples (about 3 apples)
- 2 cup chopped pecans, optional
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg

### Caramel sauce

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream

In a small saucepan, melt butter; add sugar and bring to a boil. Cook for about 2 to 3 minutes, or until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in cream. Makes about 3 cups.

Preheat electric oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 9-inch bundt pan. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, cream sugar, eggs and oil. Mix in remaining ingredients except caramel sauce. Pour batter into prepared pan; bake for 1 hour. Before serving, top each piece with caramel sauce. Makes 12 servings.

