

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

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

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th 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 2013-14 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-3, 205-pound senior quarterback led the Buff n' Blu to an 11-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Tuileta threw for 2,618 yards and 28 touchdowns on 154-of-253 passing, misfiring with just four interceptions. The state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, Tuileta passed for 265 yards and three touchdowns without an interception in a 28-22 win over Mililani in the state championship game.

Tuileta has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, at an area food bank and homeless shelter and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Larry Tuileta is a true leader and the heart and soul of our team," said Punahou School head coach Kale Ane. "His consistent approach and work ethic has been a huge part of our success."

Tuileta has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Hawaii beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Two-time winner Tuileta joins 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

###