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# National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982

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King Liholiho Elementary School  
Honolulu, Hawaii

## **Video: 2020 Terrel H. Bell Special Lifetime Leadership Awardee Christina Small**

Aloha. I'm Christina Small, principal of King Liholiho Elementary School in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am extremely grateful for this honor of the Terrel Bell Lifetime Achievement Award. It is unexpected and I'm so privileged to represent educators, principals, and teachers.

I began my career in Watts area, Los Angeles, where I learned an extremely important lesson. A veteran teacher told me, "As a young teacher, you do not buy things for my people. You teach them how to read." That has been a model all through my career, which has extended 50 years-plus.

Liholiho is a special place. We are 'ohana. We focus on working together and creating a family, which the word 'ohana means. My career has brought me from the poverty areas to the low-income areas in Honolulu in Hawaii, and it is a privilege to work with every single child, including my staff. I have worked with three generations of teaching staff, and I am extremely proud of them. I accept the award for all the educators in our state and throughout the nation. Mahalo.