

## Hawaii Veteran Association Locations

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### **Introduction:**

Despite a significant veteran population in Hawaii, many who have served our country are often overlooked and underserved, facing a multitude of difficulties. Some of the challenges they face is due to the wide range of veterans, many of whom are older, struggle to adapt to the rapidly evolving real and digital world. Key issues impacting their well-being include geographical barriers, limited access to crucial healthcare, and mental health concerns. To address these critical needs, our goal is to establish a clear, user-friendly, and centralized web-based resource hub specifically for veterans in Hawaii.

Our goal is to create a web-based resource hub specifically designed for veterans in Hawaii. This platform will be clear, user-friendly, and centralized, aiming to be a primary point of access for essential information on VA services, benefits, and community programs. By providing a single, easily navigable online location, veterans will be empowered to find VA healthcare facilities within Hawaii, gain a better understanding of the benefits they have earned, and directly access job and housing resources. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to simplify the often-complex process of connecting veterans with the critical support they need and deserve, thereby addressing the current situation where many are overlooked and underserved.

### **API:**

This Flask-based API is designed to provide structured access to information about Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities located throughout Hawaii. It includes data for three types of services: the main VA Medical Center, various outpatient clinics, and regional vet centers. The information for each facility is stored in Python dictionaries and organized into three separate lists. Each entry contains key details such as the facility name, address, phone number, a link to its location on Google Maps, and an image path for potential use in a frontend interface.

The application defines several routes. The root route (/) renders a homepage using the index.html template. There are three API routes that serve JSON data: /api/medical-center returns details about the Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center in Honolulu; /api/outpatient-clinics provides a list of outpatient clinics located in places such as Maui, Hilo, Kona, and Lihue; and /api/vet-centers offers data on vet centers found in regions including West Oahu, Hilo, and Honolulu.

This API supports both machine-readable JSON responses and a user-friendly front-end experience. It runs on host 0.0.0.0 at port 5001 with debug mode enabled, making it suitable for development and local testing. Overall, the application serves as a lightweight and accessible way to centralize and distribute essential information about VA healthcare resources across the Hawaiian Islands.

### **Front-End:**

Upon entering the site, users are greeted with a home page featuring a full-screen background image of a VA Medical Center, symbolizing a sense of care and community. Overlaid on the image is a semi-transparent main content area, creating strong visual contrast and readability without overwhelming the user. The home page provides a welcoming message and straightforward instructions, inviting veterans to select a category to begin exploring.



A simple navigation bar at the top links users to five main sections: Home, Veterans Medical Center, Outpatient Care Facilities, Veteran Clinics, and About. Each section is anchored by ID tags, allowing smooth scroll-based navigation to the appropriate content without reloading the page — a key feature for usability, particularly for older veterans who may prefer a slower-paced, linear experience.

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index.html (Working Tree)
2   <html lang="en">
3     <head>
4       <!-- Bootstrap CSS -->
5       <link href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css" rel="stylesheet">
6
7       <!-- Bootstrap Bundle JS (includes Popper.js) -->
8       <script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle.min.js"></script>
9
10      <!-- Custom CSS -->
11      <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
12
13    </head>
14
15    <body class="home">
16      <header>
17        <h1>Hawaii Veterans Resource Center</h1>
18        <p>Supporting Hawaii's Veterans with Accessible Medical and Support Services</p>
19      </header>
20
21      <nav>
22        <a href="#" id="home-tab" aria-label="Home">Home</a>
23        <a href="#" id="veterans-medical-center" id="medical-center-tab" aria-label="Veterans Medical Center">Veterans Medical
24          | Center</a>
25        <a href="#" id="outpatient-care" id="outpatient-tab" aria-label="Outpatient Care Facilities">Outpatient Care
26          | Facilities</a>
27        <a href="#" id="veteran-clinic" id="clinic-tab">Veteran Clinics</a>
28        <a href="#" id="about" id="about-tab" aria-label="About">About</a>
29      </nav>
30
31      <main>
32        <h2>Welcome, Veterans</h2>
33        <p>Use this site to navigate healthcare services available to veterans across Hawaii.</p>
34        <p>Select a category above to get started.</p>
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36      </main>
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```

The three service sections — Medical Center, Outpatient Care Facilities, and Clinics — offer clear descriptions explaining the type of care provided, along with detailed lists of locations across the islands. Each location entry is enhanced with images of the facilities for familiarity, clickable phone numbers for easy communication, and Google Maps links to assist with directions. A breakdown of services offered at each site ensures that veterans can quickly find the support they need.

