

IOLANI SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 30, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Aleia Agbayani of Iolani School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year**. Agbayani is the third Gatorade Hawaii Softball 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 Agbayani as Hawaii's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Agbayani joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, including Catherine Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13 D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13 Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 senior left-handed pitcher, first baseman and outfielder led the Raiders to a 19-5 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Agbayani batted .636 with 49 runs scored, 16 home runs and 57 RBI, posting a 1.455 slugging percentage. She also drew 16 walks, stole 15 bases and did not strike out in 93 plate appearances. In the circle, Agbayani compiled an 8-2 record with a 3.60 ERA, earning the win in both the state semifinals and title game.

The daughter of former big league outfielder Benny Agbayani, who helped the New York Mets to the World Series in 2000, Agbayani has volunteered locally as a peer Spanish tutor and as a youth softball coach. "Aleia Agbayani was a very dangerous player every time we played against her," said Leo Sing Chow, head coach of Kamehameha School. "She had so much confidence and she could change the momentum of the game."

Agbayani has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of California Berkeley 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Agbayani joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Softball Players of the Year Mari Foster (2017-18, Roosevelt High School), Jocelyn Alo (2016-17 & 2015-16, Campbell High School), Shearyna Labasan (2014-15, Maryknoll School) and Aubree Kim (2013-14, Mililani High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Agbayani also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

###