

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**KONAWAENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Cherilyn Molina of Konawaena High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Molina is the third Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Konawaena 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 Molina as Hawaii's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Molina joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 senior guard led the Wildcats to a 26-2 record and their fourth consecutive Division I championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Molina averaged 16.1 points, 6.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 3.5 steals and one block per game to earn Big Island Interscholastic Federation Division I Player of the Year recognition for the second year in a row. Molina is rated as the nation's No. 28 point guard in the Class of 2018 by espnW.

Molina has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and has donated her time visiting elementary schools to help students with their reading and various academic projects. "She's a special player, that's for sure," said Todd Rickard, head coach at Lahainaluna High. "What she lacks in size, she definitely makes up for in court awareness, ball-handling skills, shooting, leadership on the court. Just an all-around great player."

Molina has maintained a weighted 3.57 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Washington State University beginning 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.

Two-time winner Molina joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Chanelle Molina (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Konawaena High School), Aliyah Pana (2012-13, Hilo High School), Dawnyelle Awa (2011-12, Konawaena High School), Maiki Viela (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lahainaluna High School), Kanisha Bello (2008-09, Waiakea High School), Jamie Smith (2007-08, Iolani School), and Shawna-Lei Kuehu (2006-07, Punahou School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cherilyn 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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