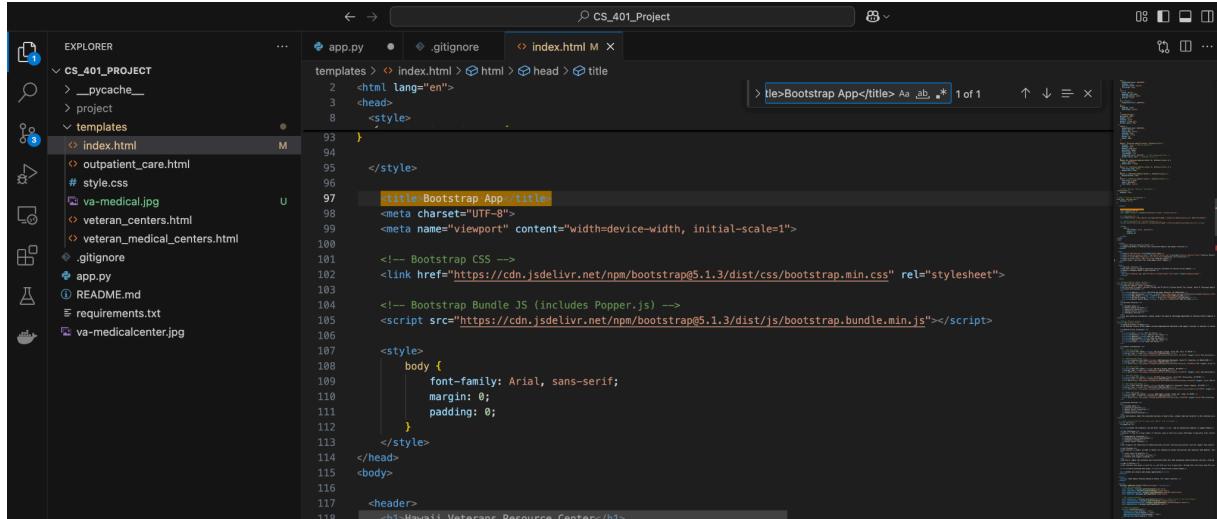
## Database:

The Hawaii Veterans Resource Center website is supported by a structured backend database designed to manage and store comprehensive information about veteran healthcare facilities across the Hawaiian islands. This database likely contains tables for each type of facility — such as medical centers, outpatient clinics, and community-based clinics — with fields for names, addresses, contact numbers, services offered, and geographic coordinates for mapping integration. This structured setup enables dynamic content retrieval, ensuring that facility details can be efficiently updated or expanded as needed. For example, each location's contact information, images, and service listings can be pulled from the database to populate the web pages without hardcoding them into the HTML. This kind of database design improves scalability, maintenance, and user accessibility — ensuring that veterans can always access the most accurate and current information about the care available to them.

## Challenges:

The biggest challenge that we faced was keeping everything organized. We decided to work from the frontend to the backend. Though there were some advantages for it, there were downsides as well. The structure of our frameworks are overwhelming, since it was our first time

coding a website was messy. We were focusing on trying to make it “look right”, but it was hard to keep track of where everything is after a while. Keeping track of the factors like the nav bar, main sector, footer on where they are supposed to be but at the same time, little things slipped like repeated `<style>` tags and extra `<title>`s.



The screenshot shows a code editor with the file `index.html` open. The code contains two `<title>` tags:

```

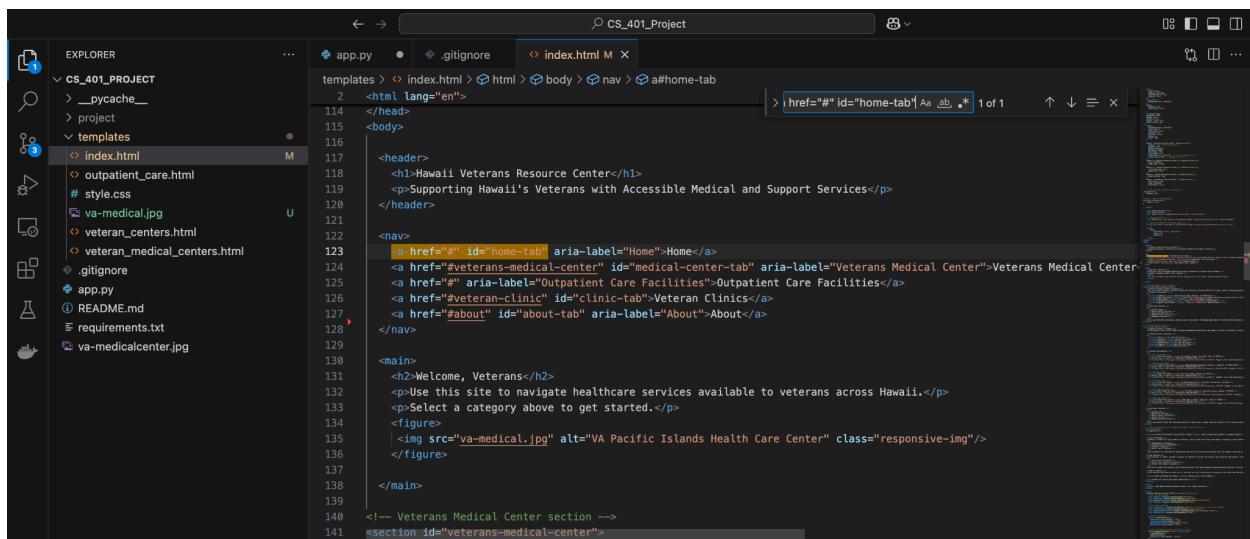
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <title>Bootstrap App</title>
    <title>Bootstrap App</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Hawaii Veterans Resource Center</h1>
  </body>
</html>

```

This illustrates a common mistake where the developer has placed the `<title>` tag within the `<body>` section instead of the `<head>` section.

