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**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Mari Foster of Roosevelt High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year. Foster is the first Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Foster as Hawaii's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Foster joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, including Catherine Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13 D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13 Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher led the Rough Riders (15-3) to the Division I tournament play-in game. Foster batted .604 (29-for-48) with nine home runs, 34 RBI, 23 runs scored, a .627 on-base percentage and a 1.333 slugging percentage. In the circle, Foster went 2-0 with a 0.39 ERA, striking out 14 while allowing just five hits over 18 innings pitched. A three-time Division I Oahu Interscholastic Association East First-Team member, Foster was named Div. I OIA East Player of the Year by ScoringLive this past spring.

The class president for her first three years of high school, Foster donated her time as the class communications officer this year.

Foster has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball at Pacific Lutheran University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Foster joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Softball Players of the Year Jocelyn Alo (2016-17 & 2015-16, Campbell High School), Shearyna Labasan (2014-15, Maryknoll School), Aubree Kim (2013-14, Mililani High School), Jaci Young (2012-13, Punahou School), Keiki Carlos (2011-12 & 2010-11, Mid-Pacific Institute), Katie Manuma (2009-10, Campbell High School), Brittney Guro (2008-09, 'Iolani School), Amber Waracka (2007-08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), and Nicole Alconcel (2006-07, Henry Perrine Baldwin High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Mari will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.