## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Anuhea Aluli** of **Kamehameha Schools Kapalama High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Aluli is the seventh Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools Kapalama 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 Aluli as Hawaii's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Aluli 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-5 senior forward scored seven goals and passed for three assists this past season, leading the Warriors (11-1) to the Division 1 state championship. Aluli was named the Interscholastic League of Honolulu Offensive Player of the Year. She was also the Honolulu Star-Advertiser Player of the Year and the ScoringLive All-Hawaii Offensive Player of the Year.

Aluli has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and environmental-protection efforts. "Anuhea Aluli is strong, fast and a great playmaker," said Kristin Masunaga, head coach at 'Iolani School. "She has a very high soccer IQ. She created a ton of chances to score this season, and she knows when to make runs off the ball."

Aluli has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oakland University (Mich.) this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Aluli joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Teani Arakawa (2020-21 & 2019-20, King Kekaulike High School), Sunshine Fontes (2018-19, Pearl City High School), and Kaile Halvorsen (2017-18, Kaiser 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, Aluli 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. Aluli 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.