

Opae Ula Frequently Asked Questions



Custom made Opae Aquariums can be enriched with shells and black coral. They are stunning to see.

What are Opae Ula?

Opae Ula (*Halocaridina rubra*), also known as Hawaiian Shrimp, Volcano Shrimp, Red Shrimp, and many other names, are an endemic shrimp found in brackish water ponds.

Where do these shrimp live?

The natural habitat of these critters is in the Hawaiian Islands only, which makes them endemic. They are found in anchialine ponds primarily on the Big Island, Maui, as well as O'ahu.

How big do these shrimp get?

The Opae Ula doesn't grow much larger than ½ inch.

What do I feed my shrimp?

Opae Ula eat algae that naturally grows inside the aquarium, visibly or not. There is no need to feed any additional algae to your pet shrimp.

Can I use any kind of water?

Opae Ula need a special mixture of water to survive. The water in your aquarium should never be changed. To compensate for water loss due to evaporation, simply add distilled or bottled water.

Where do I place my aquarium?

Keep your shrimp aquarium away from direct sunlight. A location in your home that is away from direct sunlight and a source of heat or cold (such as air-conditioning) is best.

Help! My Opae Ula aquarium does not have a lid!

While many traditional Opae Ula aquariums have a lid for convenience, this is not necessary. In fact, an "open" environment allows for healthier Opae as more oxygen can get into the water. If your aquarium does have a lid, make sure to open it every day to allow air to enter.

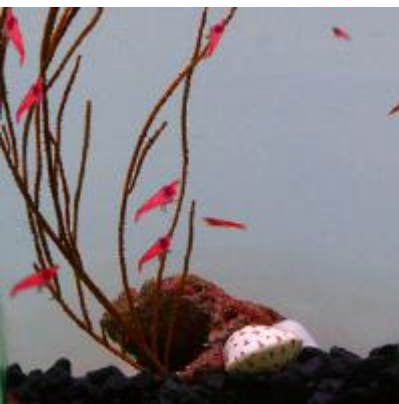
How can I get one of these aquariums?

The Marine Center offers Opae Ula family programs several times a month. We also sell the aquariums through our website.

more information: livingartmarinecenter.com - 841-8080



This cute mini aquarium was made during the Opae XL workshop.



Opae Ula are tiny red shrimp that can live for up to 20 years.

Opae Ula – Hawaiian Super Shrimp Workshop



The mini home is the smallest of the Opae Ula Aquariums.



Share the love and pick this heart shaped Opae Ula aquarium.



The glass globe looks great on any desk or shelf and is a little larger than other models. For this reason, a shell and plant is included as well as five Opae Ula..

Why do you host Opae Ula workshops?

We believe that the key to the protection of the fragile ecosystem in which the Opae Ula lives is education. The more people know about this wondrous creature, the more people will understand and appreciate them, as well as find ways to protect them.

How can I help these cute shrimp?

- Do not pollute: always throw rubbish in the rubbish can or recycle whenever possible.
- Share the Love: tell other people about these cool shrimp and let them know how special they are to the Hawaiian Islands.
- Post a picture of your shrimp on Facebook or Instagram and tag them with #opaeula or #livingartmarinecenter. We'd love to know how your shrimp are doing.

What is included in the workshop fee?

A 90 minute Opae Ula workshop includes:

- Learning about Opae Ula
- Touching animals at our Discovery Zone
- Making your own Opae Ula aquarium to take home including:
 1. Special Opae Ula water
 2. Three to Five Opae Ula (depends on model)
 3. Bottom decoration
 4. Optional decorative items such as plants, shells, imitation coral, and more shrimp.

There are so many options. How do I choose an aquarium?

For your convenience, we offer four options:

- Opae Ula Mini Home
- I Love Opae Aquarium
- Glass Globe – includes free shell+ plant and 5 Opae Ula
- Bring Your Own Aquarium – offers the most customization

How do I choose an aquarium if I bring my own?

To provide a suitable home for your new shrimp, it is best to use an aquarium that has not been used for any form of chemicals, cleaning agents, or products for human consumption. Before arrival, sterilize your aquarium by thoroughly rinsing with fresh water. Never use a cleaning agent to sanitize the aquarium.

Please bring a box or container to safely transport your pet shrimp aquarium home. Open aquariums can be covered with saran wrap.