

## **Resolution 2**

**TITLE:** Failure on DACA Will Stain the U.S.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that this the 50th annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i affirm and support the restoration of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) criteria and program as it was established in 2012 and which was ended in 2017;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50th annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i support the immediate passage of federal legislation for a clean DREAM Act that provides a pathway for education, work, and protected status for young people brought to the United States as minors and protects their families from detention and deportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50th annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i urges all members of the Diocese of Hawai‘i, as people of faith and people of conscience, to act to challenge and question any unjust immigration laws, policies, and practices that are inconsistent with our biblical mandate to "not wrong or oppress a resident alien" (Exodus 22:21);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of this Convention communicate this resolution to the current members of Hawai‘i's Congressional delegation and to those newly elected in November.

### **RATIONALE/ EXPLANATION**

The situation with DACA (Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals) will potentially affect more than a million "Dreamers". Any action will define America's character in the eyes of the world and our own population. These innocent young people have been kept in limbo or forced into hiding for years. Most were children who were brought into the U.S. as children by illegal immigrants, grew up here, and know no other country. Now many are being separated from their parents, breaking up their families. Legislation to give them legal status was first introduced in 2001, but it has never passed congress. Deporting the Dreamers will cause a blight on this country. Such actions will sorely impact America's standing as a protector of freedom, decency and democracy. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has repeatedly endorsed both DACA and Dream Act legislation. As Christians, Holy Scripture and Jesus call us to welcome the stranger, opening our hearts in love. Our Episcopal Church leaders, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Jennings, affirmed in a September 5, 2017 statement: "we call on our nation to live up to its highest ideals and most deeply held values, and we call on Congress to take action to protect these young people and to formulate a comprehensive immigration policy that is moral and consistent and that allows immigrants who want to contribute to this country the chance to do so while keeping our borders secure from those whose business is in drugs, human trafficking or terror." This resolution affirms the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic heritage of our Diocese and State recognizing our responsibility as Episcopalians to offer aloha to all of God's children.

[Report of the Resolutions Committee \(Standing Committee\): The Committee recommends to adopt as submitted.](#)