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UH Hopes To Cut Soaring Electric Bill

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HONOLULU -- University of Hawaii officials are trying to get their arms around the soaring electricity costs.

The UH system is second only to the military in electrical use in Hawaii.

School officials on Tuesday announced an energy plan with Hawaiian Electric Co. to manage

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Students and staff are being encouraged to conserve energy. The administration is committed to stop the waste of money where it can.

"I am paying \$15.6 million in electricity. My bill has gone up \$4 million last year, and we are anticipating \$3 million this coming year. At UH Manoa, this is a critical issue," said Manoa Chancellor Denise Koike.

Among the university's goals is to reduce energy costs by 30 percent over six years.

The school plans to start by identifying the most inefficient structures on campus and then retrofitting them to save money. One of the worst energy offenders is Manoa's engineering building, Holmes Hall, officials said.

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