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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE STATE SHRIMP.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that anchialine pools,  
2 also known as wai 'ōpae, are considered wahi pana, or culturally  
3 sacred, special ecosystems in Hawaii. Of the seven hundred  
4 recorded anchialine pools in the State, over six hundred fifty  
5 pools are located in the county of Hawaii, mostly in the  
6 districts of north and south Kona and Ka'ū.

7       The 'ōpae 'ula is a species of shrimp endemic to Hawaii's  
8 anchialine pools. The population of 'ōpae 'ula is an important  
9 indicator of the health of an anchialine pool. In healthy  
10 anchialine pools, the population of 'ōpae 'ula is abundant.

11       The legislature further finds that the designation of the  
12 'ōpae 'ula as the state shrimp will raise awareness of the 'ōpae  
13 'ula and support efforts to protect anchialine pool ecosystems  
14 throughout the State as a natural resource. In designating the  
15 'ōpae 'ula as the state shrimp, the legislature does not intend



1 to prevent or impact the traditional and ongoing practice of  
2 harvesting 'ōpae to be used in 'ōpelu fishing.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish 'ōpae  
4 'ula as the state shrimp.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
6 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
7 read as follows:

8 "§5- State shrimp. The 'ōpae 'ula (Halocaridina rubra),  
9 also known as the red shrimp, is established and designated as  
10 the official shrimp of the State."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO. 345  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Wai 'Ōpae; 'Ōpae 'Ula; Anchialine Pool Ecosystems; Conservation;  
State Shrimp

**Description:**

Establishes the 'ōpae 'ula as the state shrimp to protect  
anchialine pool ecosystems throughout Hawaii. (CD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

