

**KAHUKU HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 6, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kainoa Carvalho of Kahuku High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year**. Carvalho is the third Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Kahuku 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 Carvalho as Hawaii's best high school football player. Carvalho joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13 & 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-6, 160-pound junior wide receiver and kick returner led the Red Raiders to a 10-0 record and the Open Division state championship this past season. Carvalho caught 79 passes for 1,127 yards and 12 touchdowns, including 135 yards and two scores in Kahuku's 49-14 win over Saint Louis School in the Open Division state final. Carvalho also returned three kickoffs and two punts for TDs this past season.

A state champion club gymnast as a 6-year-old, Carvalho is a member of the Boy Scouts of America. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "As an opposing coach, I can say that Carvalho is the one person we always accounted for when he was on the field," said Matt Murakawa, head coach of Waianae High School. "What makes him special is he still made plays that swung the game in Kahuku's favor. It's one thing to have great stats, but it is special when every team knows he is getting the ball and he is still able to make plays."

Carvalho has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Carvalho joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Football Players of the Year Titus Mokiao-Atimalala (2020-21, Campbell High School), Jayden deLaura (2019-20, Saint Louis School), Dillon Gabriel (2018-19, Mililani High School), and Chevan Cordeiro (2017-18, Saint Louis School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Carvalho has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Carvalho is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).