Example: Second `<title>Bootstrap App</title>` way down inside the body — which we lost track of what parts should stay in the `<head>` vs. `<body>`.

Another issue we encountered was just getting with the coding in general. Knowing and researching what would be best fit to our websites was a challenge in itself. An example of that was using both CSS and Bootstrap. We were trying to style things ourselves, but also loaded bootstrap which already has its own styles. Understanding and balancing between those two was challenging.



The screenshot shows a code editor with the file `index.html` open. The code now correctly places the `<title>` tag in the `<head>` section and uses a `<nav>` element for the navigation bar:

```

<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <title>Hawaii Veterans Resource Center</title>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
    <link href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css" rel="stylesheet">
    <script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle.min.js"></script>
  </head>
  <body>
    <header>
      <h1>Hawaii Veterans Resource Center</h1>
      <p>Supporting Hawaii's Veterans with Accessible Medical and Support Services</p>
    </header>
    <nav>
      <a href="#" id="home-tab" aria-label="Home">Home</a>
      <a href="#" id="veterans-medical-center" aria-label="Veterans Medical Center">Veterans Medical Center</a>
      <a href="#" id="outpatient-care-facilities" aria-label="Outpatient Care Facilities">Outpatient Care Facilities</a>
      <a href="#" id="veteran-clinic" aria-label="Veteran Clinics">Veteran Clinics</a>
      <a href="#" id="about-tab" aria-label="About">About</a>
    </nav>
    <main>
      <h2>Welcome, Veterans</h2>
      <p>Use this site to navigate healthcare services available to veterans across Hawaii.</p>
      <p>Select a category above to get started.</p>
      <figure>
        
      </figure>
    </main>
    <!-- Veterans Medical Center section -->
    <section id="veterans-medical-center">
  </body>
</html>

```

The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the following details:

- Explorer View:** Shows the project structure: CS\_401\_PROJECT, containing .pycache, project, templates (with index.html selected), and other files like app.py, README.md, requirements.txt, and va-medicalcenter.jpg.
- Editor View:** Displays the contents of index.html. The code is as follows:

```
app.py .gitignore index.html M
templates > index.html > html > head > style > nav
2 <html lang="en">
3   <head>
4     <style>
5       body {
6         font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
7         margin: 0;
8         padding: 0;
9         background-color: #f0f0ff;
10      }
11      header {
12        background-color: #003366;
13        color: white;
14        padding: 1.5rem;
15        text-align: center;
16      }
17      nav {
18        background-color: #004080;
19        display: flex;
20        justify-content: center;
21        flex-wrap: wrap;
22      }
23      nav a {
24        color: white;
25        padding: 14px 20px;
26        text-decoration: none;
27        display: block;
28      }
29    </style>
30  </head>
31  <body>
32    <header>
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "004080" and "1 of 2".

Example: We wrote custom CSS for the navbar and also used Bootstrap's .navbar, .navbar-expand-lg, etc., but didn't use Bootstrap's automatic classes like .container to wrap sections.

Though it might not have been the prettiest or the most effectint, it still works. The challenged we had could've been avoidable with better understanding of the frameworks, knowing what to do first and last. We struggled the most with organizing the page properly and figuring out how much Bootstrap vs custom CSS we should use, which hopefully we will improve next if we were to further this project. What is also important to note is that, we not only struggle to code but in a way code together. When it came to pushing and pulling our codes, one side worked while the other didn't. Someone had a merge conflict error the other one didn't. Lot's of the pushing and pull aspect, which is also safe to assume, some of our errors in code was because of the VS code/Github collaboration parts.

## Improvements:

As for improvements or future goals, we would like to expand on this with more categories, like housin and income, and eventually other topics. But those would be our next steps. Still maintaining our goal of simple, efficient and easy for all ranges of ages to utalize. However, before that we would first clean up our code to find the balance of what we were challenged with and hopefully avoid those.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, from this project, it was quite a rollarcoster of everything. From the beginning, middle and ending stages, there has been many challenges we faced. Learning about coding, framework and how things should be is much different that doing it in reality. Things somewhat sound simple until it isn't. With unforeseen problems, or problems we knew that

might come about. However, as it was said before, it works. With a little bit more improvements, hopefully we can do the Hawaii Veterans justice and the help the more than deserve.