

Acknowledgments

The Hawaiian Sovereignty Education Subcommittee of AFSC Hawai'i would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all of the speakers, musicians, performers and helpers, the Kapi'olani Community College Interpret Hawai'i Program, Kamealoha Smith, Michael Keānuenue Goodrich, Rob Borofsky, Baron Ching, Nancy Aleck, Hōkūlani Loyd, Sandy Finney, Alapa'i Andrews, Ka'umi Wengler, Terence Knapp, and Kaliko Baker. The Sovereignty Education Subcommittee also wishes to thank the AFSC Hawai'i Area Program Committee and the Honolulu Friends Meeting for their continued support. And a big mahalo to all of you who attended this event. Proceeds will help us to continue and expand our sovereignty education work.

Hawaiian Sovereignty Education Subcommittee:

Lynette Cruz, Noenoe Silva, June Shimokawa, Doug Minnick, Gabrielle Welford, Maria Orr, Camaron Miyamoto, John McClain, Keala Kelly, Helen "Didi" Lee Kwai, Gordon Lee, Linda Rich and Kyle Kajihiro.

The AFSC is a Quaker peace and justice organization based on values of nonviolence and equality. In Hawai'i the AFSC works in four program areas: Hawaiian Sovereignty Education, Demilitarization, Gay Liberation and Economic Justice.

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Joseph Nāwahī, Ke Aloha 'Āina:



A Hawaiian Hero Remembered

Saturday, January 13, 2001

6:00 p.m.

*Kapi'olani Community College,
'Ōhi'a Building Auditorium*

Joseph Nāwahī, Ke Aloha ‘Āina: A Hawaiian Hero Remembered

Today on his birthday, we remember and celebrate the life and works of one of the great heroes of the Hawaiian nation — Joseph Kaho‘oluhi Nāwahīokalani‘opu‘u.

Born on January 13, 1842 in Puna, Nāwahī attended school in Hilo, became a teacher and later a self-taught lawyer. He was an artist, a writer, a member of Queen Lili‘uokalani’s cabinet and a Kingdom Legislator.

When *haole* conspirators, backed by U.S. Marines, ousted Queen Lili‘uokalani from the throne in 1893, Nāwahī and his wife, Emma, organized 7,500 men and 11,000 women to form Hui Aloha ‘Āina in order to oppose the takeover. Although Nāwahī died in 1896 due to tuberculosis he contracted while a political prisoner, Hui Aloha ‘Āina, along with a sister organization, Hui Kālai‘āina went on to collect over 38,000 signatures protesting annexation. These petitions documented the widespread opposition to annexation in 1897 and today, they are a key factor in Hawai‘i’s claims to sovereignty.

Nāwahī’s spirit lives on in the contemporary Hawaiian sovereignty movement. The slogan “Aloha ‘Āina” was resurrected by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana in the 1970s to stop the bombing of Kaho‘olawe. In light of recent legal attacks on Kanaka Maoli rights, Nāwahī’s words take on a renewed sense of urgency. In putting together this event, the organizers tried to rekindle some of the passion and inspiration of Joseph Nāwahī. We hope you feel it too.

Notes to the theatrical performance:

Summary of Nāwahī’s speech:

We are gathering together because although the House of Government properly belongs to us as the Kamehameha family built it, we were expelled by trespassers who came into our house and who are now telling us to live in the lei stand they are building and planning to force us to enter. I say, we must not agree at all! Will you agree to live in that house that someone else has built? (The crowd shouts No! Never!)

Summary of Nāwahī’s essay on Aloha ‘Āina:

The Bible says to honor your father and your mother that your days of life upon the land God has given shall be long. The first father and mother were Adam and Eve, who were made of the dirt of the land, then filled with the living breath. Who then is your mother? The land! In the traditions of our kūpuna it is said that these islands were born of Papa, the Earth Mother and Wākea, the Sky Father. So let us love our mother, who is the land, our birthland, that the lives of yourselves and your descendants shall be long upon the land of Hawai‘i, the land that God has given you.

Program

**6:00 p.m. — Reception & Registration;
Join us for mea ‘ai (food and refreshments) and talk story**

6:30 p.m. — Opening and Welcome

**“Hawai‘i’s National Anthems”
by Jon Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio**

**“The Life and Times of Joseph Nāwahī”
by Kanalu Young**

**“Joseph Kaho‘oluhi Nāwahīokalani‘opu‘u,
A National Hero Remembered”**

Written by Tammy Haili‘opua Baker & Noenoe K. Silva.

Directed by Tammy Haili‘opua Baker.

Actors: *Kahikina Sheldon* portrayed by Jason Keoni Verity.

Joseph Nāwahī portrayed by Blake Ke‘aka La Benz.

Mrs. Emma Nāwahī portrayed by Tammy Haili‘opua Baker.

“Ke Aloha ‘Āina” a mele by Queen Lili‘uokalani.

From The Queen’s Songbook published by Hui Hānai, 1999. Also published as **“Kānaenaena no Nāwahīokalani‘opu‘u” (a chant of affection for Nāwahī) under the pen name Ka Haku o ka‘i in Ka Puke Mo‘olelo O Hon. Iosepa K. Nāwahī by J.G. M. Sheldon, 1908.**

Chanted by Haunani Kauka & ‘Ilima Kauka Stern.

**“The Eternal Flame of Optimism,”
a talk and performance by Keli‘i “Skippy” Ioane**

**Closing Mele: “Kaulana Nā Pua”
by Helen “Didi” Lee Kwai**

9:00 p.m. — Pau