

### Resolution 3

**TITLE:** Taking a Stand Against Abuse in All its Forms

**SPONSOR:** Fran Kramer

**ADDRESS:** 91-335 Ewa Beach Road, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**PHONE:** (808) 689-1501

**EMAIL:** frankramer2011@gmail.com

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this the 50th annual meeting of the convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i condemns organizational abuse in any of its many forms and urges each member of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i, clergy or lay, as a spiritual practice reflect on and work to ameliorate the effects of such behavior within themselves. As each is healed, so the whole will be healed.

#### RATIONALE/ EXPLANATION

Almost all of us have been touched by organizational abuse in some form, either as victim, enabler or perpetrator. That is one reason why these times have seen many forms of long-standing and casually-ignored institutional abuse come to light in the #MeToo movement, the child sexual abuse scandals, immigration mishandling, and racial, gender and sexual orientation discrimination. Abuse occurs because abusive people with influence or power know they will not be held accountable. Traditionally, some reported abuses have been handled in such a way so that the victim is blamed, and the situation has been covered over to protect the "indispensable" abuser—no matter his or her standing—and to shield the organization. These practices go against the victim who is always the one in a position of lesser power no matter if it is a workplace, family or community setting. They blatantly go against Jesus' teaching, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25: 40, NOAB). The quality of a group can only be measured by how it treats its less powerful members. As an organization representing the teachings of Jesus, the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii makes a bold statement that abuse of any sort will not be tolerated and that we as a people acknowledge we have been part of the entanglement of abuse. We make this declaration for all our members and for ourselves. We recognize and acknowledge that our individual participation in the entanglement of abuse is something vitally important for our individual and communal spiritual reflection and for the growth and well-being of our Diocese. We need to better understand that perpetrators often fail to see their own acts as evil or believe they are justified in acting in such a way; enablers sometimes lack the resolve to address the issue and have the wrong priorities in dealing with a difficult situation; and that victims often lack the courage to speak out and be healed. This proposed resolution seeks to rectify these unfortunate situations. As each is healed, so the whole will be healed.

[Report of the Resolutions Committee \(Standing Committee\): The Committee recommends the adoption as of the following substitute resolution.](#)

Resolution #3b

BE IT RESOLVED, that this the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i reaffirm our commitment to the safety of all people, especially children and vulnerable adults;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i support this commitment with the clear and firm policies of “*The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i Safeguarding Policy*”<sup>\*</sup> for the protection of its members and others from abuse or harassment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i condemns abuse of any kind within the Church and related organizations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i urges each member of the Diocese to practice vigilance, and take seriously their role in the prevention of abuse;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i encourage all parishes, aided parishes, and missions, to recommit themselves to the vision articulated in *A Children’s Charter for the Church*<sup>\*\*</sup>, as adopted by the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Convention in 1997, which among other things, calls the church to love, shelter, protect, and defend all those within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected, or in danger.

<sup>\*</sup>“*The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i Safeguarding Policy*”:

[http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/safeguarding\\_-\\_policy\\_feb\\_2017\\_.pdf](http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/safeguarding_-_policy_feb_2017_.pdf)

<sup>\*\*</sup>“*A Children’s Charter for the Church*”:

[https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/091204\\_childrens\\_charter\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/091204_childrens_charter_flyer.pdf)