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

CHICAGO (June 17, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kathleen Funcheon of Moanalua High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Funcheon is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Moanalua 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 Funcheon 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, Funcheon 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-8 senior sprinter won two individual championships at the state meet this past season. Named her school's Female Outstanding Athlete of the Year, Funcheon won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.11 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 24.51. Her wind-aided performances are the fastest ever recorded in Hawaii prep history. Competing overseas in Germany, she also swept the 100 and 200 in the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity European championships each of the past two years.

Funcheon has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered at the Waikiki Aquarium and as part of a Feed the Troops effort during the holidays.

"Katie is an exceptional runner that was never challenged this year in any event she entered," said Moanalua head coach Earl Kishimoto. "Every time she ran, she won and broke a record."

Funcheon will attend the University of Alabama this fall, where she plans to compete in track and field.

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.

Funcheon joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alyssa Bettendorf (2013-14, Seabury Hall), Zoe Sims (2012-13, Hawaii Preparatory Academy), Charlinda Ioane (2011-12, Kapolei High School), Kailea Tracy-Visintainer (2010-11, Seabury Hall), Ashley Satterwhite (2009-10, Punahou School), Bailey Massenburg (2008-09, King Kekaulike), Zhane Santiago (2007-08, Kahuku), and Samantha Cabrerros (2006-07, 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).