

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

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

CHICAGO (December 11, 2014) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced McKenna Granato of Punahou School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball Player of the Year. Granato is the sixth Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball 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 Granato as Hawaii's best high school volleyball player. Granato joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Buff n' Blue to a 28-3 record and the Division I state title this past season. Granato tallied 375 kills, 295 digs, 127 blocks and 96 service aces while posting a .551 kill percentage and a .521 hitting percentage. A 2014-15 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-America selection, she slammed 23 kills en route to a .452 kill percentage in the state title-clinching win over Kamehameha.

Granato has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Polynesian Club, she is a devoted parishioner in her church community and has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach.

"McKenna Granato has the skill set that will undoubtedly carry her to the next level," said Punahou head coach Tanya Fuamatu-Anderson. "But the key element that sets her apart is her humility, work ethic, and integrity. She is hungry to learn and improve, not only for herself, but so that she has more to contribute to her team."

Granato has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Hawaii in the fall of 2015.

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.

Granato joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball Players of the Year Alohi Robins-Hardy (2013-14, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Carly Kan (2012-13, Punahou School), Tayler Higgins (2011-12, Punahou School), Misty Ma'a (2010-11, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Sarah Palmer (2009-10 & 2008-09, Hawaii Baptist Academy), and Kanani Herring (2007-08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama) 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.

###