

For the keiki: Education partnerships and programs

HECO, HELCO, and MECO sponsor educational programs and partner with outstanding educators on a wide variety of programs for children of all ages. Our combined commitment to education reaches more than 65,000 students and teachers each year.

Energy fairs and classroom presentations

HECO, HELCO and MECO employees promote energy education at community events throughout the islands, and visit schools and classrooms to talk about electrical safety, energy conservation, and renewable energy technologies.



HELCO's Barbara Cooper at Solar Sprint.

The environment

HECO, HELCO and MECO provide resources to educate students about renewable energy and conservation. These include:

- **Sun Power for Schools.** Small solar electric systems installed in public schools offer students a close-up look at cutting-edge technology. This is accompanied by lesson plans, available to all schools, emphasizing the benefits and challenges of using renewable sources.



Learning about robots at Lacy Veach Day.

- **Solar Sprint.** Elementary / intermediate school students design, build, and race model cars powered by the sun, while learning the science of solar energy and propulsion.
- **Home Energy Challenge.** A school-based competition encouraging elementary school students and their families to reduce energy use at home.

Science and technology

- **FIRST Robotics.** HECO sponsors three robotics programs for different age levels and the regional competition in Hawaii, with engineers volunteering their time and energy to help school teams.
 - **FIRST Lego League**, considered the "little league" of robotics competitions, inspires children ages 9 to 14, who build motorized Lego robots based on computer models.
 - **Botball**, a nationwide robotics program for intermediate and high schools uses a Lego-based kit to design, build, and program robots to complete a set of tasks.
 - **FIRST NASA Robotics** has high schools applying engineering skills to pit full-scale, programmable robots they build against highly skilled teams from across the nation.

- **Astronaut Lacy Veach Day of Discovery.** HECO is a major sponsor of a full day of free, science-based workshops for students, parents and teachers on topics ranging from living and working in outer space to creating electric gadgets and gizmos.
- **Hawaii Science Bowl and Maui Science Fair.** MECO is a major sponsor involved in these programs that promote scientific advancements.

Career education

- **Internships.** HECO, HELCO, and MECO offer high school and college students hands-on experience in the electric utility industry.
- **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.** HECO provides State awards to outstanding math and science teachers in Hawaii public and private schools. Two are selected for the National Presidential Awards each year.

Other educational programs:

- **A lending library** for teachers and students with free educational materials on energy, science, and technology.
- **People power.** HECO provides grants and volunteer help to maintain and upkeep schools and projects for community organizations.
- Other HECO supported educational opportunities include the **Kapolei High School Malama Learning Center**, **Leeward School to Work Partnership**, and the **West Oahu Media Program**. Employees also volunteer at educational events such as the annual **Math Counts** competition.

