

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

8:30PM English Narrative/Hawaiian Subtitles

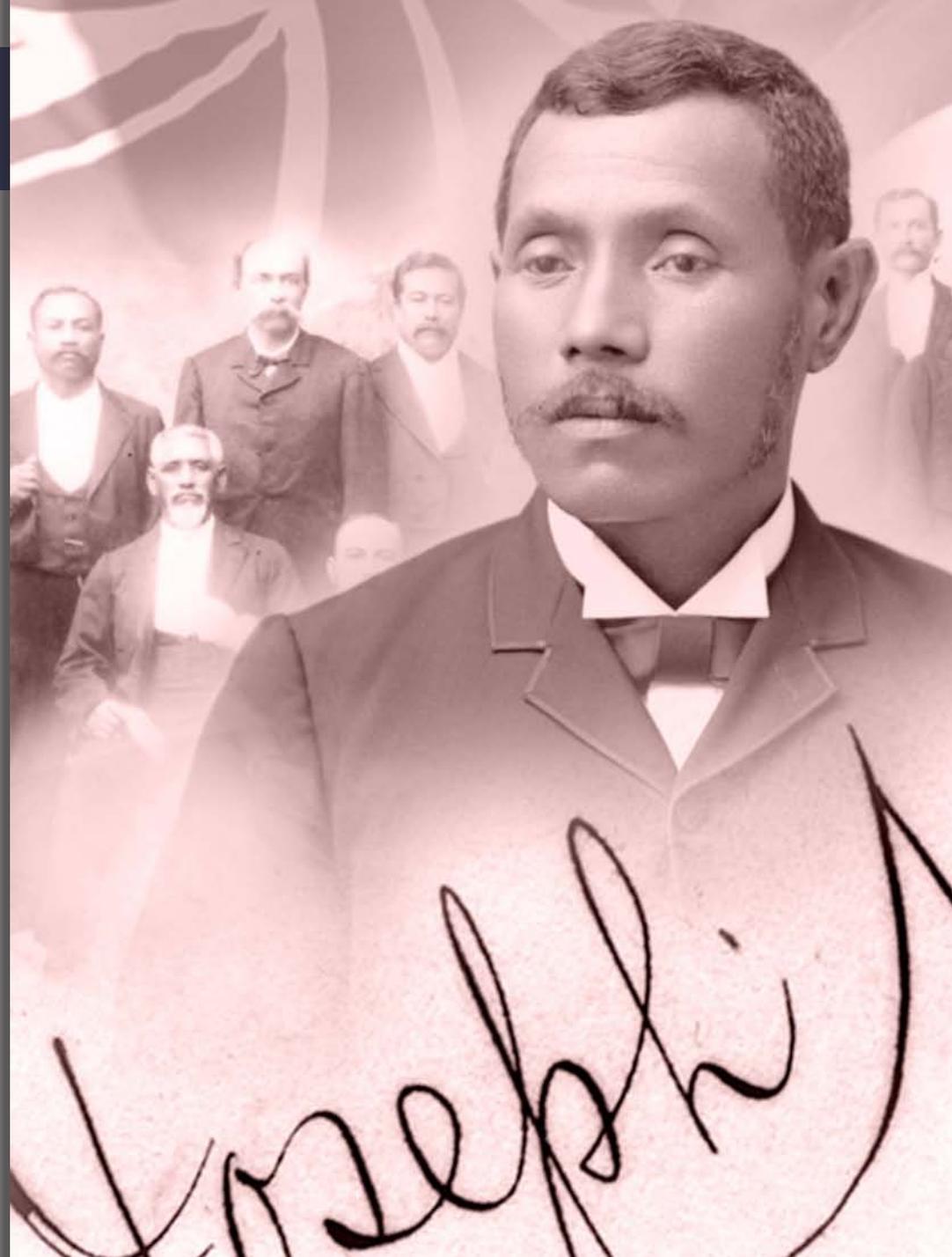
9:30PM Hawaiian Narrative/English Closed-Caption



# Joseph Nāwahī

**A Broadcasting First  
from PBS Hawaii and the  
Biographical Research Center**

*Biography Hawai'i: Joseph Nāwahī*  
is an hour-long documentary produced  
for independent broadcasts in English  
and Hawaiian language.



