

## PAC-5 STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Alika Ahu of PAC-5 is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii Baseball 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 Ahu as Hawaii's best high school baseball player and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park, TX), MacKenzie Gore (2016-17, Whiteville High School, NC) and Seth Hernandez (2024-25, Corona High School, CA).

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Wolfpack (12-5) to a berth in the Division I state championship game this past season. Ahu batted .431 with one home run, 14 RBI, 18 runs scored and six stolen bases, while also going 2-0 on the mound with four saves and a 17-2 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 13.1 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 151 prospect in the Class of 2026 by Prep Baseball Report and a 2026 HHigh SchoolAA State Championship All-Tournament Team selection, Ahu, who attends University Lab School, went 3-for-4 with two doubles in Pac-5's state semifinal win over Waiakea. He also threw six scoreless innings with eight strikeouts in his longest outing of the season.

A four-year varsity starter for University Lab's boys basketball and six-year member of the school orchestra, Ahu has volunteered locally with the Hawaii Food Bank in association with the Aiea High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has also participated in the New Hope Town Youth Group. "Hands down, it's Ahu," said Daryl Kitagawa, head coach at Kamehameha High School. "He's a physical kid, but what I really admire is that he has gotten better every year. His leadership is off the charts. He's humble, competitive and he's an all-around great player in our league. I wish I knew him better personally, honestly, but I just admire from afar as a great player and an even better person."

Ahu has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Stanford University 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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