



### **Hawai'i Annual Innovation Challenge Marks a New Era for ETS and Hawai'i's Tech Community**

After a decade of inspiring creativity, collaboration, and civic-minded problem-solving, the Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) is entering its next chapter with a new name that reflects the evolution of technology and the expanding scope of the event. Beginning this year, the long-running competition will officially be known as the Hawai'i Annual Innovation Challenge (HAIC).

Since its launch in 2016, the HACC brought together students, professionals, and community members to develop technology solutions that strengthen state services. Over the years, participants increasingly leveraged artificial intelligence, automation, data science, and emerging technologies that reached far beyond traditional coding. The new name better captures this broader spirit of creativity and the diverse skill sets shaping Hawai'i's digital future.

In addition to the name change, ETS is proud to introduce the event's new logo, symbolizing innovation, progress, and Hawai'i's unique identity. The logo will make its official debut during this year's competition.

The inaugural Hawai'i Annual Innovation Challenge will take place on November 21, 2026, at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu. As in previous years, teams will work on real challenges sourced from state agencies and community partners, with the goal of building solutions that create lasting public value.

State Chief Information Officer Christine Sakuda emphasized the importance of this milestone, stating:

“Renaming the event to the Hawai'i Annual Innovation Challenge highlights how our community has grown over the past decade. Today's solutions draw from a wide range of disciplines, including emerging AI tools that are reshaping the way government can serve our residents. The new name reflects the creativity and vision that our participants bring every year.”

As HAIC begins its next decade, ETS remains committed to empowering innovation, nurturing talent, and supporting a thriving local tech ecosystem.