

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**IOLANI SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Alex Liu of Iolani School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Liu is the tenth Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Iolani 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 Liu as Hawaii's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Liu joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-5, 135-pound senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Raiders (14-4-3) to the Division I state quarterfinals. The 2018 Interscholastic League of Honolulu Offensive Player of the Year, Liu is a two-time First Team All-State selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 29 goals and 39 assists.

Liu has volunteered locally as the publicity event planner of the Iolani Fair and as a Spanish tutor and youth soccer coach. "Alex is not the biggest player on the field but he utilizes his quickness, technical ability and vision to impact the game," said Chris Lee, head coach of Iolani School. "He has been the motor that runs the engine. His tireless work rate and individual ability cause problems for opposing defenses."

Liu has maintained a weighted 3.72 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles 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.

Liu joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Players of the Year Duncan McKenna (2016-17, Punahou School), Tyler Ohata (2015-16, Punahou School), Nai'a Graham (2014-15, Kailua High School), KJ Ahlo (2013-14, Iolani School), Leo Klink (2012-13 & 2011-12, Kalani High School), Scott Granger (2010-11, Punahou School), Cody Sullivan (2009-10, Mid-Pacific Institute), Nick Goo (2008-09, Iolani School), Zane Dydasco (2007-08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), and Kekoa Osorio (2006-07, Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama Campus) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Liu 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 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.

###