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**KAILUA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Joey Cantillo of Kailua High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year. Cantillo is the first Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kailua 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 field, distinguishes Cantillo as Hawaii's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Cantillo joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 5-1 record with a 1.24 ERA and 71 strikeouts in 45.2 innings this past season, leading the Surfriders to a 14-4 record and the Division I quarterfinals. Ranked as the state's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Perfect Game, he also batted .534 with a pair of home runs, 23 RBI and a 1.302 OPS.

A member of the National Honor Society, Cantillo has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth baseball coach. "Joey Cantillo is the hardest working baseball player that I have coached in the 19 years that I have been the head coach at Kailua High School," said Kailua head coach Corey Ishigo. "He is very committed to baseball and will do whatever it takes to improve his game."

Cantillo has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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 the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Cantillo joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Players of the Year Alex Oley (2015-16, Mid-Pacific Institute), Noah Shackles (2014-15, Mid-Pacific Institute), Kodi Medeiros (2013-14, Waiakea High School), Trey Saito (2012-13, Mid-Pacific Institute), Travis Garcia-Perreira (2011-12, Mid-Pacific Institute), Kalei Contrades (2010-11, Saint Louis School), Michael Suiter (2009-10, Punahou School), Breland Almadova (2008-09, Iolani School), Aaron Fukiji (2007-08, Mid-Pacific Institute), and Harrison Ishida (2006-07, Punahou School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Joey will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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.