

## Lanai school tests solar technology

**L**anai High and Elementary School has joined Baldwin High and Molokai High School in taking advantage of the sun's energy to produce electricity. As part of the *Sun Power for Schools* program, MECO has installed two 1.25-kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) systems at the school.

However, unlike its neighbors on Molokai and Maui, the Lanai installations are not in sunny locations, but are in the cloudy, rain shadow of the island's highest peaks. This unique site allows Lanai High and Elementary to be an ideal test site for solar-electric panels that are expected to perform better in cloudy areas.

Students and teachers at the school will be gathering data generated by the two PV systems in a side-by-side comparison of standard PV panels (located on the top row in the accompanying photo) and PV panels that can capture



These solar-electric installations at Lanai High and Elementary School sit atop a new, outdoor gathering area. The performance of two types of panels will be compared to see which is better suited to capture the sun's energy in cloudy locations.

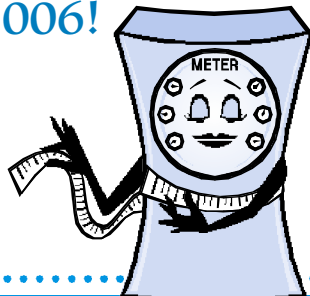
diffused light. The data will be forwarded to MECO to assist in the selection of PV technology for cloudy locations in Maui County and across the state.

In addition to providing research and educational opportunities, the two solar systems will provide a small amount of free electricity for the school's daily needs. And, the installation of the PV panels on a newly constructed structure

provides students with an outdoor area that is protected from rain and sun.

This is a joint project made possible by MECO, the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE), and the Electric Power Research Institute. *Sun Power for Schools* is a voluntary partnership among MECO, its affiliates HECO and HELCO, DOE, participating schools, and members of the community.

### Resolve to save energy in 2006!



#### Want to reduce your electric "waste line" in 2006?

Follow these tips for an energy-efficient New Year:

#### Use kilowatt-free hot water!

Solar water heating can reduce kilowatt-hour consumption by \$40 or more for a typical family of four. MECO provides a \$1,000 rebate for installation through any of its approved solar contractors, and you may be eligible for additional tax credits. Call 1-888-MECO SUN for information.

#### Think Lite!

Switch to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and lose up

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to 75% of the energy used by standard incandescent bulbs. Today's CFLs are higher quality and cost much less than just a few years ago. They are available at most retailers and hardware stores, fit almost anywhere, and come in a variety of decorative shapes and sizes.

### Avoid fattening kilowatts!

Instead of air conditioners, choose all natural, Hawaiian trade winds or ENERGY STAR® qualified ceiling fans. If your ceiling fan features lights, be sure the light kit is also ENERGY STAR rated.

### Exercise!

Take regular, brisk walks from the clothes washer to the yard and lift a load of laundry up to the clothesline for 10 minutes several times a week to help develop a slimmer electric bill.

Exercise your right to choose ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, enable "sleep" features on your computer, and disconnect "wall cubes" for charging devices, or use power strips with surge protection for easy shut down of "phantom loads."

### Get regular checkups!

Visit [www.mauielectric.com](http://www.mauielectric.com) and click on "My Home Energy Check" for a personalized energy profile. For more energy-saving ideas go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Get an approved solar water heating system!

Did you know that every solar system installed by MECO's approved solar contractors must pass a 100-point inspection for quality and workmanship? Give them a call today and start saving energy!

Allen's Plumbing	877-6370
Advantage Mechanical	572-2698
Burgemeister Plumbing	879-6598
Dorvin D. Leis	877-3902
Haleakala Solar	871-8654
Hansen Solar	385-9988
D. Kawauchi Plumbing	572-1822
Molokai Solar	567-6796
Poncho's Solar	760-2345
Solar Engineering	877-4430
Sonshine Solar	575-7444
Sun King	871-9721
Sunny Solutions	283-2514

## Three cheers for our Maui County teams!

Join us in supporting the Maui County teams from Baldwin High, King Kekaulike High, Lanai High, and the defending champions from Maui High School at the *13th Annual Hawaii Regional Science Bowl*, which takes place on Oahu at the Honolulu Community College, at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2006.

The Maui teams will compete with 20 other high school teams. Each team is comprised of four students plus an alternate. The winning team will represent Hawaii at the National Science Bowl in

Washington, D. C., from April 27 to May 1, 2006.

The Science Bowl is designed to encourage students and their teachers to achieve educational excellence in the sciences through extensive preparation for the competition.

The regional event is sponsored by: Maui Electric Company; Hawaiian Electric Company; Hawaii Electric Light Company; Aloha Airlines; Sheraton Waikiki Hotel; Bank of Hawaii; The Gas Company; Honolulu Community College; the U.S. Department of Energy; the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and the State of Hawaii Department of Education.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## TOFU SALAD



- 2 tablespoons salad oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1 block (20 ounces) firm tofu, drained and cubed
- 1 can (1 pound) salmon, drained and flaked
- 1 large tomato, diced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 package (12 ounces) bean sprouts
- 1 bunch watercress, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion

In a small skillet, combine garlic and oil. Cook on medium heat until garlic is lightly and evenly browned; cool. Add soy sauce; set aside. On a large platter, layer tofu, salmon, tomato, onion, bean sprouts, watercress, and green onion. Just before serving, pour soy sauce dressing over salad. Recipe makes 8 servings.