

Wisdom is Aloha

N. Kau'i Baumhofer Merritt
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu



What does Pacific Island/Oceanic wisdom mean to you?

Pacific Island wisdom means honoring – rather than just remembering – the wisdom of our ancestors as well as the wisdom of all the creatures and entities we share this earth with. It means honoring our place as both descendants and ancestors. It means voyaging out into the world in our literal and figurative canoes to share the legacy of aloha with the world.

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

About a year and a half ago a mentor of mine told me that she truly believes aloha will one day save the world. I knew she was right; I just didn't think that our opportunity would come so soon. The crises we are facing as a society are a warning that we have let aloha begin to slip through our fingers. It is imperative that we instill a sense of deep aloha back into our communities.