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**PUNAHOU SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Larry Tuileta of Punahou School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year. Tuileta is the fifth Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Punahou 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 field, distinguishes Tuileta as Hawaii's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Tuileta joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-2, 195-pound junior quarterback passed for 2,588 yards and 28 touchdowns this past season, leading the Buffanblu (8-3) to the Division I state final. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Tuileta threw 21 touchdown passes without an interception from Sept. 14 from Nov. 1, completing 63 percent of his passes with only four interceptions in 2012.

Tuileta has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity as well as a food bank and homeless shelter.

"Larry Tuileta is a fantastic player and had a phenomenal year for us," said Punahou School head coach Kale Ane. "He is a tremendous leader on and off the field."

Tuileta will begin his senior year of high school next 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, 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.

Tuileta joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Football Players of the Year Steven Lakalaka (2011-12, Punahou School), Marcus Mariota (2010-11, Saint Louis High School), Andrew Manley (2009-10, Leilehua), and Manti Te'o (2008-09, 2007-08, Punahou 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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