

# GREEN CHAMPION NEWSLETTER

Issue 1-January/February 2012



## Hawaii CONSERVE ENERGY INITIATIVE

### Issue 1: Conserve Energy Now!

#### Welcome to the First iConserve Newsletter

Capital District, January 2012- The State of Hawai'i is moving forward toward a new energy future. Energy-saving retrofits are nearing completion and Green Champions across the capital district are driving helpful behavior changes that everyone can adopt. With all this, how can anyone keep track? This newsletter brings updates directly to you. Every two months, you will learn what is being done to which buildings. You will learn who is doing the work and how it impacts your work experience. Green Champions and other state employees will share their stories. So, *welcome!* Please stay tuned on how you can help the iConserve Energy Initiative be an even greater success. -GCs

### This Issue's BIG STORY: Capital 10 Energy Challenge

Behavior accounts for a significant portion of any building's energy bill. When individuals take the iConserve pledge, substantial energy savings can occur. Senator Mike Gabbard's *Capital 10 Energy Challenge* seeks to reduce the combined energy bill of all 10 capital district buildings by approximately 2%. As a dollar value, this reduction for 2012 could amount to as much as \$100,000! Watch for a special announcement early January from Senator Gabbard or learn more at [www.hawaii.gov/green](http://www.hawaii.gov/green).



### Take the iConserve<sup>SM</sup> Pledge...

Everyone has a role in the continuing story of energy conservation. Do your part by taking the iConserve Energy Initiative pledge. Take a moment to find and meet your Green Champion at [www.hawaii.gov/green](http://www.hawaii.gov/green) today. Say hello, take the pledge, and learn how to help.



### Don't Forget The Four Focal Energy Conservation Behaviors!

With so much going on, it is very important we keep the message simple on how you can help conserve energy. Remember:

- ▶ TURN OFF THE LIGHTS
- ▶ HIBERNATE/SHUT DOWN PCS
- ▶ UNPLUG/REMOVE PERSONAL DEVICES
- ▶ KEEP EXTERIOR DOORS SHUT

Turning off the lights when you leave a room takes just a moment. It does NOT take more energy to turn lights on and off than to leave them on so take just a second as you leave your desk or are finished with that conference room and shut them off. Remember that screen savers do NOT save energy so remove them. When you are away from your desk for at least five minutes, hibernate or shut down your PC. Personal devices can create excessive plug loads in a workspace, especially personal heaters and mini-fridges. As an alternative, try using a sweater instead of the heater or a lunch cooler instead of a mini-fridge. Lastly, any exterior door must be kept closed to prevent the escape of air conditioning to the outside. Just one open door can cost up to \$5,500 loss annually.

## Champion Spotlight: Paulette Abe

Where: Chamber Coordinator-House of Representative  
From: Oahu born, Makaha  
State of Hawai'i Tenure: 26 years  
Conservation Inspiration: Parents/Grandparents  
Best Food: Ochazuke (pickled tea/rice) w/ dried idiko (fish).

Paulette Abe is one of the most active Green Champions. Always on the lookout to spread the conservation message, she wasted no time at the iConserve<sup>SM</sup> Rally (June 2011). Paulette took the iConserve<sup>SM</sup> flower and generated even greater enthusiasm by creating the head dress you see pictured here with Governor Abercrombie (below).



Paulette was an early supporter of the iConserve<sup>SM</sup> Energy Initiative working with other champions identifying opportunities to save conserve energy and save money. Everyone who knows Paulette understands she gets things done. Paulette has worked with colleagues within her office as well as across the Capitol Building securing iConserve<sup>SM</sup> conservation pledges by sharing tips and practical strategies to anyone in need of help.

Paulette's passion and love for the state motivates her to do what she can to help everyone have a better place to call home. Her energy conservation roots go back very far, to her ohana.

"If I really go back, it was my grandmother, Mom, and Dad. From recycling string to newspapers, we never wasted anything and learned to improvise" says Paulette. "We were taught at an early age to always pick up after yourself and take your opala (rubbish) leaving a place better than you found it."

Paulette and other Green Champions are doing their best daily to help spread the energy conservation message to anyone that will listen or needs help. Learn more at [www.hawaii.gov/green](http://www.hawaii.gov/green).

## Annual Savings of \$3.2 Million!

### DAGS/NORESO Work Nears Completion

The Department of Accounting & General Services (DAGS) and NORESO are nearing completion of building retrofit activities covering over 1.3 million square feet of building space. The work is part of a guaranteed energy savings agreement that will result in approximately \$3.2 million in energy savings annually over the next 10 years. Much has been done to each of the ten capital district buildings such as lighting, water, and air conditioning upgrades. To increase renewable energy, it also includes the installation of a 1,005 panel photovoltaic array on the roof of the Kalanimoku building. Learn more: [www.hawaii.gov/green](http://www.hawaii.gov/green).

## Energy Savings Bring Holiday Cheer to the State Capitol



The Hawai'i State House of Representatives has an added dash of green this year, thanks to the efforts of Chief Clerk's Office accountant Neal Shigemura, Denise Liu from the House Journal and Tammy Tengan from the Print Shop, who teamed up to decorate the Christmas tree in the House Chamber foyer.

"The entire tree is decorated with whimsical home-made ornaments that celebrate saving energy," described Representative Cynthia Thielen (R, 50th District: Kailua, Kaneohe Bay), as she contemplated the imaginative display.

Illuminating the tree are strings of multi-colored LED lights as well as a string of white lights powered by a small solar panel (which stores power from ceiling lights just as well as from the sun, making it perfect for the basement room). A compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) placed as an ornament on the tree demonstrates that it saves 75% off lighting costs. Also, there are reminders to unplug electronics, battery chargers and other equipment when not in use to reduce phantom energy draw and save even more energy.

While admiring this year's Christmas tree, Rep. Thielen noted, "This is a wonderful expression of our State government's participation in the national iConserve<sup>SM</sup> Energy Initiative, where individual employees are helping to conserve energy by voluntarily making simple changes in their daily routine. I am very proud of our Capitol's Green Champions, and am inspired by this artistic, playful illustration of their commitment to being energy efficient," concluded Rep. Thielen.

## Fond Farewell... Ernie Lau - DAGS



In January, the iConserve<sup>SM</sup> Energy Initiative says aloha to one of its strongest Green Champions, Ernie Lau.

Ernie was an integral team member for the Energy Conservation Through Behavior Change<sup>®</sup> (ECTBC) program. Early on, Ernie saw the potential and value in the role employees have towards energy conservation. His vision and passion for the program has made it a success. From recruiting/coordinating Green Champions, facilitating workshops, organizing resources and supporters, Ernie's efforts are difficult to quantify. For us, he will always be the original and best champion. For all this and more, Malama pono A hui hou.

-Me ka Aloha Pumehana, Green Champions & ECTBC