

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

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jonah Kawamura of 'Iolani School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Kawamura is the twelfth 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 Kawamura 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, Kawamura joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02 & 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior midfielder and forward was a First Team All-Interscholastic League of Honolulu honoree and an Honorable Mention All-State selection as a junior. He scored eight goals and passed for eight assists in 2020, leading the Raiders to a 7-5 record, and concluded his prep career with 25 goals and 20 assists.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Kawamura has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Key Club. "Jonah has made a big impact on our varsity team since his freshman year because of his size, speed and understanding of the game," said 'Iolani coach Chris Lee. "He has always accepted playing whatever position the team needed him to play the most, and he's been a great leader by example on the field."

Kawamura has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at the University of Washington 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Kawamura joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Players of the Year Johnnie Dodge (2019-20, Punahou School), Skyler Goo (2018-19, Saint Louis School), Alex Liu (2017-18, 'Iolani School), and Duncan McKenna (2016-17, Punahou School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Kawamura has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Kawamura is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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