



Happy Holidays!

All of us at HECO wish you a holiday season filled with happiness and good health and a New Year that abounds with goodwill toward all.

Most of all, we hope the holidays are safe for you and your family and we offer the following holiday safety tips.



Christmas Trees

- If you purchased a live Christmas tree, unplug tree lights before you water the tree and don't let light strands come into contact with the tree's water source.
- Place your Christmas tree away from sources of heat, such as fireplaces, space heaters, candles, and overhead lights.
- If you are purchasing an artificial tree, ensure that it is fire resistant and has been certified by a standards laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Factory Mutual (FM), Electronic Testing Lab (ETL), or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Consider purchasing a fiber-optic artificial tree. It is more energy efficient than a tree lit with conventional lights.

Holiday Lights

- Only purchase holiday lights that are certified as meeting safety standards, such as UL, FM, ETL, or CSA.
- Test new or used light strands and inspect them for broken sockets and worn wires with damaged insulation.
- For energy savings, switch from traditional light strands to mini lights or to LED (light emitting diode) lights.
- Do not overload electrical outlets; use a power strip with a surge protector (UL 1449) if you need multiple outlets.
- Unplug your holiday lights when going to bed or leaving the house.
- Avoid stringing lights in contact with metal, such as attaching them with staples, winding strands around nails, or stringing lights on chain link fences or on metal rain gutters.
- If using an extension cord outdoors, make sure that it and the light strand are rated for outdoor use. Wrap the connection between the two with electrical tape to keep it dry.
- If you are using a ladder to string lights outdoors, take care to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- And if you plan to celebrate New Year's Eve with fireworks, don't string them on utility poles.

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HECO submits Oahu energy plan

HECO's Integrated Resource Plan Report (IRP Report) was filed with the Public Utilities Commission on October 28, 2005 and is available for public review.

The 20-year planning report is the culmination of two years of research and community discussion to forecast electricity demand on Oahu and analyze the best ways to meet it. The resulting strategy meets the demand through a variety of means, including:

- Aggressive expansion of energy conservation and efficiency programs for residents and businesses
- Distributed generation technologies, such as combined heat and power
- Renewable energy, particularly solar photovoltaic and wind resources in the near term, with the capability to expand into additional renewable technologies such as municipal solid waste and photovoltaic projects in the latter part of the planning period
- A strong commitment to decrease the use of imported oil and increase use of cleaner distillate fuels such as naphtha and indigenous renewable resources, including biofuels

HECO is grateful to those who participated in the process, which involved input from the community and from an advisory group representing business, government, environmental, cultural, and academic organizations.

The IRP Report is available for review online at: <http://irp.heco.com>

HECO OFFERS FREE RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP

"New Opportunities for Photovoltaics & Net Energy Metering"

Thursday, January 12, 2006, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
1001 Bishop St., American Savings Tower, 8th floor

To attend you must RSVP by Jan. 5 to:
phone: 543-4790, fax: 203-1919,
or email: energyservices@heco.com

Switch to spiral CFLs Look for the \$1 coupon

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) reduce the amount of electricity used to light your home by up to 75% when compared to regular, incandescent lightbulbs. CFLs also last up to 10 times longer than regular bulbs and they produce roughly 70% less heat.

To encourage you to make the switch and start saving money on your electric bill, HECO is partnering with General Electric Company to offer \$1 off the purchase of two ENERGY STAR® qualified GE Soft White Spiral® CFLs sold at participating retailers.

Coupons are available at the following retailers: City Mill, Daiei, Foodland, Longs Drugs, 7-Eleven, and Times Supermarket. Or, get your coupon online at heco.com. But hurry! This offer expires at the end of December.

For more information on CFLs, call us at 543-7511.



Common Hawaiian Trees

A lovely gift for the holidays

Here's the perfect gift for those who share a passion for the indigenous and native trees of Hawaii. *Common Hawaiian Trees* is a handy reference book that is graced by lovely, color artwork depicting the blossoms of native trees, painted by the late artist Isabella Sinclair.

The publication describes 48 trees, providing information such as growth rate, dimensions, root spread, and water requirements. Just as important, the publication provides guidelines for planting trees and siting them in the right place to cool a home and to avoid future entanglements with power lines.

Common Hawaiian Trees is published by Friends of Hawaii's Urban Forest, an educational, nonprofit organization, and is available at bookstores throughout Hawaii.

HECO is also selling the guidebook, to raise money for the Aloha United Way. You can purchase the book Monday through Friday at either of HECO's customer service offices: 820 Ward Avenue, open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; or 900 Richards Street, open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For additional information call 543-5663.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Hot Artichoke Heart Dip



- 1 large round loaf sourdough bread
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened (or reduced-fat or no-fat cream cheese)
- 2 cups sour cream (or reduced-fat or no-fat sour cream)
- 3/4 pound shredded cheese, shredded (or reduced-fat cheese)
- 1 can (10 ounces) water-packed artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 2 French baguettes, thinly sliced

Cut a slice, about 5 inches in diameter, off top of sourdough bread; reserve slice. Remove center portion of bread, leaving a shell. Save bread pieces for bread crumbs or stuffing. In a skillet, heat 4 tablespoons of the butter; lightly saute onions and half of the garlic. Remove from heat and add cream cheese, sour cream, and cheddar cheese; mix well. Fold in artichoke hearts. Put mixture into bread shell; cover with reserved slice of bread. Wrap in heavy foil and bake in electric oven at 350° F for 1 hour. In a small skillet, heat remaining 4 tablespoons butter; add remaining minced garlic and saute lightly. Pour butter mixture over sliced baguettes; wrap in foil. Bake with dip for the last 10 to 15 minutes. To eat, dip bread slices into artichoke dip. Remaining bread shell can be served with soup or salad. Recipe makes about 20 servings.