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**KAPOLEI HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Charlinda Ioane of Kapolei High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ioane is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Kapolei 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 track, distinguishes Ioane as Hawaii's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Ioane joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-10 senior field athlete captured the state championship in the shot put this spring with a state-record throw of 45 feet, 9.75 inches at the state meet. Named the Most Outstanding Athlete at the Punahou Relays this past season, Ioane also placed second in the discus, launching it 128 feet, four inches. She captured first place in the shot put (46 feet, 5.5 inches) and the discus (147 feet, five inches) at the Punahou Relays, which ranked as the nation's No. 27 and No. 46 performances, respectively, among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection.

Ioane has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating her time to the Special Olympics and the Girls Scouts of the United States of America, she has volunteered as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of her school and church.

"She stepped up and performed," said Kimo Weaver, head coach at rival Kamehameha High of Hawaii. "Ioane stood out. The state record topped off everything she'd been doing throughout the season. She's very competitive. I was lucky enough to see her throw. Ioane just has a presence. She's very calming. People quieted when she prepared to throw. It was a lot of fun to watch."

Ioane has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Hawaii at Manoa 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 ESPNHS 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.

Ioane joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kailea Tracy-Visintainer (2010-11, Seabury Hall), Ashley Satterwhite (2009-10, Punahou School), Bailey Massenburg (2008-09, King Kekaulike), and Zhane Santiago (2007-08, Kahuku) 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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