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

CHICAGO (March 10, 2011) — In its 26th 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 2010-11 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 senior guard averaged 17.3 points, five rebounds, 4.7 assists and three steals per game this past season while shooting 76 percent from the free throw line and leading the Lunas (13-2) to the Division I semifinals. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Viela scored a game-high 25 points in a win over King Kekaulike High to give Lahainaluna its second straight Maui Interscholastic League championship.

Viela has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's chess club and the school newspaper staff, she has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Maiki Viela is an extremely talented high school basketball player," said Mike Taylor, head coach of rival Punahou School. "She's going to do very well at the next level and she's a good student and a wonderful person to be around."

Viela has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Washington's Gonzaga University 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.

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

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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