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Hawaii joins 9 other states in technical design competition

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Hawaii will be one of 10 states to launch a nationwide design competition among public and private high-school students, who will develop technical solutions for the aerospace industry.

The national **Real World Design Challenge**, headed by the U.S. Department of Energy, will provide student teams with mentors from government and private industry. Design software and technical training also will be provided through the program.

Each of the 10 states will hold local challenges, and send its winning team to compete next spring in Washington, D.C., in a national competition.

A possible technical challenge would be to design an aircraft body that would reduce a plane's fuel consumption.

"We must ensure that our children are proficient in math and science, as well as core technology and engineering skills," Gov. Linda Lingle said in a statement. "The Real World Design Challenge will promote and enhance science, technology, engineering and math in our schools, which in turn will help us build a stronger, more innovative economy statewide."

The competition will be organized by the Workforce Development Program Office at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The other participating states are Connecticut, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

The national Real World Design Challenge is a project between the state, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, Parametric Technology Corp., Hewlett-Packard Corp., the Boeing Co. and Mentor Graphics.