



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Division of Consumer Advocacy

DCCA News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2006

**CONSUMER ADVOCATE ENCOURAGES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AT HELCO RATE HEARING**

HONOLULU – The Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA) encourages residents and businesses of the Big Island to express their opinions regarding a proposed rate increase by Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc (HELCO), Docket No. 05-0315. Two public hearings will be held before the Public Utilities Commission.

The first hearing will be held in Hilo on Monday, June 26, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilo High School Cafeteria. The second hearing will be held in Kona on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kealakehe Intermediate School Cafeteria.

HELCO is seeking PUC approval of a 9.24% rate increase in its revenues. The company says it needs to increase its rates due to additional investments in its plants and equipment, increased labor costs, materials, other operating expenses, etc. As part of its request to the PUC, HELCO proposes to implement a tiered rate structure, which may allow residential customers to save on their monthly bill by using less electricity.

“It’s important for the public to come to these hearings and tell the PUC how these proposed actions will affect them and their businesses. Customer and community input helps us to more effectively represent them,” said Consumer Advocate John Cole.

Individuals or organizations wishing to testify can do so orally, in writing, or both on the day of the hearing. Written comments to the PUC and DCA may also be submitted at any time following the hearing.

For more information, including a link to reports and other documents filed with the PUC and a public meetings link that contains tips on how to participate at a public hearing, please visit www.hawaii.gov/dcca/dca, or call DCA at 586-2800.

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