



SPREADING ALOHA

Olympian Carissa Moore shares her culture through an exchange program

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In the Ho'okupu Center at the end of Kewalo Basin Park, music played between conversations in both English and Japanese in an intercultural exchange hosted by Moore Aloha, a female empowerment non-profit founded by champion surfer Carissa Moore.

It was the second day of the Japan-U.S. Global Exchange program, with 14 youngsters ages 10-14 from Makinohara, Japan, who participated in Hawaiian cultural activities like surfing, hula and lei-making. The event was the first of its kind for Moore Aloha, started by the Olympian and world champion to empower young women through sports.

"The goal for this exchange in particular is to share our (Hawaiian) culture that I'm very proud of, and the culture and sense of aloha that has raised me," Moore told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. "Hopefully, those kids can take that back and share that wher-

ever they go in their own lives."

Moore, who won the World Surf League Women's Championship Tour in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2019 and 2021, was the first athlete to earn an Olympic gold medal in surfing at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

The partnership with Makinohara, a city on the southeastern coast of Japan, was rooted in Moore's own experiences there, when the city hosted the Team USA surfers during the Tokyo 2020 Games.

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Surfer Carissa Moore hit the waves at Kewalos on Wednesday morning with some kids from Makinohara, Japan. Moore high-fived Kei Masuda. At left, Hana Nakamura was fitted for her haku during a lei-making lesson.



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