# BIOGRAPHY HAWAII

## *Joseph Nāwahī*

Though little known today, Joseph Nāwahī was a Hawaiian patriot and Renaissance man. A teacher, surveyor, lawyer, cabinet minister, newspaper editor, and artist. He was born in Puna, Hawai‘i on January 13, 1842. An outstanding pupil at the Hilo Boarding School, Lahainaluna on Maui, and the Royal School in Honolulu, he eventually became the assistant principal of the Hilo Boarding School. Elected to the legislature of the Kingdom in 1872, he represented Hilo intermittently for the next 20 years. He served briefly as the minister of foreign affairs, and became a trusted advisor of Lili‘uokalani during the last months of the monarchy. Nāwahī took a leading role in Hawaiian nationalist politics. With his wife, Emma (pictured), he founded the Hui Aloha ‘Aina political party and its newspaper Ke Aloha ‘Aina, and they worked tirelessly and selflessly to stop annexation, and to restore

Hawai‘i’s independence as a nation. Nāwahī editorials and speeches of this period are some of the most passionate and articulate expressions of faith in the Hawaiian people and their ability and right to govern themselves. Because of his influence, he was seen as a serious threat to the Republic of Hawai‘i, which arrested and imprisoned Nāwahī for acts deemed “treasonous” to the government. While a political prisoner, the harsh conditions of jail seriously affected his health, and he died in 1896.

Joseph Nāwahī is an important figure for understanding Hawaiian history and Hawaiian sovereignty. M. Puakea Nogelmeier, Associate Professor of Hawaiian Language, notes that Nāwahī is admired for several reasons. “He’s



*Emma Nāwahī*

handsome, he’s intelligent, he’s well-spoken, he’s well-educated,” but above all, “his personal ethics were unimpeachable.” Hawaiian scholar Jonathan Osorio agrees: “People like Nāwahī who spoke for some kind of honest and true expression of patriotism, of nationalism, they’re



just going to continue to be remembered as people whose lives are worth emulating.” And Noenoe Silva, Associate Professor of Political Science and Hawaiian Language, adds that “He was never afraid to articulate his positions publicly as a writer, as a journalist, as a lawyer, as a politician.” Joseph Nāwahī continues to provide inspiration to the people of Hawai‘i.

Ke Kula o Nawahiokalani‘opu‘u, a Hawaiian language immersion school on the Island of Hawai‘i, takes its name from this native son. “I’m glad we could carry on his name and what he stood for in continuing in some way our legacy as a Hawaiian country through our own language,” Hawaiian language scholar Larry Lindsey Kimura remarks. And Nāwahī’s example stands as a model for generations to come. ■

PBS Hawaii Presents

## Biography Hawai‘i

*Joseph Nāwahī*

Joy Chong-Stannard

**Producer/Director/Editor**

Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl

**Producer/Writer**

Craig Howes

**Producer/Lead Scholar**

Larry Lindsey Kimura – *Scholar*

M. Puakea Nogelmeier – *Scholar*

Jonathan K. Osorio – *Commentary*

Noenoe Silva – *Commentary*

Ka‘upena Wong – *Narrator (English)*

Kala‘i Ontai – *Narrator (Hawaiian)*

Kalena Silva – *Appears as Joseph Nāwahī*

This documentary has been made possible through the generous support of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Cooke Family Foundation and PBS Hawaii.

*Biography Hawai‘i: Joseph Nāwahī* is a production of the Biographic Research Center and the fifth in the popular series.

Previous episodes of *Biography Hawai‘i* have been devoted to Maiki Aiu Lake, Harriet Bouslog, Princess Ruth Ke‘elikolani and Koji Ariyoshi.