Binary number have one golden rule
(2^i)-1 = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + ... + 2^(i-1)
Weight ith number is 1 + sum of weight of 0 to i-1 binary elements.

Compare array elements with binary representation of number and weight of each element in binary.
So, if you have 4-bit binary number(same as array with 1,2,4,8 elements) then you can generate upto 2^4-1 = 15 different positive number.

Lets take your array elements as {1,2,4,8,17} if you compare it with binary representation then you can generate number 1 to 15 using first four elements of array. But you can not generate 16 because 17-1 != 15 (1+ 2+ 4+ 8).

If we compare with ' res ' variable then we have
res = 1(initialize result) + a[0] + a[1] + a[2] ... + a[i-1]
at any point a[i] >= res then you can not generate ' res ' sum value since we don't have proper weight.