CONSUMER Lines

HECO MARCH 2005

The sun lights up the night at Kapolei Middle School

Thanks to HECO's *Sun Power for Schools* program, two new photovoltaic (PV) lighting systems are providing security lighting at Kapolei Middle School using energy from the sun.

Randy Roman (l) and David Leatherman (r) of Electricians, Inc. installed PV lighting systems at Kapolei Middle School as part of the Sun Power for Schools program.

Each PV system consists of a solar panel made of a semi-conducting material that converts the sun's energy into electricity, creating 65 watts of power that are fed into a battery. The battery supplies electricity to an energy-efficient, 26-watt, compact fluorescent lamp that floods an area with light.

The PV lighting systems, installed in November 2004, by Electricians, Inc., are located at the entrance to the school's cultural center and at the play court.

Also in this issue:

In addition to promoting the use of photovoltaic systems to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, *Sun Power for Schools* aims to educate children about the use of renewable energy. A teaching manual was specifically developed, including the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards, for use by middle and high school teachers.

Sun Power for Schools is a voluntary partnership among HECO, its subsidiaries HELCO and MECO, the Hawaii Department of Education, participating schools, and community members. To become a *Sun Power* partner, fill out and return the enclosed postage-paid reply card.

As Oahu's economy expands and electricity use continues to grow, HECO strives to ensure that everyone has electricity during an unavoidable system emergency.

Therefore, HECO is offering qualifying residential customers a $3 credit on their electric bill for being willing to help conserve electricity in the event of a shortage of power.

One of the ways to conserve electricity during such emergencies is to temporarily turn off your water heater, usually the biggest consumer of electricity in your home.

Electric water heaters consume so much electricity that turning off your water heater for just an hour would greatly help to lower power use during system emergencies. During that time you would still be able to use the hot water that is stored in your tank.

HECO will give you a **$3 credit every month** on your electric bill for allowing the company to turn off your water heater during generation system emergencies using a remotely controlled switch installed on your water heater. You will get this credit every month, **even if HECO does not have to turn off your water heater**.

To qualify, your electric water heater must have a capacity of at least 40 gallons. Homes with solar, heat pump, or gas water heaters are not eligible for the program.

This program is being implemented incrementally throughout Oahu, beginning in West Oahu. Watch your mail box for notification that the program is in your area!

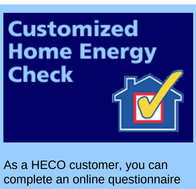
Congratulations Science Bowl winners!

Hawaii's brightest math and science students from 21 schools competed in the 12th Annual Hawaii Science Bowl on January 22, 2005. Taking top honors was the **Maui High School** team, who will represent the State in the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C., April 28 to May 2.

Oahu's **Iolani School** team, last year's winner, came in second place and won an educational trip to visit significant contributors to the advancement of science in Hawaii, such as Mauna Kea Observatories on the Big Island and Maui's High Performance Computing Center.

And representing the Big Island very well, **Hilo High School** placed third.

HECO, HELCO, and MECO joined Aloha Airlines; Bank of Hawaii; Honolulu Community College; The Gas Company; Sheraton Waikiki Hotel; Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and the U.S. Department of Energy, Pacific Liaison in sponsoring the Hawaii Science Bowl.



As a HECO customer, you can complete an online questionnaire on your residential electricity use and receive an analysis of your family's energy costs. The analysis will show what is using the most electricity in your home, how much your appliances cost to use each year, and a list of money-saving energy tips customized for your home. For this unique service, go to Home Energy Check at **www.heco.com**.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Curried Rice Pilaf

2 cups jasmine rice
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup minced onion
2 tablespoons curry powder
3/4 cup canned coconut milk
1 can (14 oz.) chicken stock plus enough water to make 2 cups
1/2 teaspoon salt, or more, to taste
Fresh ground pepper, to taste
1/4 cup chopped green onions
2 tablespoons chopped peanuts or cashews, for garnish

Rinse and drain rice; cover with water and let sit for about 1 hour. Drain rice thoroughly in a colander and set aside. In a 3-quart saucepan, heat butter and sauté onion until soft and translucent. Add curry powder and cook for 10 to 15 seconds to toast and release fragrant oils. Add drained rice, coconut milk, chicken stock, salt, and pepper. Cover saucepan; bring to boil and reduce heat to lowest setting. Remove lid and continue to simmer for 10 minutes or until rice appears higher than the water surface. Cover saucepan; turn off heat and let sit for another 20 minutes. Do not remove the lid during the last 20 minutes. Just before serving, stir in the green onions and garnish with peanuts. Recipe makes 6 servings.