

**KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS - KAPLAMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kulia Montgomery of Kamehameha Schools- Kapālama High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer 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 Montgomery as Hawaii’s best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 5-foot-8 junior forward led the Warriors to a 17-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Montgomery scored 16 goals and passed for seven assists, including setting up a goal in Kamehameha’s 3-1 win over Punahou School in the state final. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser Division I Player of the Year, she concluded her junior year with 42 goals and 15 assists in her prep career.

Montgomery has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach and referee. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Great Aloha Run. “Kulia is definitely a top player in the state,” said Darren Smith, head coach of Mililani High School. “She was a huge factor in everything Kamehameha did. When raw talent is met with hard work and grit, a player like Kulia emerges.”

Montgomery has maintained a weighted 3.61 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Arizona State University 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.

###