

Statement of Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu, on the decision of the United States Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage in all states – June 26, 2015

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*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

The Supreme Court has once again made a bad decision in affirming that no state may lawfully ban so-called “same-sex” marriage. It has done so before, most notably in the Roe vs. Wade decision that has led to the deaths of millions of innocent children. The Court has confused equality of persons with equality of institutions and has declared that same-sex marriage is equal to marriage between a man and a woman. It is not. For millennia society has affirmed this special life-long union of male and female that is based on the very ecology of the human body, the wonder of human fertility, and the need of children to be raised, whenever possible, by their biological father and mother in a complementary and stable union. It is the true diversity that God built into our nature.

It must be understood that what is legal in civil society is not necessarily moral in a society that grounds its common life in something beyond the will of the individual, that is, in “nature and nature’s God.” (U.S. Declaration of Independence) We have strayed far away from God – and from nature – in so many ways, and we are challenged even more now to restore what has been lost.

While our sisters and brothers with same-sex attractions are equal to everyone else in dignity and the respect that is due to every human being, there is no intrinsic right to redefine marriage, despite what the Supreme Court has ruled. It is now our task to be vigilant that those who accuse us of intolerance for believing what God has revealed to us do not deprive us of our freedom to believe in the God who made us male and female in his own image. St. Paul’s warning to the Romans, whose great empire collapsed under the weight of willfulness, is very relevant to us today. May the Lord guide and strengthen us in his love!