

Using Island Wisdom to Build Our Future

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What does Pacific Island/Oceanic wisdom mean to you?

Pacific Island wisdom exists within the peoples of the Pacific and the connections that they make within and among their communities. Pacific Island wisdom centers the production of knowledge on the epistemologies of indigenous peoples throughout the Pacific. These epistemologies not only inform but also guide all areas of learning and research from within these Pacific communities. In the endeavor to promote Pacific island wisdom, it is imperative that we do not see this as a mere tool of research but for its inherent value in preserving, sustaining, and building our peoples and communities.

How/why do you bring island wisdom into your scholarship?

As academics, we have a responsibility to use Island wisdom to the benefit of our Island. In the classroom, this begins with using knowledge from our communities and others like ours to ground what and how we teach future generations. Allowing our students to be key participants in the exchange of ideas is vital to learning because their diverse experiences contribute to growing our understanding of our communities. In scholarship, Island wisdom provides the foundation for the what, why and how of all research. Island wisdom informs all aspects of this endeavor so that it can also be used to inform others.