



# *Hawaii Opae Ula*

*Featuring rare Volcano shrimp from Hawaii*

## **Hawaii Opae Ula FAQs**

### **1. Do the Opae Ulas live in fresh or salt water?**

Opae Ulas live in anchialine ponds which is brackish water. They are quite adaptable and hardy so have managed to survive in a wide range of salinity and temperatures.

### **2. How do I keep them in brackish water?**

We send the Opae Ulas with starter water. If you need to replenish the water or completely change it out, we send an instruction booklet on how to do that. Basically, you can add distilled water to replenish due to evaporation. If you need to fill a container, pet stores sell a salt mixture that you can add to the distilled water.

### **3. What do I feed them?**

In their natural habitat, they eat algae. We send starter food which is spirulina for human consumption. The rocks we send are loaded with algae. They will require very little food if they are near a light source so that the algae can reproduce.

### **4. From where do these Opae Ulas originate?**

These originate in anchialine ponds on private properties in the midst of the jungle in East Hawaii. Since they are still in their natural habitat, they are quite healthy and active.

### **5. How long do they live?**

The Opae Ulas can live as long as 20 years in a sustainable environment.

### **6. Can I put them in my saltwater aquarium?**

If they are acclimated properly, it is very possible they can live in a saltwater aquarium. We send instructions on how to test your water for salinity, temperature

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and gravity. However, if you have fish or larger shrimp in your aquarium, the little Opae Ulas will be eaten by your marine life.

## **7. What size tank/container do I need?**

About 40 Opae Ulas can live in a gallon container, so about 200 for a 5 gallon tank. We send information on how to prepare the tank and water before they arrive.

## **8. I have seen some of these shrimp in sealed jars. Why don't you sell them that way?**

There are several types of environments in which these rare Opae Ulas are sold:

- (a) Completely sealed environments which sellers say never require feeding or any maintenance. This is not a long-term sustainable environment for these little animals. They will slowly starve to death without ever breeding.
- (b) Traditional aquariums which require more maintenance because it is not self-sustaining. Because of the lighting and filtering of water, algae does not grow well. The shrimp will need to be maintained like aquarium fish.
- (c) We promote and sell products for environments that emulate the natural habitat as much as possible. With the live rocks, live water, natural lighting and location in a warm space, these Opae Ulas require little feeding or maintenance. You might have to add water and feed occasionally, but the rest of the time you can enjoy watching them feed and breed.

## **9. What if I want to keep them at work?**

The Opae Ulas can be desktop pets if...

- (a) They are in an environment with the live rocks, live water, natural lighting and location in a warm space. They should not have more than 10-12 hours of fluorescent lighting. Natural indirect sunlight is best.
- (b) Keep a lid on their environment so it does not accidentally spill on your computer but take the lid off at night to replenish the air.
- (c) Keep them away from electronics and areas of high vibrations and noise.

## **10. How are they shipped?**

We put the Opae Ulas in a plastic bag with water or in a plastic jug with water. It is infused with oxygen. Then we put the live rocks in a ziplock with a little water. We ship by overnight express through Fed-Ex or UPS. This will take about two days and someone will need to be available to receive shipment.

## **11. What if some die during shipping?**

It is possible that some of the little Opae Ulas expire during the shipping. Our instruction booklet informs you on how to handle this. Our policy is to send more than you order so that if some die, you will still have the amount you ordered. If more die than the extra we send, we will ask you to immediately send back ALL of

the expired Opae Ulas in a ziplock by regular mail. Once we receive them, we will replace them for you or credit you on prorated basis. You can always maintain a credit balance with us to apply to future orders of Opae Ulas or their products.