



**Hawaiian
Electric**

NEWS RELEASE

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Muller family takes Hawaiian Electric's Home Energy Challenge *Wins a PV solar water-heating system*

HONOLULU June 2, 2016 – Shayne Muller, a student at Mililani Waena Elementary School, participated in Hawaiian Electric's Home Energy Challenge and applied at home the energy conservation measures she learned at school. During a six-month period last school year, Shayne and her family reduced their household electricity use by 13 percent.

"To save energy we shut off lights and fans and we don't leave things running all the time," explained Shayne. Additionally, Shayne won a drawing for a free KumuKit™ photovoltaic (PV) water-heating system, which was recently installed at her home. Now she and her family will reduce their electricity use even more.

Shayne's mother, Kristy Muller, says the new PV solar water heater is already saving them money, "We cannot tell the difference in the hot water we use at home, but we have seen a drop in our electric bill—and we've only been using the PV water heater for a couple of weeks."

The Home Energy Challenge is an educational program sponsored by the State of Hawai'i Department of Education and Hawaiian Electric Company. Families who reduced their electricity use during the challenge were entered in a drawing for a PV solar water-heating system donated by Hawaii Energy Connection, the makers of the KumuKit™.

"We're pleased to give away one of our latest photovoltaic technology systems, the KumuKit PV solar water heater," said Chris DeBone, Hawaii Energy Connection managing partner. "Unlike thermal solar water heaters that use the heat of the sun to warm water, the PV solar water heater uses the light of the sun to create electricity to heat water."

"We enjoy working together with our community partners to promote energy conservation and new renewable energy technologies," said Jim Alberts, Hawaiian Electric senior vice president, customer service. "We're grateful that Hawaii Energy Connection continues to support the Home Energy Challenge and has rewarded one of the participating families with a PV solar water heater."

The KumuKit™ solar water-heating system won by the Muller family uses advanced PV micro-grid technology, as well as utility power and conventional tank-style storage to reduce energy costs. To learn more about the KumuKit™ and the benefits of photovoltaics, log on to www.KumuKit.com. To find out more about Hawaiian Electric's Home Energy Challenge, log on to www.hawaiianelectric.com.

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Photo: The Muller family participated in Hawaiian Electric's Home Energy Challenge and won a KumuKit™ solar water-heating system donated by Hawaii Energy Connection: (l to r) Lynette Kamekona, Hawaii Energy Connection customer service manager; Kristy Muller; Shayne Muller; Aaron Muller; Chris DeBone, Hawaii Energy Connection managing partner; and Jim Alberts, Hawaiian Electric senior vice president.