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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**LAHAINALUNA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 11, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Maiki Viela of Lahainaluna High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Viela is the second Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lahainaluna 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 Viela as Hawaii's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Viela joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 5-foot-7 junior guard led the Lunas (17-0) to the Division I state title this past season, averaging 16.2 points, 7.2 rebounds and four assists per game. A two-time First Team All-League selection and a 2010 First Team All-Tournament honoree, Viela averaged 20.3 points during the state tournament and scored a season-high 29 points in a semifinal win over the Punahou School.

Viela has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group. Viela has also served on her school newspaper staff and as a member of the Lahainaluna chess club.

"Maiki was such an enormous part of our team's success this season," said Lahainaluna Head Coach Todd Rickard. "She helped us win a state championship and it was her consistent ball handling and energy that helped make it happen." Viela will begin her 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.

Viela joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kanisha Bello (2008-09, Waiakea), Jamie Smith (2007-08, Iolani School), and Shawna-Lei Kuehu (2006-07, Punahou) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at [gatorade.com/POY25](http://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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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