

## Students Tap STEM Skills in Real World Design Challenge

Reflecting her Administration's commitment to a long-term innovative vision for the state, Governor Lingle announced the top three winning high school teams that recently competed in the first annual state competition of the U.S. Department of Energy's Real World Design Challenge.

The Governor shared the importance of hands-on learning experiences for students, gained through participation in programs such as the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) and robotics. Both programs build on the progress of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, which seeks to transform the state's economy from one based on land development to one based on innovation and developing Hawai'i's human capital.

"Without this focus, our state will not be able to reach its full potential. We will run out of land long before we run out of our need for employment," said Governor Lingle.

An all-girls team from 'Iolani School, Team "NDC", was declared the Hawai'i State Champion and will go on to Washington, D.C., next month to compete with other state champions in the national RWDC Competition. 'Iolani School's Delta Force came in second, while the Kalani High Falcons took third place.

"I am proud of each and every one of you for taking on what most adults could not even begin," Governor Lingle told the students. "This was a real world challenge, with real world accomplishments."

For the past three months, 14 teams from nine high schools across the state – Farrington, Kalani, 'Iolani, Castle, Campbell, Waipahu, Nanakuli, Sacred Hearts, and Anuenue – took part in this competition working with professional mentors at the Department of Energy's national energy laboratories, the Federal Aviation Administration, and aerospace companies nationwide to formulate their solution to the design challenge. Teachers supporting the student teams were provided access to technical training and advanced engineering software that could be used to assist the students in developing their design.

This year's challenge presented high school teams with detailed specifications and performance capabilities of an existing twin-engine jet aircraft, and then asked students to redesign the plane to improve its fuel efficiency without drastically reducing the load capacity, flying time or any other characteristics of the original aircraft. Hawai'i was one of only 10 states selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to participate in the pilot year for RWDC.

- [Read the news release.](#)



Governor Lingle and Jeff Bloom, Hawai'i RWDC coordinator, congratulate first place champions, 'Iolani Team "NDC" and their coach, Carey Inouye (pictured left). Members include: Celia Ou, Adeline Li, Amy Ko, Anya Liao, Jessica Lynn Saylor and Julia Zhang.



Governor Lingle, State RWDC Coordinator Jeff Bloom, and the second place champions, the 'Iolani Team Delta Force. Team members include: Coach Carey Inouye, David Martorana, Rayfe Gaspar-Asaoka, Thanh Truong Vu, Zachary Simao, Andrew Yu, and Grant Iwamoto.



Governor Lingle, State RWDC Coordinator Jeff Bloom, and the third place champions, the Kalani Falcons. Team members include: Coach Brian Silver, Eric Teshima, Codey Hongo, Yuko Ueda, Grant Takaro, and Richard Esteban.