CONSUMER lines

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# Hands-on energy lessons

What better way to learn than through "hands-on" experience? For the second year, HECO is sponsoring **Energy Smart Schools**, offering students the chance to apply classroom experiences to the real world. After an energy education module that incorporates math, science, computer, marketing, advertising and public speaking, students market that know-how by offering lighting audits to small businesses.

This year, **Radford** and **McKinley High** 9th graders will begin by learning how electricity is produced and transmitted. A power plant tour will give students a 'front and center' opportunity to see how this is done. HECO instructors will share ways to save energy using efficient lighting and conservation methods and teach students how to perform the energy audits in their homes, schools and at small businesses in their communities.

Bill Lane of HECO's Energy Services Department gives Kalaheo students some pointers on energy efficient lighting.

"The **Energy Smart Schools** program offers our students a 'soup-to-nuts' learning experience," says Jennifer Webb, the **Energy Smart Schools** instructor at McKinley. "In addition to the classroom work, what's equally important is the chance they get to sharpen marketing and presentation skills."

And there's an added incentive. HECO offers $50 for each energy audit completed. Students from last year's **Energy Smart Schools**, **Kalaheo** and **Waianae High**, completed a total of twenty audits and, by all reports, did a great job of researching, organizing and presenting the results of their studies.

Funding for the **Energy Smart Schools** program comes from HECO and Rebuild Hawaii, a U.S. Department of Energy program dedicated to encouraging energy-saving partnerships involving local government and the public and private sector. The partnership includes the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and the Department of Education. HECO is also providing assistance with teaching materials, instructors and other services.

## Free trees on Arbor Day

HECO and its partners will be giving away more than 2,000 trees and shrubs at five sites on Oahu on **Saturday, November 2**. The give-away is part of a statewide program to educate the public about the importance of trees to the environment as well as how to select and plant the right tree in the right place.

Co-sponsors of the HECO Arbor Day Program are the Honolulu Botanical Gardens, the Urban Garden Center of the University of Hawaii and the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Experts in tree selection, planting and maintenance will be available at each site to offer free advice. Besides a free tree, attendees will receive

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