

## **KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS KAPĀLAMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Nihoa Dunn of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Dunn as Hawaii’s best high school girls basketball player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, IL) Paige Bueckers (2020-21, Hopkins High School, MN) and Aaliyah Chavez (2024-25, Monterey High School, TX).

The state’s reigning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot senior forward averaged 17.2 points and 9.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Warriors (24-4) to their second consecutive Division I state championship. Dunn led all scorers with 18 points on 7-of-14 shooting in Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School’s 50-39 state final win over Iolani to earn Hawaii High School Athletic Association State Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors. She was also named the Honolulu Star-Advertiser Player of the Year.

Dunn has volunteered locally with the Hawaii Food Bank. She’s also a member of the Awana Youth Group and the Sinfonietta, Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School’s highest level of orchestra. “Nihoa Dunn is unstoppable,” said Bobbie Awa, head coach of Konawaena High School. “She’s dominant in the paint and on the boards, and she’s surrounded by players who know their roles.”

Dunn has maintained a 3.54 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Portland State this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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