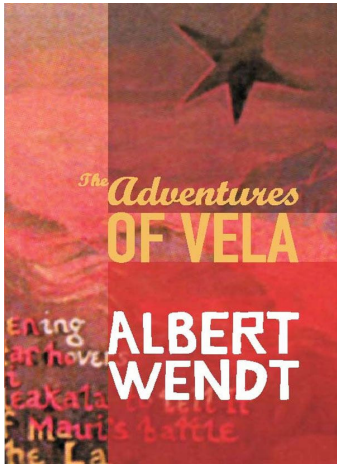


The Marjorie Putnam Sinclair Reading Series, and the Department of English, UH Mānoa, present

# Albert Wendt, “The Adventures of Vela: Writing a Novel in Verse”

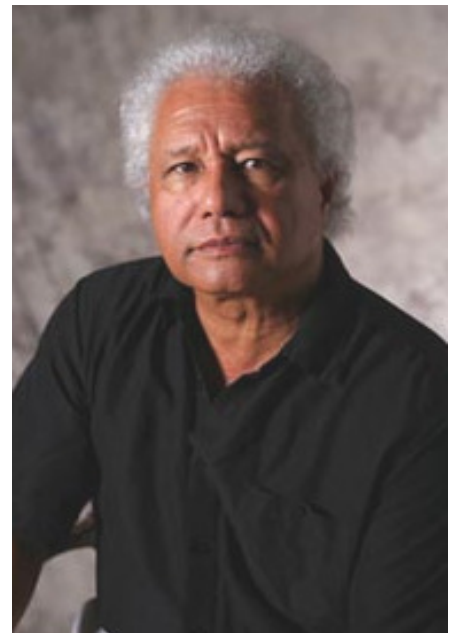
Thursday, May 14, 2009, 7:00 –8:30 p.m.

UHM Art Auditorium (*book-signing to follow*)



Albert Wendt will be reading from his latest novel, *The Adventures of Vela* (HUIA Publishers, NZ, May 2009), and talking about how he wrote this novel over nearly the whole of his writing life, and the "adventure" he had in completing it. The novel is a Pacific epic that stretches from hundreds of years before the arrival of Papalagi to the present day and uses the great indigenous oral traditions of storytelling and Western poetry. Vela, the main character, is a poet, songmaker and chronicler, who tells his life to a modern poet, Alapati, who writes it down. He will also be reading from some of the poems he has completed since returning to Aotearoa/New Zealand in mid-2008 from Hawai'i in 2008.

Albert Wendt, one of the premier writers and scholars of the Pacific, is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Auckland and former University of Hawai'i Citizens' Chair in English (2004—2008). He will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawai'i at its 2009 Spring Commencement on May 16. Beginning with the novel *Sons for the Return Home* (1973-later turned into a feature-length film), his works include novels, collections of poetry, anthologies, and a full-length play, *The Songmaker's Chair*, a full-length play first staged in Auckland (2003) and later in Honolulu (2006). The recipient of several honorary doctorates, Albert Wendt received the Companion of New Zealand Order of Merit award from the Government of New Zealand, and the NIKKEI Asia Prize for Culture from the Nikkei Shimbun, Japan. (Photo by Brad Goda)



The Marjorie Putnam Sinclair Edel Reading Series fund honors the memory of poet, novelist, biographer, and teacher Marjorie Putnam Sinclair Edel (1913-2005) and her lasting contributions to Hawai'i's and the University's literary communities from 1935 into the twenty-first century.

Co-sponsored by the UHM Department of English; the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature; the Center for Pacific Islands Studies; the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Learning; the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures.