

MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Hinano Bautista of Mililani High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii Softball 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 Bautista as Hawaii's best high school softball player and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress, TX), Alicia Hollowell (2001-02, Fairfield, CA) and Hannah Wells (2024-25, Coahoma, TX).

The 5-foot-7 junior left-handed pitcher and utility player led the Trojans (16-1) to their third straight Division 1 state championship this past season. Bautista batted .617 with 36 RBI, 10 home runs and 21 runs scored and was named Oahu Interscholastic Association West Player of the Year for a second straight season. Ranked as the nation's No. 76 prospect in her class by Softball America, she also compiled a 9-0 record in the circle with a 2.30 ERA and was named Most Outstanding Player of the Division 1 state tournament, blasting a double, home run and driving in three runs in the state title game.

Bautista has volunteered locally umpiring and coaching youth softball. She has also donated her time to various charitable activities through her former church. "Her quality of leadership and her love for each and every teammate [stands out]," said Micah Furtado, head coach at Kapa'a High School. "She's the most passionate cheerleader on and off of the field and she's a shutdown pitcher on D and a power threat on O."

Bautista has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of California Berkeley beginning in the fall of 2027.

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 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.

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