

Real World Design Challenge Launched

Oct 08, 2008 04:15 PM - Building on the Lingle-Aiona Administration's focus on the innovative capacity of Hawai'i's people, Governor Lingle launched the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) in Hawai'i.

The challenge will allow students to strengthen their science and technology skills while solving issues and gaining real-world experience.

Governor Lingle shared that while the economy is in the process of rebuilding, now is the time to invest in Hawai'i's future.

"If we're looking for a good future for students across our state, the time to invest is now," she said.

RWDC is a hands-on program that encourages teams of students to develop innovative solutions to significant technical problems as defined by the aerospace industry. Participants will address real world challenges faced by professionals in the aerospace industry, such as designing a more aerodynamically efficient fuselage for planes that can reduce fuel consumption during flight.

The challenge complements the Administration's Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, which seeks to transform the state's economy by increasing residents' ability to compete both nationally and globally. It also lays the foundation of a strategic long-term vision that promotes aviation and aerospace as a part of Hawai'i's economic future.



Governor Lingle announces the Real World Design Challenge in Hawai'i.



The program provides Hawai'i students and teachers with free access to some of the world's most powerful design and engineering software and partners students with mentors from the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories, the Federal Aviation Administration and private industry partners.

The Real World Design Challenge continues the Lingle-Aiona Administration's work to prepare Hawai'i students for careers in science and technology through student robotics programs. Like RWDC, robotics helps students develop problem solving and team work skills to prepare them to enter the workforce while building a strong foundation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

"Robotics and the Real World Design Challenge have several parallels," the Governor explained, adding that both increase students' confidence levels and providing mentorships with leaders in the science and engineering community.

Hawai'i is one of 10 founding states chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to launch this national education initiative. The other states are Connecticut, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

Participation in the RWDC is open to all Hawai'i public, private and charter high school students, and schools may field multiple teams. Hawai'i's winning team will be flown to Washington, D.C. next spring to compete in a national design challenge in

competition with winning teams from other states.

- Watch the news conference and read a transcript of the Governor's remarks.
- Read the news release.
- Learn more about this exciting program and robotics programming in Hawai'i.