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**KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 18, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Micah Christenson of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Christenson is the third Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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 court, distinguishes Christenson as Hawaii's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Christenson joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Chris Paul (2002-03, West Forsyth HS, N.C.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-5, 170-pound junior guard led the Warriors (26-7) to the Division 1 state tournament title game this past season, averaging 16.4 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.9 steals, 2.2 assists and 1.7 blocks per game. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Christenson clicked for 23 points and 11 rebounds in the 46-43 Division 1 state championship game loss to Iolani, capturing Division 1 All-Tournament honors in the process. He led the Warriors to the Division 1 state championship as a sophomore.

Also a standout volleyball player, Christenson has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth basketball instructor and by visiting ailing children at a hospital.

"He's the best player in the state," said Alika Smith, head coach of rival Punahou School. "He's athletic, and he's 6-foot-5. He can shoot, put the ball on the floor and finish at the rim. He likes to play inside, but he can go outside. He's slender, but he's stronger than he looks. He does it all."

Christenson will begin his senior year of high school 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Christenson joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Players of the Year Pi'i Minns (2008-09, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), Kameron Steinhoff (2007-08, Punahou School), and Spencer McLachlin (2006-07, Punahou School) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25th anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at gatorade.com/POY25. To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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