

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

**CHICAGO** (June 9, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ailana Agbayani** of **Iolani School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year**. Agbayani is the fourth 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 state award-winners in 12 sports, including Cat 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 right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Raiders to a 12-4 record and a berth in the Division I state championship game this past season. Agbayani, the daughter of former New York Mets outfielder Benny Agbayani, batted .491 with 24 RBI and 21 runs scored. In the pitcher’s circle, she went 8-1 with a 3.37 ERA, 53 strikeouts and 15 walks in 52 innings pitched.

Agbayani has volunteered locally as part of beach cleanup crews, removing trash from the seashore and invasive algae from the water. She also has donated her time as a youth softball instructor, working with young players to refine their skills. “Ailana was the backbone of Iolani the whole season,” said Mililani High School head coach Rose Antonio. “She is just a good, all-around player, she has a good attitude and is a team player.”

Agbayani has maintained a 3.01 GPA in the classroom. She has signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Brigham Young University.

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.

Agbayani joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Softball Players of the Year Jenna Sniffen (2020-21, Maryknoll School), Liliana Thomas (2019-20, Maryknoll School), Aleia Agbayani (2018-19, Iolani School), and Mari Foster (2017-18, Roosevelt High 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, Agbayani 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. Agbayani 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).