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UH Buildings to Become Energy Efficient

Realizing it is one of the biggest electricity users in the state, the University of Hawaii is stepping up efforts to become more energy-efficient.

Today UH Chancellor Denise Konan signed an agreement to expand the Environmental Protection Agency's "Energy Star" program on campus.

Last year, UH refitted one of its dorm rooms with energy efficient fixtures and lighting appliances as part of the program. Doing so on a broader scope could end up saving the university millions.

"We've been talking about dollars here and energy savings, which is critical to the university," said Stephen Meder of the UH Sea Grant Program. "We could be saving \$3-4 million a year on this campus alone with retrofitting what we have right now."

The university admits retrofitting all 300 buildings on the campus will be done in phases over a period of years.

Officials say energy-saving designs will be included in all new campus buildings in the future.

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